
NSSE 2016

Student Comments

West Texas A&M University

The final page of the NSSE survey 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."

Important:

- Confidential student responses to this question appear on the following pages. Because student comments are confidential, 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 the SPSS file.
- These comments appear exactly as the students entered them and **may not be suitable for distribution without prior review**. 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, enrollment status, and sex. Information for these variables was provided by your institution.

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
First-year	Full-time	Female	The Chemistry department at WTAMU needs rebooting.
First-year	Full-time	Female	West Texas A&M (WTAMU) directs most of its focus towards things such as the athletic department rather than the quality of education. Things that need more funding include, the chemistry department, tutoring services, and the nursing program. The chemistry lab classes are run by students who do not even hold a bachelor degree. These student teachers are ill prepared, unable to answer questions, and provide help. Why can't the lab classes be taught by actual professors who have degrees? The chemistry professors, at least mine, are scatter-brained and explain things in a disorganized fashion. I learn absolutely nothing in my chemistry class, so I have to teach myself everything through online resources. I am not the only one who faces this challenge. Other students in my chemistry class struggle immensely, and oftentimes turn to me for assistance. The tutoring services are absolutely worthless and a waste of time. My tutor is never able to answer my questions. His favorite line is, "I don't remember that." The nursing program may be highly praised, but this department lacks the technology and space, which would deliver to a wider array of students. Overall, I would not recommend this university.
First-year	Full-time	Female	none
First-year	Full-time	Female	The experience is great
First-year	Full-time	Male	I like WT, but sometimes I feel like some of the instructors want us to fail. They don't see how much we pay, and it seems like sometime I'm set up for failure. Not in all my classes, but a few. It's college, I work full time, and It's a struggle when some professors don't want to see you succeed. I think power points need to be used more and have more words on them, instead of pictures with no words. Also on a side note, the caf needs to be upgraded with the food they use, and the amount they give us. I get sick eating it sometimes, and sometimes the food is so bad I have to eat pizza and burgers everyday which is unhealthy.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I think tuition is increasing every time more and more and is so difficult for us as students to afford it. We would like to have reasonable tuition, we like to study but we need help too.
Senior	Full-time	Female	WTAMU makes it easy for adult students with families to go back to school. I feel that they will put forth as much effort as I will to help me reach my educational and professional goals. It has been an excellent path to graduation with them. My advisor Kristen Robberts has gone above and beyond to make things easy to understand and attain. GO BUFFS GO!
Senior	Full-time	Female	I would like to point out that at WTAMU the natural sciences department is the worst I've seen. We are over crowded, don't have nearly enough funding, so students don't really get to take courses they want so much as what can fit in their schedule.
Senior	Full-time	Female	In several classes my professors would plan trips outside of class time and would count points against you if you did not show. I don't think that is fair since that is not the time we signed up for when registering for the class. If out of class time trips are planned and students can not make it, it should not be counted against them.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Going to WT as a non-traditional student, it has been an amazing experience. My three daughters, and husband all graduated from WT and I decided at sixty years of age I decided it was my turn. I have never regretted a moment of my time spent here and am looking forward to going into to the Graduate Programs to get my Masters in history. I would recommend WT for any graduating high school student.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Go Buffs!
Senior	Full-time	Female	Cafeteria still poor quality (I have a meal plan for social reasons despite living off campus). Also, the dorms really need some priority in the grand scheme of building things, much more than we need a new football stadium. I think WT provides a good solid practical education but just the way my major worked out I have been a bit underchallenged.
Senior	Full-time	Female	More focus needs to be on the education and job field of less popular majors and especially in my major there definitely needs to be more faculty to assist the students. Extracurricular experiences can be enriching but I'm primarily here to get training for my job field and I feel like this institution focuses too much on extracurriculars than job fields. However, there are many places to get advice for careers, counseling, and more and I appreciate that a lot.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Some of the support services on this campus are rather difficult to get a hold of, or to get clear help from.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Make the library open 24/7.

