



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 and may not be suitable for immediate distribution. Faculty members, administrators, or other students may be mentioned by name, and comments were not edited for grammar, offensive language, excessive length, or otherwise questionable content. Comments are sorted by class. Gender, enrollment status, and UnitID (your institution’s identification number) are included.

Student identifiers are not given in this report but are provided in a separate SPSS data file. For this reason please use discretion when using, storing, and disseminating this SPSS file.

Student Comments

August 2009

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
229814	1	1	2	Teachers are not accessible, it is hard to know where you stand grade wise, teachers do not let a student know how they are doing.
229814	1	1	2	I can't seem to find time to learn the materials quick enough before test and remember it afterwards.
229814	1	1	2	Go BUFFS!
229814	1	1	2	The problem with this institution in my eyes is the way advisors treat their student.
229814	1	2	1	I believe colleges are too easy on their students and that American educational standards need to be strenghtened. I don't believe the teachers should "curve" grades. It teaches students to not do their best and not be accountable for their true efforts. I've gotten by because of curves and now I don't truely know the material I should know. That is a big contribution to a weakening of our country. Education needs to be more important than just passing students who can't pass the test without a "curve." Good thing I didn't go into teaching because no one would want to take my class. My test would be hard and the grade you earned is what you'd get, and if you failed--you'd take it again and maybe learn the second time around.
229814	1	2	1	there needs to be more handicap parking
229814	1	2	2	college is stressful the end.
229814	1	2	2	I really enjoy attending WT and I encourage my younger friends to enroll.
229814	1	2	2	You should start putting recycling services on campus. For example, trash can for only plastic,cans, or paper.
229814	1	2	2	i love this college. the professors are so helpful and the most imp thing i like about the professors is that they want us to succeed in life.
229814	1	2	2	I really enjoy being at West Texas A&M. I have recieved the education I was expecting and have met many professors and students that truely care about your success, not just their own. This has been an amazing place to attend school.
229814	1	2	2	the classrooms are crowded there is not enough space for all the students extra tables and chairs need to be brought in the dorms do not have air conditiong and sometimes the heat is unbearable
229814	1	2	2	I think that we need more sport activities for people that do not belong to a team, but want to exercise for fun

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
229814	1	2	2	I think that the school spends too much money on beautifying the outside of the campus when the money could be put to better academic use. I do love how beautiful the campus is and it definitely attracted me to this school. I now think that it could be put to better use by building a parking garage or renovating the multiple buildings on campus for more academic classes and space. I also think that the rise of tuition for the additions to the campus should not be by credit hours. I take a full load every semester and dont think its fair that me and my parents pay more to build additions than other students who just take 12 or less hours.
229814	1	2	2	Very upset by the lack of knowledge provided for out of state Freshman upon moving to Canyon, TX. Also, was NOT an easy process nor did I receive the information needed to apply for the Nursing School. At which, was the main reason I chose WT over other schools.
229814	1	2	2	The cafeteria needs some work. I am not a picky eater in the least but some of the stuff I'm actually afraid to eat because either I've seen it the day or a few days before or it's growing mold or it just looks unsanitary. For the amount we have to pay for meals, they should be better.
229814	4	1	1	My advisors and professors made it a lot harder for me to finish school and graduate while working than it should have been. They were not helpful in guiding me through my graduation plan. Had I not taken the initiative to ask questions and do my own investigating, I would not have correctly registered in classes I needed.
229814	4	1	1	the university lies and makes false promises and reassurances about its programs
229814	4	1	1	It is hard for online-distant learning students to access the library resources. It would be nice if there was a way to access the resources via an online medium.
229814	4	1	1	Although there are a lot of on-line classes I would like to see more. It is a big concern when your work hours and days vary.
229814	4	1	2	The professionalism I have seen from multiple instructors is questionable at best. The fact that I learn my degree is unaccredited my final semester is completely unprofessional, how is it we offer programs that are not accredited??
229814	4	1	2	Any college education is better than no college education.
229814	4	1	2	The president of the school and the dean of the department of music seem to be a poison for this university. The decisions they make seem to only benefit their current situation. It seems that the only reason they are here is so that they can find a better job, and not to help the university at all. They have no concern for how the school will fare.



