



Graduate and Professional Student Experience in the Research University 2021 Improving Campus Climate

The Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) is a consortium of research institutions in the Association of American Universities that administer a common survey to generate knowledge and help further the goals of higher education in general and at the member institutions specifically. The SERU/Your Voice survey is a comprehensive survey of all graduate and professional students at Texas A&M University (TAMU) intended to give faculty, students, and administration in-depth insights into the student experience. SERU was most recently administered to TAMU graduate and professional students at all locations in spring 2021. A total of 4,080 respondents completed at least part of the survey, representing 29% of the overall graduate and professional population. Respondents were asked, *"What is one thing that the university could do to improve campus climate?"* The 1,269 respondents from all locations made 1,449 comments in 25 categories (below). Select comments are on pages 2-4.

Category	Response/ Percent	Description
Interaction	107 (7%)	Efforts to promote networking, meeting people, discussions, events, and student organizations
Faculty	106 (7%)	How students are treated by faculty, and faculty being held accountable
Action	106 (7%)	Take action regarding leadership, policies, practices, and behavior
NA	98 (7%)	Did not answer the question, don't know, not applicable, or addressed the survey itself
Student Voice	96 (7%)	Listen to students
Communication	87 (6%)	What and how the institution communicates and is transparent with diversity issues
Teaching	79 (6%)	Teaching, training, professional development, and curriculum
Positive	76 (5%)	The campus climate is good
General	73 (5%)	General statements about diversity, merit over demographics, and treat all people the same and/or with respect
COVID	71 (5%)	Impact of COVID
Online	70 (5%)	Distance, hybrid, other locations, and not on campus
Financial	56 (4%)	Students' challenges with financial situations
Resources	55 (4%)	Providing and communicating resources, including mental health, childcare, services, international students, and Institutional Review Board
Politics/Views	53 (4%)	Respecting/understanding various viewpoints, political correctness, free speech, cancel culture
Being an Aggie	48 (3%)	Traditions, former students, and donors
Sex/Gender	39 (3%)	Sex/gender, sexism, and sexual harassment
International Students	39 (3%)	International student experiences and perceptions, and interaction with domestic students
Facilities	39 (3%)	Infrastructure, technology, safety, art, and building names
Acknowledge	36 (3%)	Acknowledge the University's past and current issues
Academics	32 (2%)	Issues related to programs, courses, and advising
Race	30 (2%)	Race/ethnicity, racism, and the Sully Statue
LGBTQ+	30 (2%)	Perceptions and experiences of students who identify as LGBTQ+
Religion	14 (1%)	Understanding and acceptance of religious differences
Disability	5 (<1%)	Understanding of and experiences related to students with disabilities
Age	4 (<1%)	Perceptions and experiences of students who identify as older than the typical graduate/professional student
Total	1,449	



The university could be more open to listening and enacting real change around racism and assaults on campus, instead of just putting out empty lip service to appease the donor class.—Agriculture, Black, Male

I feel informed, included, and safe. I love the cohort structure of my degree program as it has allowed me to create friendships even while 100% online. I cannot think of anything currently.—Education, White, Female

I was and continue to be disappointed in the University's response to Black Lives Matter and students of color that proposed taking down the Sully statue on main campus. It's concerning that the University values a statue more than their BIPOC students. The University prides itself in traditions that may be harmful to others, and the school must confront its racist past and present.—Law, White, Female

...being a woman in engineering sometimes is difficult since we have to protect ourselves from the wolves. I like being friendly but that does not mean I am flirting with my male colleagues. Also, since our graduate student body is diverse, some male colleagues behave differently towards women/ trying to flirt but are too pushy. I experience it a couple of times.—Engineering, International, Female

Regulate hateful political comments on social media posts. I'm all for discussion, but people on both sides often use harsh and divisive language, giving a worse impression of the university community as a whole.—Science, White, Male

Address systemic racism, racism among students and student orgs. Address BLM protests. Take down the sully statue!—Public Health, Hispanic, Female

Start hiring more diverse faculty members, representation matters.—Galveston, Hispanic, Male



I'm a minority, but I have noticed a lot of hate toward Caucasian people especially males. The school also doesn't seem to care about intellectual diversity as they do about cultural diversity and that is very disappointing. Affirmative action is systematically racist instead of looking at merit you're looking at race. Take race off of applications and not make it a factor for admission.—Bush School, Hispanic, Male

Hire more faculty members of diverse opinions. Currently, there are only a few faculty members that actually provide their opinions on current issues facing healthcare that differ from the mantra everyone else chants.—Pharmacy, White, Male

It's being so one sided about not being racist toward the minorities it becomes aggressive towards the majority in some groups. White males at the vet school are not treated fairly and are discriminated against for being white males and not a minority. Even though in this day and age males at the vet school are a minority. I have just seen a lot of my male friends being brought down because they are males.—Veterinary Medicine, White, Female

Be more proactive in bringing graduate students from different disciplines together to foster personal and professional support/networks.—Liberal Arts, White Female

Be a little more direct in its position regarding racism or discrimination on campus.—Liberal Arts, International, Female

Take the racist statue of Sul Ross down!—Science, Black, Male

Make it a point to cultivate a culture of understanding and visibility for different groups. It is not about not seeing the differences it is about recognizing those differences and appreciating how those differences impact those in that demographic.—Medicine, Black, Male



Give students more opportunity to voice their opinion and follow up to actually improve student concerns.—Dentistry, Hispanic, Female

Take down the sully statue, and teach the real history of A&M. Mandatory anti-racism classes. Strong consequences for racist actions.—Architecture, Hispanic, Male

Include discussions on diversity, equity, and inclusion as part of the curriculum taught to all students instead of extracurricular options. The students who would benefit the most from DEI discussions are self-selecting not to attend. TAMU has to make a better effort of showing DEI and cultivating an inclusive learning environment is an important goal for the university and not just an act to appease complaints or avoid bad press. Mays Business School also needs to address the inclusion of DEI throughout the curriculum. There are professors and administrators in Mays who would benefit from DEI training, especially training on unconscious bias and microaggressions.—Mays Business School, Black, Female

I think A&M is doing enough.—Nursing, White, Female

Make aware where a student can go to if they feel discriminated by a professor or classmate.—Engineering, Asian, Male

We need more international student outreach, especially on the Galveston campus. Unless an international student just happens to find a community, they are often totally isolated with no support system and ultimately unhappy. I've seen it several times and personally taken international students to the CS campus to try to help, but the infrastructure is simply lacking.—Geosciences, White, Female

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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