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Female	Honestly, I'm not sure if I didn't enjoy my college experience because of this institution, or because I've just never enjoyed classes. I LOVE learning, but I have severe test anxiety. On more than one occasion, I felt that the subject matter I studied was not what the test was over, so that has made my test anxiety worse. I feel like, over all, it's been pretty hopeless to do any kind of preparations because I seem to never pick up what is tested over or what is deemed "important." I've learned a lot, but my grades don't convey that and my confidence has been effected, which has further effected my grades.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I think all college professors should have to go through some sort of seminar on how to teach. Not like making them get a teaching degree but more along the line of a forced inservice about teaching techniques.
Senior	Full-time	Female	My university makes too many updates in the education program, which has put me behind. They need to make up their minds on what they're doing.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The only complaint I have is with my advisor and her office assistant. I have called her assistant, Angela (education department), about 15 times this month and have not received a call back. This happens every semester so I am not very surprised, but sometimes I wonder if she knows how to use a phone. This is something that is very annoying to me because I cannot register for classes without talking to her, and it's nearly impossible when she will not call me back. When I go into her office, she is busy and asks me to call her later. When I do call later, she doesn't answer. I've also sent her numerous emails that which she has not replied to. Hopefully I eventually get a call back because if I don't, I will not be able to register for classes next semester.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The registrars office, financial aid, and the like are terrible. I have heard so many people complain about bad experiences in those offices as well. I also wish I was learning more advanced skills and helpful information that pertains to my career after college. As a journalist who wants to be a writer for a big name newspaper or magazine, knowing APA formatting seems useless. I wish they would constantly be teaching us how to write for the field we are in. A little APA or MLA is fine, but writing the research papers in a style that could potentially be published as a journalistic piece or a piece in a magazine seems a lot more realistic. I don't feel prepared to get a serious job after graduation and I am already a published writer in non-college publications.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Really enjoyed this school, going to miss it after I graduate. I would recommend this school to anyone.
Senior	Full-time	Male	This was a great experience, I wouldn't change a thing.
Senior	Full-time	Male	1) Provide help for students athletes after they have exhausted NCAA eligibility (financial assistance) 2) Athletic stole for student athletes that are graduating (promote athlete graduation) 3) create a reasearch council to find out specific needs of students. Combined with members staff and students.
Senior	Full-time	Male	this survey is too damn long and it pisses me off
Senior	Full-time	Male	I have had a great educational experience. The professors go above and beyond to help student's careers go further, inside and outside of the classroom. The faculty here are wonderful, always willing to help you out and continue the community feeling that makes WT a wonderful institution. The areas relating to campus living, dorms, it could improve. We are not kids, and I feel we are treated that way. There could be a more helpful atmosphere in campus living instead it feels as the school wants to keep us here at any cost. Overall great education experience.

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Male	I have enjoyed and deeply searched into my field of study, however, I have discovered a few disturbing practices among faculty that I found unethical and unfair. Because the Engineering school at this university is relatively young, the desire to graduate large numbers of students to expand the school is very strong. A disproportionate amount of accommodation is given to some students in order to ensure graduation by harnessing them to stronger performing students for group projects. While a small amount of this is good as it teaches students how to work in group settings and understand group work dynamics, the excessive differentials across some instructor-assigned groups are so great that the other member(s) that perform the work cannot make up the difference, and are held back a semester. This is inconvenient for students at colleges where students' financial situations are secure, but at West Texas A&M many of the students are first generation, commuter, or from poor backgrounds. For these students being held back can severely affect the students financial situations and can even force them to drop out of school for undetermined periods so that they can afford to retake classes. I have witnessed this and find it an unacceptable form of economic discrimination, the school is small enough that professors know their students, and should not intentionally assign economically weak and academically strong students to students that the professor knows to be a liability in order to increase graduation numbers.
Senior	Full-time	Male	GO BUFFS!
Senior	Full-time	Male	This survey is, in it's attempt to address issues from all majors, ineffective at addressing the issues of a B.S. degree in Engineering. As such, I would like to clarify. My teachers have done a good job of teaching me before this point. The reason why several times it appears that they haven't taught me anything this year is because I'm in my capstone course. I already understand how to write extensive reports. I already have the skills. Now I am simply proving it.
Senior	Full-time	Male	The endless construction on campus was very annoying, there needs to be a break between projects, so I can enjoy the aesthetics of the campus. The random timing of certain classes was also frustrating. For example, if i wanted to take oceanography it was one offered once a year every other year, so if i missed it or had a conflict then i would not be able to take it again. The was not a wide variety of classes to take. Most classes were taught in a boring hands-off method, and did not help me ingrain information into my skill set. Honestly it was a monotonous experience.
Senior	Full-time	Male	My experience at WTAMU has been phenomenal. My academic advisor was an exceptional asset--she helped me plan my degree and arrange my courses. All of my professors made learning interesting and truly wanted us to get something out of the process. I am so proud to receive my degree from here.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I've been hearing that WTAMU is trying to do a masters program for CIS is this true?
Senior	Full-time	Male	<3
Senior	Full-time	Male	WT has changed my life, I am so proud to call it home.
Senior	Full-time	Male	The overall quality of my experience has been wonderful! I enjoyed the professors I took, enjoyed the classes I took. Overall it was a satisfying experience.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Overall, WTAMU provided a solid foundation in theoretical perspectives of my major. Almost all of my professors were prepared, informative, positive, and ready to help in an appropriate manner. I have no complaints against WTAMU other than I wish they offered an online Master program in Public Administration. If they did, I would have stayed 2 more years.
Senior	Full-time	Male	It wasn't bad. Maybe include some business problems from the other departments in the college of business that CIS students could use as a basis to learn about developing applications for realistic business needs. Emphasis the importance of not overloading on other classes when taking capstone courses.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I have really enjoyed my experience at WTAMU. The faculty, students, and advisors have shaped into the person I am today and for that I'm very thankful. This survey did not have a selection for graduate students so my answers are based on the fact that I'm a graduate student so my work load is more intense than the average undergraduate student.

