



National Survey of Student Engagement

West Texas A&M University

The final page of the NSSE Web version asked students to respond to the following question in an open text box:

“If you have any additional comments or feedback that you’d like to share on the quality of your educational experience, please type them below.”

Student responses to this question appear on the following pages. Please note that these comments appear exactly as the students entered them. They were not edited for grammar, offensive language, or otherwise questionable content. For this reason, student identifiers are not provided.

Student Comments

August 2008

UnitID	Class	Additional Comments
229814	1	I have enjoyed my college experience!
229814	1	I love it here and the faculty and the students are amazing! Keep up the good work!
229814	1	I think that the college needs a better way of controlling how and what freshman students enroll in when they first start the semester. They also need to look at the course and evaluate if it should really be a freshman level course!
229814	1	I moved here after Hurrican Rita, not by choice. I have really liked my experience here much more then I thought I would.
229814	1	I think that any and every college should be more supportive to working students! While IN college, taking out a loan seems like a good idea and less stressful, but loans can really affect any students future horribly. Honestly, I've seen this example happen to many others, and I never want it to happen to me... Here are some possible affects loans can cause: a high interest rate after graduation is all said and done... from that bad rate, I could then potentially have to pay for years to come. then I end up paying much more for college than I had to in the first place. I, as well as many others, plan on getting married and having a family. I do NOT want awful credit when I buy a house! A loan could possibly not even allow me to buy a house thats good enough for my family. plus, when I should be paying for my children to live their life to the fullest and save money for them going to college, I do NOT want to still have to pay money on a stupid loan. I also might have an intense medical emergency or something that I will not be able to afford because I had a loan. The worst part of this whole ordeal is that I feel like I might be making middle class salary with my future husband, which means that most financial help organizations will not help us when we can't afford
229814	1	Being a member of the PUP program through Randall High School, I have really appreciated WT's cooperation with me and my counselors. I do not regret my decision to take dual-credit classes through this institution and, looking back, I wouldn't have done it any other way.
229814	1	toooo lonnggg
229814	1	May not be the best school academically, but it feels like a home.
229814	1	Mr. Brantley is the best teacher I've ever had in my entire life!
229814	1	I have very little time to do surveys and I work at least 40 hrs a week so not a lot of time to do anything I am trying to live and do good and it is hard. If I could get scholarships or grants I wouldn't have to work as hard to get buy and my grades would go way up but untill you can help me and others like me we will continue barley making it in this world but we will make it despite your continuall lack of help for us.
229814	1	I would never trade the friends I have made, but would choose a different school if given the chance. Almost all professors outside of the Ag. department are very unhelpful and do not seem to care about the students. They are only there for a pay check and do not really care if a student understands what they are covering.
229814	1	I love this school. It is wonderful. Yes, I have skipped quite a bit of class, not really because I just don't want to go. It's because I have been very sick, and it is very hard to make it to my morning classes because thats when it's the worst.