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229814	4	1	2	Often times I feel that the University as a whole does not invest as much time or as many resources to my area of study as it does other departments. I also feel that the quality of education related to my major is inferior to other universities I have attended and just other universities in general. If I wasn't so close to finishing out my degree here I would transfer to another institution.
229814	4	1	2	I have heard that the library is trying to get rid of Morningstar and Valueline. These subscriptions were vital to me as a finance student and I strongly disagree with getting rid of them.
229814	4	1	2	The closing of the Classroom Center has made it very difficult for all of the students. Although it was unavoidable it still has created a poorer learning environment. Parking is another problem that I could complain about for a while. That being said, I am happy with WT and I would recommend high school graduates to attend. There is a lot of diversification that teaches students valuable lessons that cannot be learned in a classroom.
229814	4	1	2	The nursing program lacks consistency. The teaching style does not fit the testing method. If testing is geared to the NCLEX then the teaching should be the same. They spend all their time teaching a broad range of knowledge based information which requires intense study then the questions are geared more to prioritizing. Spend more time teaching in the fashion you will be testing.
229814	4	1	2	Very good College of Business, keep it up!
229814	4	1	2	Almost all classes I'm taking this year are Fine Art classes, so I have few to no written assignments and goals/directives are different than other majors.
229814	4	1	2	I would like to see the administrators and university officials actually listen to what the students have to say instead of just doing what will get them the most money. Other than that I am proud to say I am a buff.
229814	4	1	2	none
229814	4	1	2	I am reluctantly participating in this survey. I have communicated issues to the school in the past in forums and do not believe this survey will make any impact on the campus. Nontraditional students miss out on many things here at this institution. Working people are not eligible for aid other than student loans... Without waisting any more time I will stop here... Should I wait for a response or expect anything other than the canned response of what a fine institution this is and how much they do to help students? It is always about what I can do for the school as "the product" and not how can the school help me.
229814	4	1	2	Parking is horrible. At WT, you have to put up with a lot negative barriers and I do not mind it so much. However the parking is an issue that I have little tolerance for.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
229814	4	1	2	This University is spending our money like a drunken sailor. I have seen a tuition increase nearly every semester. this makes it hard for the middle class to afford college. WE NEED TO STOP SPENDING MONEY ON THINGS WE DON'T NEED OR THAT WOULD "BE NICE." You should focus on providing quality education at a reasonable price. That has always been the appeal of WT and it is quickly evaporating. The new Athletic complex, at its current size, is way too large and expensive. Its size should be reduced. It's a luxury we cant afford. In your quest for name recognition, wealth, and influence you have forsaken those that make WT a great place to be: the students.
229814	4	1	2	The marketing department is phenomenal. The professors in this area are unreal in their depth of knowledge, teaching abilities, and use of integrating real life circumstances into our work, specifically Dr. Anwar. I would put my education against any college in Texas.
229814	4	1	2	Keep adding technology into the classrooms.
229814	4	1	2	As far as in class participation goes, nearly all of my positive experiences have happened in the music courses. As a performance major, you are required to learn how to work with other people and are placed in those situations everyday. I felt like this surveyed focused on the learning experiences that are expected to happen in a Core Class (which I did the minimal work, because I was told I had to be there). As opposed to a music course, where I participated as much as I could, because I wanted to be there.
229814	4	2	1	EXCELLENT INSTRUCTORS BUT NOT SO MUCH FOR SOME OF THE ADVISORS
229814	4	2	1	The majority of the parking lots are in poor condition and need extensive repairs.
229814	4	2	1	I wish WT would cater more to older students and offer more online and evening classes
229814	4	2	1	In my opinion, if a student has no chance of passing, even if they have attended and attempted to do better by increasing their test grades, they should be pulled aside and told so they do not waste time in the class still hoping to come out with at least a "D". Also, if teachers are not going to use the textbook listed on their syllabus, students should not have to purchase them, because money is money and my money needs to be spent wisely and efficiently.
229814	4	2	1	the online classes are not very well maintained by the instructors. The class info is not updated in a timely manner
229814	4	2	1	I recommend everyone to attend this institution.
229814	4	2	1	I've been sad to see tuition continuing to rise & at the same time, classes that I would have enjoyed being cut & the teachers being cut too. I wonder what's wrong with this picture?
229814	4	2	1	My overall educational experience at WT has been great. I enjoy attending classes and being on campus.



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229814	4	2	1	When a student needs to substitute a class, please do not assume that the student just does not want to take the class, find out the student's reasoning.
229814	4	2	1	I had a instructor during my courses in the nrsing who is very rude and unfriendly to students, especially of a different ethic background other then Caucasian. I feel as if this is not appropriate and her way of speaking to and dealing with students should go under strict evaluation. She made me hate coming to school and even told me I should pick another profession in my Senior year of college. I am now graduating from WTAMU in my desired major but I feel as if that one instructor ruined my college experiance. The instructors name is Mrs. Cindy Crabtree. I feel as if she is tired of teaching and considers this a means to a paycheck and no longer has the passion to teach students.
229814	4	2	1	The financial aide office needs new personnel or needs to be further trained. Their timing for correspondence does not give you enough time to plan for financial needs to pay for each semester. The library needs newer children books.
229814	4	2	1	Overall everything was great, however I have seen numerous problems with students not realizing that they were short on hours prior to graduation time. The degree plan and knowledge of graduation requirements needs to be expressed better to prevent student confusion and frustration.
229814	4	2	1	The focus of the education department is mainly ec-4. Students desiring to teach 8-12 are not given the material and resources that they need to go into the classroom and teach effectively. I know that I will have to do much study and research to achieve an adequate level of knowledge to teach my students. The English department and education department should work together to help their students get a good grasp of selected materials they will need to know to teach. The students should also have at least one class devoted to teaching their specific subject in the 8-12 classroom. Ex. For me a class in youth literature, or helping older students to read better would have been very helpful. Please put more focus on the 8-12 students that are going into America's classrooms.