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Not full-time	Female	Biology online is extremely challenging as well as Reading Skills in the Elementary School. The college should look into how to make certain courses to where the student will retain more of the information, rather than stressing so much about how to get through the course and pass. For example, Biology also requires a lab throughout the semester. This is extremely challenging for students who are also single working mother/fathers to keep up with, especially when the material is difficult to retain. Despite reaching out to the instructor several times throughout the semester, I was not able to get any relief that could help me to pass the course. It was extremely frustrating and difficult, causing me to more than likely have to repeat the course due to failing.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	thank you! Go Buffs!
Senior	Not full-time	Female	Love going to wt
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I am grateful for the opportunity to further my education and complete a Bachelor's Degree. I am a full-time employee at the campus as well. The whole experience at WTAMU has been a real joy. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input about the university.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I am a distance learning student and therefore do not participate in the various campus programs available to your on-campus student body.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	Scholarship office and Business Office is terrible to deal with. Every semester there has been an issue with my external scholarships or student loans.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	<p>SAVE YOUR MONEY, BYPASS A FOUR YEAR COLLEGE, AND GO TO A TRADE SCHOOL! GOOD OLD U.S.A. HAS MANAGED TO BE #11 IN THE WORLD WHEN IT COMES TO EDUCATION SIMPLY BECAUSE WE NOW EMBRACE COMMON CORE CURRICULUM, PROMOTE INCOMPETENCE THROUGH TEACHERS UNIONS, TEACH TO A SPECIFIC TEST AND DO NOT ALLOW PEOPLE TO FAIL SINCE THIS IS NOT THE POLLITICALLY CORRECT THING TO DO ANYMORE!</p> <p>We must get away from politically correct liberal minded fools and go back and retrieve our educational spine and testicles from off of the shelf to stand up and say to the counties who are ahead of us ..NO MORE!... well, it will not happen since the average schmuck is fearful of being misunderstood, insensitive, not seeing others as individuals with an equal voice and not being tolerant of the peace-love-kumbaya sewage flowing from academics who have never had to defend their country in war.</p>
Senior	Not full-time	Male	_?????? ???? ????*?? ?????? ??? ????? ??? ???? ???? ???? ???? ?????????? ?????? ???? ???? ???? ?????????? ???? ? ? ?????? ? ?????_
Senior	Not full-time	Male	The only negative experience I had at WTAMU was dealing with the Institutional Review Board. We were required in one class in the Spring of 2016 to submit a research proposal to them. I was allowed to submit my proposal only after approval from my instructor which was on March 8 so after making corrections I turned my proposal in on March 11 to the IRB specifically April Swindell and it was supposed to only take 3 to 5 business days. For two weeks I never heard anything about my proposal. I explained to my instructor that I had not heard about any decisions made about my proposal so he gave me an extension on the paper that was due that included what I was needing to research. I finally asked Darla Goodman on March 25 about my status and she simply said "I would hear something soon." Fast forward to April 13 and I still had not heard anything about a decision and the extension deadline was looming. I finally got a hold of Dr. Bigham and explained my situation and granted me approval then. However since that assignment was pushed back so much I'm now in a jam to complete the other assignments in the class. This process was very frustrating because I could not go forward with my assignments without approval. If a process is delayed at least give the students a heads up instead of just letting us sit in the dark. The IRB never tried to contact me to say that they were behind especially when it the delay is a serious as one month. It was just an awful, very frustrating process. To going from 5 days to review the proposal to over a month is unacceptable.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	I believe that 8 week courses should be looked in to for online students. This will allow for a normal degree completion time instead of doubling the time spent at the university.

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West Texas A&M University

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Not full-time	Male	<p>A few of the professors are great. Truly good. I have gone to 3 different schools and will graduate from WTAMU, but I have never had teachers with less empathy, understanding and commitment to our success than at this school. Like I have never failed a class before coming here. I work 2 jobs and have failed a class while getting As on all exams (98) on final. Tough tests. Finance. And with weeks before the semester ending. Not being given an opportunity to complete a missed assignment.</p> <p>There has to be some differences in students. If someone shows they had a slow start, but our top of the class in all exams and understand the material; can be treated different than someone just trying to eek by at the end.</p> <p>As an online student. It's not as easy to stay engaged in the class, but there are a few professors who can. For example, I have never gotten a call from any professor, I have never had any interaction from any staff outside a mass e-mail.</p> <p>I am glad I will graduate from this college and get a degree. Just think with technology and Social Media soooooo much more can be done in an online class.</p>
Senior	Not full-time	Male	<p>I am a non-traditional student (over 40, live 400 miles from campus, just checking boxes for a B. A. so I can get into grad school, take a Masters, and teach Math), so don't let my answers to some of these questions skew the results too much.</p> <p>I absolutely would attend WTAMU again, and recommend it heartily to others.</p>