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229814	1	It is very difficult for a person of any major to get into any classes involving their major during thier first year. It is to the point of frustration. I came to this school to get a business degree not a liberal arts degree and yet I have to take what ever class I can possibly get my hands on just to have the minumum nuber of hours for full time status. I find this quality in the school I attend to be rediculous.
229814	1	There should be help for students having to deal with personal issue before they miss a class and not after. My mother has cancer and my dad has liver and heart problems, and my brother is losing many common abilities due to an accident and i am going threw a divorce... I went for places looking for help or assistants incase isomething where to happen and I missed class, but no one would help me or talk to me one on one about these things. I did not apprishite that at all.
229814	1	Although I have met a lot of really great people, there is very few options for a pre-med major at this institution. I have received little guidance as to what I need to take, and how I need to get where I want to go. I plan to transfer to Texas A&M University next spring.
229814	1	I am unhappy with the size of the classrooms for 25 students. I have a math class in OM that is over crowded because of awkward desks. The tiny desks are also unaccomidating for notetaking and book glancing. I think we need to take care of the physical comfort level before tuition is raised.
229814	1	The instution I attend is a very safe and fun place to be. I haven't really put my all into this school year, however I have been sick often and have had problems in the dorm. I hope next fall to be better prepared and ready to do my best!
229814	1	I really have enjoyed WT so far and I plan to stay here until I graduate the people and teachers are all very nice and the teachers are understanding and helpful.
229814	1	WT RULES!
229814	1	I would just like to become to best Lawyer and Sports agent i can be!!
229814	1	I think teachers or professors should reach out more to students giving us more confidence to meet them half way!
229814	1	its an amazing experience here at WTAMU.
229814	1	Right now i am planning on obtaining a bachelors degree but I am thinking about later on trying to get my doctorates. I dont really use many of the academic help services because school is really easy, i dont usually have to study to pass my tests.
229814	1	though the surveys are voluntary i realy do not like takeing them. i only do so so i will stop getting emails to take them.
229814	4	I have complained about the scheduling of some classes for students that can only take courses at night. This seems to have fallen on deaf ears. Especially Business Math II. Which is a required course at WT. I wish non-traditional students could get more help on issues like this.
229814	4	My educational experience at WTAMU has been excellent !!
229814	4	Some of the selections made you go one way or the other, but in reality one has to adjust for the specific course and everything else that has an impact on it. Overall, I have enjoyed attending this university.

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229814	4	The academics and my specific department have been wonderful. The problems I've had all deal with admissions, transcripts, financial aid and other offices that don't involve actual class work. It my time here these offices has seemed very unorganized and i've been run through more hoops than I'd ever plan to as a transfer student.
229814	4	I hated WTAMU at the end. Lori Westerman was a horrible teacher, that I couldn't get any help from. I walked in May but because of a screw up in the Dean's office, I won't get my diploma until May. I was actually fired from a job because of no diploma. I thought I would receive one, and was shocked to learn that I wouldn't. I won't recommend WTAMU to anyone. I am up for any other questions if you have them, 806-570-5738-Stacy
229814	4	The consistency and content of the freshman level biology labs is the worst of any college I have attended. I had a few of these to take to round out my degree and ended up teaching my lab group. They are literally an embarrassment for the university.□ My upper level labs however, are fun and engaging. I believe more attention should be focused to prevent non-science majors from dropping or failing my favorite subjects.
229814	4	My experience has been very rewarding at this institute.
229814	4	As a student pursuing a double major, I have been afforded the opportunity to observe different departments within the University. □ As a History major, I find the History Department to be one comprised of helpful, intelligent, insightful professors and motivated students. I enjoy the classes offered and I am pleased with the overall setup of the program.□ The Spanish Department at West Texas A&M University concerns me a great deal. The professors, on the whole, are not innovative or inspiring, they do not employ integrative teaching methods and the students within the department lack motivation and are disenfranchized. One professor I have encountered who does not fall into these categories is Dr. Sandro Barros, however the Department of English and Modern Languages has opted not to retain Dr. Barros as a professor at WT. As a student, I have many opportunities to attend other universities within the state of Texas. Unfortunately I feel that other university Spanish programs far exceed the one currently present at West Texas A&M and will equip me with the skills I need to enter the workforce and to find success. The Spanish Program at West Texas A&M falls far behind the programs I have encountered at
229814	4	The administration is horrible. You walk over to Old Main and 8/10 people that work there are absolutely rude.
229814	4	As an adult learner, in the 25 year bachelor program, the ability to attend classes 100% o
229814	4	There needs to be WAY more computers in the student computer lab...we are ALWAYS having to wait, or not being able to complete our assigned homework due to no computers!
229814	4	I recently had to but a \$65 remote control thingy for Physics. Three months into class, I have yet to use it and I really don't know why I was forced to buy this worthless piece of equipment.