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229814	4	2	2	I've had a few instructors who made a good impact on my education here, but if I wasn't going to graduate in a year I would transfer. The graphic design program here is placed on a back burner. My new adviser and main program instructor proves knowledge of graphic design in his work but I have yet, after a semester completed with him, to see that knowledge taught in any way. There is no constructive feedback on projects, I never know what my grades are on any of them despite requests, and I'm honestly scared to graduate into a field so competitive as graphic design with only what I've been taught so far. I, as well as my peers, have taken it upon ourselves to reach outside of the University for guidance and I don't think we should have to. On the other hand, I did choose this institution at my own will but I never wanted that choice to be a regret. I love WT and it's traditions and kind personality, but my education is what I care about in the end and I'm afraid that any success I obtain in the end will all be a result of outside sources and my own determination to teach myself.
229814	4	2	2	I feel that WTAMU is below the academic standard. There are also certain faculty members who just read powerpoints, and I should not be paying for someone to read to me. The printers available to students are not adequate.
229814	4	2	2	1. The true cost of education is deceptive and too high. Not only is there tuition, but also designated tuition and extra fees for distance learners. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 2. The number of units accepted for transfer does more harm to students (wasting time and money) than good. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 3. The greenlighting/advising requirement before registration should be abolished and makes registration for online students difficult. There is a reason some students only take classes online and it is not to come to Canyon.
229814	4	2	2	I just want to add, that I am mother and own a business, so there is not much time for me to participate in many activities, so that is why I do not know much about them or do not participate in them. Overall the school is very helpful and is a great learning experience compared to other larger universities I have attended in the past.

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229814	4	2	2	The research for some of the papers I was required to do gave me information to the job I am seeking. The degree plan was not curtailed to the job qualifications required. I am wanting to be a court coordinator and the need to have experience in Excel, dictaphone, and shorthand are some of the skills required by some of the Federal Court Judges. I would like to see these requirements incorporated into the degree plan so following students would not have to go to a junior college, like me, to finish the requirements for the job as a court coordinator.
229814	4	2	2	This college needs to quit spending money on stupid things and do stuff like make more parking and stop taking it out for stupid stuff like a park. Spend money on the Old Main steps that are falling apart instead of parks and incorrect Buffalo statues.
229814	4	2	2	I am very unhappy with the advising that I have received in the education department. The advisor doesn't inform students of classes that they need to take that are only offered at certain times of the year. Why does the education department only offer certain classes at certain times when you know that there are many people going into this field, but the classes are not offered regularly. I wish that there were more on-line classes. Why do you want to go up on tuition, but don't offer some classes only one semester a year. The parking at this college is terrible and if you are going to give one a ticket for something then everyone around them needs to get a ticket for the same thing. I can't wait to get done here and move on!
229814	4	2	2	I think that WT is one of the better Universities of this size. I have had no problems with any of the staff of the university. I feel like everyone there wants to see me succeed in my field that I am studying for. I am very proud to belong to such an institution.
229814	4	2	2	this survey is really long
229814	4	2	2	I am not sure what happened, but I think it was a poor judgment on the administrative personnel to let go of Dr. Harland. He was a professor that cared about his students and the quality of education each of his students received, while he was a challenge one came out of his classes with a good education background. I learned more from Dr. Harland than any other professor besides Dr. Atchison, and Dr. Rhodes. These three professors are what makes the psychology department at WTAMU, a great program. These professors make it a point to teach, and allow their students to digest the information before taking exams; they all have lesson plans which they follow. Dr. Harland was a very well rounded professor. Now that is gone our department took a huge hit, I am currently taking a class that would normally be taught by Dr. Harland and it's a nightmare in the class. I can't believe that I have to deal with professor. Dr. Byrd is one of the worst professors I have had, it is more important to him to finish a 21 chapter book for the sake of finishing the book in 15 weeks than the educating his students. We have no chance to fully understand the material being presented; it is a very hostile environment with him at the