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229814	4	It's a regional school. Most administrators tend to cater to the needs of the surrounding community when it comes to making important decisions about Student and Campus Life. Little thought is set aside on how their decisions will effect the students. It seems to me that everyone outside the Campus has more say than the actually students living on-campus.
229814	4	wt was a great school, even though I was classified as a non traditional student. Everyone was very helpful.
229814	4	The faculty and staff of the Department of History and Geography at WTAMU have been instrumental in my development as a student and person. They deserve more recognition and credit for the work that they put in to help me and other students. I am speaking, namely, of Dr(s) Bryan Vizzini, Marty Kuhlman, Bruce Brasington, Jean Stuntz, Matthew Rhoades, and Wade Shaeffer(sic). They were nothing but generous and gracious to help me with whatever I needed. Please see to it that they get the credit and recognition they deserve.
229814	4	Class rotation is not frequent enough. Each class that a student needs to graduate should be offered at least once in an academic year. □ Maybe offer more engineering classes in the day rather than at night.
229814	4	Very satisfied.
229814	4	Dr. Pamela Lockwood is the reason that I had excellent advising and will graduate on time. She has greatly helped me in advising me and what classes I need to take. The students at the university are very friendly and I think that it is safe to say that we have one of the friendliest colleges. I like the atmosphere and the small classroom instruction. The instructors are friendly and always willing to lend a helping hand. The tuition does not need to keep increasing, because it will cut out the number of people able to attend this institution or they will aquire very large student loans and debt trying to obtain their chosen degree.
229814	4	I just want thank you for having a wide selection of on-line classes, I could not have gone back to college if it hadn't been for the on-line courses.
229814	4	The quality of the education offered by WT is uncaomparable to most other institutions due to the lower number of students per classroom and the willingness of the staff to assist the student in gaining an education and not just completeing the course work. My only complaint is that classes are tailored for the 18 year old student just out of high school which prevents many other students from returning to school or attending for the first time. Opening the newest campus in Amarillo is a step in the right direction to be able to offer quality education to more people in the panhandle region. The renovation of the classroom center has helped to distribute the scheduled classes over a greater accessible time period, but it hasn't helped many of the specialty degrees, like the Engineering Degree, to become more accessible to more students.

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229814	4	At WTAMU, I have had nothing but great experiences. The faculty members really took an interest in the welfare of their students in and out of class. I wasn't just a number or a last name. I knew I could always count on one of them to help me out whenever I needed anything. Someone can get an quality education and still have the same great opportunities as they would at a bigger school - you just have to be looking. I think this is one of the best - if not the best - institutions in the state of Texas.
229814	4	I have enjoyed my time as a student at WT. If I were asked what the school's greatest resource is, I would immediately reply that it is the faculty. My professors, particularly my history professors, have been terrific.
229814	4	I think that this University is wonderful and wish I would have attended directly from High School. Then maybe I wouldn't be 30 and still in school.
229814	4	I would have liked to have a more involved, caring advisor(s). I had three for the 3 1/2 years I attended WT and it never seemed like any of them really cared what I did.
229814	4	I would like to comment on how extremely important the help of my advisor, Mrs. Claudia Stuart, has been. She has not only been my advisor, but also my professor. I feel that I can turn to her for advice or help with just about anything. I feel that her classes are well set up and extremely well taught. Without her help throughout my experiences at WT, I'm not sure I'd be doing as well as I am today. She is an amazing professor, advisor and person.
229814	4	My college experience has been great. This institution is one that I would highly recommend to others. I really enjoyed my time spent here at WTAMU.
229814	4	I chose this school because it is affordable, produces successful horse judging teams, provides many opportunities, and has faculty that are very personable and really care about their students.
229814	4	It would have been nice to have a "not available" option on this survey. Many of the question I answered "very little" or "not often" were answered that way because my university doesn't even offer the things mentioned. I am about to graduate, and if I had to sum up my feelings about WTAMU in one word, it would be "cheated." I feel cheated. My major is in the same department as a flagship program, which means we are basically ignored while sharing a building with dozens of students that are praised, lavished with multi-million dollar facilities, provided with professional organizations to join to boost their resumes, given work opportunities at student-directed facilities, taken to professional competitions, etc. My major is the only one in my entire department that has no student-professional organization on campus. We're basically the step-children of the Communications Department. I feel like I've wasted thousands of dollars and hours (often at the expense of my health and sanity) to receive training for the lowest, worst jobs in my chosen industry. I do not feel that I have received a quality education, and this has only been heightened by visits to other universities, and even witnessing the situation of other students in my own department. I want
229814	4	I love WT!! Go buffs!!!
229814	4	WTAMU is a monetary Blackhole thet just gets worse as it grows in size. This used to be a good school, now it is a monetary cancer like the other major university in the region. Students have become a number.

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229814	4	I am a distance learner finishing an online degree in General Studies. I am especially appreciative of this college for providing the online degree programs.
229814	4	We need to decide if we're going to teach people how to think, or how to get jobs. If we're preparing students for "the real world" the ability to think for themselves rather than fill out a form and show up on time would probably be more beneficial. You may not see it this way because you, the reader, have to fill out forms and show up on time, but a lot of these students aren't going to be you. They're going to have regular jobs and they're going to take what they can get. If WT is going to focus more and more on job training than on educating, then that's a fool's game. Most people don't continue their career path in the same field as their major.
229814	4	I have thoroughly enjoyed my professors, classes, and overall experience at this institution but I believe that the new administration is taking it in the wrong direction and the result will be a lower quality all-around
229814	4	WTAMU has been an amazing experience to me. I have learned not only how to be an effective nurse but also who I am. The faculty is awesome at WT. I was looking for a school and found a family. I could not have had a better experience. I think that being involved in different organizations has made me who I am today as a leader, peer, and employee. I would like to say thank you to all the great staff at WT.
229814	4	WTAMU is an excellent university and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here!
229814	4	I enjoy going to college at WT A&M
229814	4	Need to have better communication with your students when they no longer have an advisor. In the 8 years that I have been trying to get my Bachelors, I have gone through that many advisors. I was unaware of this until I would go to get greenlighted. <input type="checkbox"/> Bad, Bad communication
229814	4	I have several: This survey leaves out several options at critical junctures. What if I'm a 100% o
229814	4	I would have to say that I really enjoyed taking my education classes at WT. MY spanish on the other hand is another story. I felt that WT does not have the Spanish Program together and because of that I did NOT have a good experience with it. MY fist semester I had a Spanish teacher that hated working at WT. SHe hated being at WT and because of that my spanish clase did not go so well. After she left well lets see... WT hired a Profesor that, well I was not sure what he was thinking with teaching the way he did. I really regret every minute i was in his class. All he talked about was things that had nothing to do with the class of one thing that I was glad was that I did not have to take ANY more classes with HIM.. IF the case was that I had to take another class with him I would had refused to. I just wished that The Spanish Program at WT come to a conclusion on what to do to make everything better at WT.
229814	4	no
229814	4	the teachers are, for the most part good; the staff-the longer they stay here, many times, the more unhelpful and mean they get

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229814	4	This institution needs less Hierarchy and more 'People'
229814	4	The desks are to small, they hurt to set in we need bigger desks or tables we are not in elementary
229814	4	I really appreciate the help I get from my advisor with my academic needs & with his comapssion & help to me on other issues I've had.
229814	4	My grades during my RN to BSN degree have been exemplary. There is one online class that is not clear and very little input is put into the class itself. I realize it is a capstone course, but I feel it is poorly organized. I often find myself not sure of what the teacher wants and when it is suppose to finished. All other online classes have been great. I would do it again, but I think I might explore other universities to compare. For one, I beleive when you already have your ADN in nursing, and the BSN is online, you should not have to take other than online classes, including the chemistry class I still have to take. I will have to drive a minimum of 180 miles to take this course from where I live, round trip. Other than that, I appreciate the opportunity to finish my degree online, and would not say or do anything to jeopardize such a great opportunity for people.
229814	4	WTAMU has provided me with a wonderful experience and a top-notch education! I love it here!!!
229814	4	I would have to say that in the art department there is really only one faculty (Scott Frish) that has been 100% s
229814	4	stop with the crap surveys
229814	4	The education that I am receiving is very good if everything that happened could be covered in a book. The real education that I need I am not recieving because there is no practical expercience only pointless theories that will never be used because they are outdated or do not work in a real life situation.
229814	4	Classes some times seemed rushed. There was not enough time spent on many individual topics. Retention of material is poor.
229814	4	The school needs to improve the tailgating
229814	4	I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at WT and it is bitter sweet that I am graduating. My experience at WT is invaluable and I have enjoyed all of my instructors and learned a great deal about life, academics, and myself. thank you
229814	4	I wish that you guys had a M.L.S. program for librarians. I will need to move elsewhere to obtain my Masters.
229814	4	Very disgusted with the nursing program and the junior staff. Thought the staff would be more supportive and encouraging to its nursing students. This semester the staff has done nothing but degrade and ruin mine and several other students confidence. Ironic how the largest class of nursing students went from a passing class to a class where 65% o
229814	4	It would had been great if I had some more advising on course taking, or just like a yearly plan since I started in this institution
229814	4	Hard to answer some of these questions when you are a distance learner and taking your classes entirely online.