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229814	4	2	2	The parking was horrible. It cost way too much for a parking pass and if there a ticket was received, they were very expensive. The school also needs to work on what they consider "in state" tuition. I should have recieved in state tuition for six semesters and recieved only for one! The tuition increases were unreasonable and if I was an incoming freshman during the current Presidents time, I would go to Amarillo College or another university because I feel I didnt get what I deserved with the amount of money I was having to pay to the school.
229814	4	2	2	Melody Loya is the best advisor/instructor on the WestTexas A&M campus. She takes interest in every student she comes into contact with, even if they are not enrolled in the Social Work Program. She makes herself available to all of us at all times and never makes us feel unwelcome. She provides opportunities for us to grow as induviduals, and also to feel like we belong somewhere. It doesn't matter what the issue is...academic, financial, or personal, Dr. Loya is there with a smile, a hug, and a plan of action to help us get back on track. She goes far above and beyond her responsibilities.
229814	4	2	2	The new president does not engage the spirit of the university. I came to WTAMU because I felt that it embraced a small school attitude while offering the large school resources. The faculty and staff at WTAMU understand the lifestyles and values of students from this area. Dr. O'Brien is more concerned about making the school a premier university and does not portray that he is familiar with the values and concerns of his students. I have served in organizations and had opportunities to personally voice my concerns and opinions and have found him to be very close-minded and demanding. Unless a student supports his agenda, he treats them as incompetent or ignorant individuals. Many students come to this university to escape the lifestyles and focus of larger universities and to feel a sense of community with those around them. Dr. O'Brien does not exhibit an understanding of this concept.
229814	4	2	2	The University fails to address the growing population of older students. Students that are Mom's and Dad's and that have jobs and young children have increased substantially. Most of the professor's could care less in regard's to this statistic. One in particular who stated that she doesn't consider them into her demographics and course work is Dr. Stuntz. She may be an award winning professor, but she lacks understanding and compassion for her students. I have experienced my share of difficult courses and difficult professors, but she wins the trophy. Students who pass her course should be awarded a free T-shirt that says: I survived a course taught by Dr. Stuntz. □ WTAMU has been a great University overall, and I hope to complete my Masters through WTAMU.

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229814	4	2	2	I feel as though as graphic design majors we have been neglected. All three of my previous schools placed us in our own computer lab in the art building with up to date printers. Here we are placed in a public lab that is not always open for our use. For us senior project kids we don't have a set time to be in class and it is difficult to find the lab open when I need it.
229814	4	2	2	Looking forward to the Classroom Center being open again. The tiny desks are getting to be a pain.
229814	4	2	2	There are certain professors there with problems that prevent them from adequately teaching the class and I didn't get enough information out of those classes to use that information for upper divisional classes or for use later in life if needed. I feel underappreciated as a commuter student largely because they have taken away virtually all the parking and make it nearly impossible to find a decent parking space.
229814	4	2	2	I think it would be really great if they taught secondary education majors how to teach their content. We take rigorous content courses, but nothing until student teaching allows us to experience actually teaching our subject matter. I sometimes think that some of the coursework is unnecessary and could be replaced with something more valuable to our future career. I don't ever intend on teaching Advanced Calculus theory to high schoolers, but it would be great if I could've learned to teach Calculus. My school has had great education instructors, but my content instructors have been lacking in support. I do not by any means doubt their intelligence, but they have made things very difficult. Overall, my school has been good to me.
229814	4	2	2	I disagree with the raising of tuition to take away precious little parking to fund the beautifying of the campus.
229814	4	2	2	I don't know alot about the physical campus. It has been wonderful to complete everything through distance learning. I am very pleased with this university.
229814	4	2	2	Please stop throwing my tuition money away on worthless asthetics, like your over-budget clock tower, and ESPECIALLY this new sports complex. Also, I know what I say makes no difference, and so do you, Dr. O'Brien. I'm insulted that you continue to pretend students have a say in your arbitrary decisions concerning the university.



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229814	4	2	2	It's really hard to generalize my experience because I'm not far into my general business degree and I haven't found an advisor for it, honestly. I've been relying on my Art Advisor which he is completely oblivious to the degree plan/classes that I should take (which he still tries his best to help me out and I'm completely grateful). I'm so happy he's around to keep me on my toes and make my educational experience worthwhile. He really works hard at what he does and that makes me want to work just as hard to be successful. A wonderful role model. Other than that...as far as the institution goes, the financial aid department is a complete terror. They've lost the copy of my social security card 3 times and my marriage license 4 times! If my identity is ever stolen, I will blame them for loosing such important documents!
229814	4	2	2	Every year since I have been here the tuition has gone up. It may not seem alot to other people but when you have a single parent who doesn't earn much and financial aid is hard to get, every little fee WTAMU adds on is frustrating. If they want to make the campus more appealing, use someone else's money.
229814	4	2	2	I think the tuition is completely out of hand. I don't believe that the students who don't have the desire or the time to use the facilities should have to pay for them. I don't use the gym andmost of the time dont use the Hastings computers why should that be part of my tuition?
229814	4	2	2	The President is STUPID
229814	4	2	2	There needs to be a directory on-line for students to be able to access.