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229814	4	WT seems to be going downhill (especially due to the tuition costs and focus on the under-achieving athletes), but my professors were absolutely wonderful. I would not have traded my friendships with my professors for an experience at another university. I CAN say that I'm sick of seeing 5th-year senior football players come in for math tutoring who have done absolutely no work and expect us to do their homework for them. I'm all about helping, but you have to help yourself first.
229814	4	I've enjoyed all of my experiences at this institution and have recommended many of my family members and friends to attend.
229814	4	It would be nice to have increased focus on non athletic related minority retention.
229814	4	WTAMU is the best school for being able to take classes that will will go toward a future goal (ie. certifying for elementary teacher). These classes have been very helpful for students who work, are married, and are mothers.
229814	4	On a personal note, Dr Maloy at WTAMU is one of the best advisers and instructors I have ever had. I have learned more in one year than my previous 3 years of college course work.
229814	4	I was very disappointed about the amount of times I took a class and then after deadlines passed the advisor came back and said sorry you didn't need that class after all.
229814	4	Quality of educational experience depend on how hard person want to work.
229814	4	The foundational nursing knowledge that is offered could be more detailed. As I have proceeded in my nursing courses I feel that I have not been prepared for the care that is required of me to deliver to patients. This is a huge concern to me and it is probably too late in my course of studies but a review or revamp of the necessary preparatory nursing skills will surely benefit future nursing students!
229814	4	As you can see from my score selections, I have had a terrible experience with the quality of advising in the College of Business. My husband is in the field of Education and he had GREAT advisors. The College of Business has NO specific advisors; professors are the ones advising student but they do not know all the answers. My sister is a coming freshman and I will make sure I advice her with academic decisions since I was provided with little guidance.
229814	4	I have a few suggestions for the College of Business. I believe that there should be CLEP tests available for some of the higher level classes. I also think that there should be an emphasis on obtaining and retaining instructors with real world experience. The professors which I had that knew about how business really is, as opposed to what a book says it is, were very beneficial to my educational experience.
229814	4	I am not very clear what classes I will need to take in the future. The secretary for my advisor makes it difficult to speak with her.
229814	4	well, it hasn't been good enough to recommend this school, nor bad enough to leave it.
229814	4	WTAMU desperately needs to enhance and expand its online offerings, both for its distance students, and to secure its future enrollment.
229814	4	WTAMU is a wonderful college to attend. The professors are great. The additional staff is wonderful!

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229814	4	A student is expected to spend the number of credit hours "in class" plus the same amount of time "on their own" to successfully complete a course. Example: For a 3 hour credit course, I should spend 6 hr per week on this course. On-line courses do not follow this same standard. I am taking 13 hr this semester which are all on-line courses. Three of my professor's have stated in their syllabi that they expect the student to spend anywhere from 9 to 12 hours per week on their 3 semester hour course. Professors that teach on-line course are bombarding the on-line students with work that requires at least 3 to 4 times the work load that is required of the traditional "in classroom" student. On-line students should not be head to a high academic level than traditional student are.
229814	4	One thing that it seems sometime is that it is more about the dollars the offering a good experience to the students. Don't make it impossible to continue to go to school by raising tuition to unreachable heights.
229814	4	I am a distance-only student so some of my answers may not reflect accurately on the institution. WTAMU provides plenty of campus events, my advisor is always available to me, I work hard for my grades and having done both in-class work and distance-only classwork, distance-only is definitely more time-consuming and difficult. I like my school and would recommend it to others.
229814	4	I do all of my classess online, most of the questions do not apply. You need to develop two types of surveys, one for those students that physicially attend college and the increasing number that attend college online. They have different priorities in obtaining their education.
229814	4	I would like to add that the majority of the positive things I had to say applied to all of my previous semesters, not the one I am currently enrolled in. Before this semester I had almost nothing but good experiences, but this current semester is a nightmare. I would be glad to provide further explanation upon request.
229814	4	Overall, my learning experience at WTAMU has been excellent! This semester I am taking two on line classes, History 1302 and Western Literature. These classes are the most difficult online classes that I have taken. The professors are unavailable most of the time and the site is very difficult to navigate.Feedback is minimal.
229814	4	No
229814	4	What help can you give me to become a member of the Mortar Board? My grades are high but I work full time. I am 58 and don't feel that I would fit in with the younger students in their organizations and I believe that is part of the consideration for the Mortar Board, isn't it?
229814	4	If I had to do it all over again I would chose WT a hundred times. I love this school and everything about it. The experience was so hands on, schoolmates were so nice and eager to meet new people and the professors were like family. I couldn't have asked for a better experience.

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229814	4	I found that academic advising was lacking for transfer students. Both my husband and I have been shuffled around and left to figure out what classes we were required and needing to take to complete our last 30 hours for our bachelors degree with out proper advising. On four different advising sessions we have been advised to sign up for the wrong classes and/or classes that we had previously taken at Texas Tech and already had transferred. Repeating classes we didn't need to repeat due to faulty advising shows a major lack of advising skills in both the business and psychology departments. I was green lighted twice without having any formal advising and forced to guess what classes I needed to complete my degree. I also feel that the faculty advisors in the psychology department are unresponsive to the needs of individuals. It seems that anything beyond academic advising, for example career advising, is not something they have "time" to help students with. I have repeatedly visited every advisor other then Dr. Atchison and every time they have been either too busy to deal with me or unwilling to see me on a personal level to help me achieve my career goals. Its frustrating especially now that I am a graduating senior who has virtually
229814	4	WT has offered me more oppurtunities than I could have imagined the first day I started classes. The college experience has been amazing!
229814	4	I feel that this institution is not based on teaching and learning but getting the students money first and then making these students teach themselves. There are a few dedicated teachers who will do anything to help, however they are most of the time prevented from doing so. I am aware of several students including myself who can not graduate do to poor scheduling or cut backs, even though tuition is being raised every semester. I also know of teachers who are unable to teach but have been hired just because they have worked in the field for so many years. If you expect a student to learn give them someone to teach and don't take away their options for learning by cutting classes in order to build new buildings or support athletics. We are paying for this not others and we should be respected in that manner. An online course is also not a place for group work. We are taking the class because we are unable to attend the actual in-class course for many reasons, but under this circumstance we should not have someone else responsible for our grade. They are not paying for it and we are basically having to teach ourselves the material because the instructor claims to just be a facilitator, therefore we do not have the time to do the work for others and teach them as well. □
229814	4	There are excellent professors at WTAMU. Dr. Harland, Dr. Atchison, Dr. Newman, and Dr. Kunz are among the best that I experienced. I think the new Buff Promise is a great idea to draw a more diverse study body. Also, the addition of the Amarillo campus is great for all of us commuting from Amarillo. I am pondering attending graduate school, and I would love to be able to take at least one class in Amarillo so I would be a little closer to my family (I have four little ones!) I am proud to be graduating from West Texas A & M University.
229814	4	Well all I can say is how Blessed I am to be at the current institution I am at.
229814	4	Great school!
229814	4	West Texas A&M University has been a wonderful experience.