
NSSE 2014

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.

NSSE 2014 Student Comments

West Texas A&M University

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
First-year	Full-time	Female	You are seriously asking students whether they're gay? Really.
First-year	Full-time	Male	This university has done a lot for me and I love it here, wouldn't want to attend anywhere else.
First-year	Full-time	Male	I really like how the doctors teach in here. I like, as well, how they enjoy what they do, somethings I would like to change would be that doctors should do more cooperative works among students, so that relation among students and the whole university would improve, not just among one class students, but the whole university's student relationship, which would contribute to improve all student's performance as well as grades.
First-year	Full-time	Male	WT is very great place to learn and share with everyone. Every one is nice, they smile, laugh, sometimes cry for awhile, but its ok cause we are growing up. It is not always an easy thing to do, but in time it makes perfect sense. We have to find ourselves and be who we want to be not what we want to become. Hope for the best and wish for luck cause man in this world it is kinda hard keeping two bucks. WT was not my first choice... no it was my only choice, and "if I had a chance for another try.. I would not change a thing because it makes me all who I am inside. And every day I tell myself a harmless lie, the whole wide world is mine." (Angles and Airwaves) "We don't need to whisper not anymore.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The advisors at this institution aren't as motivating as I would assume advisors would be. Instead of telling a student what they can't do, finding solutions on how they can achieve their goals would be better. The collaboration between the different colleges within this institution is disappointing when attempting to gain help in achieving my academic goals. The goal of this institution should be STUDENT success and not the success or completion rates of individual colleges.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I love WTAMU!
Senior	Full-time	Female	Good school but the dorm maintainance NEEDS to be REEVALUATED! Its not organized in ANY way and it takes nearly 2wks to get anything fixed and the excuse is ALWAYS "well we didn't know" that is not the students problem if we send in a report that heaters, refrigerator, microwave, or AC is not working then we HAVE done our part and it is the universities job to follow through on their promise and just through around a lazy excuse.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The agriculture department is about the only reason this survey is positive... If I was a chemistry major or dance major it would be quite the opposite.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Overall I have enjoyed my WT experience. There are some professors that need to reevaluate themselves and some professors that make learning fun. My only complaint is parking! I think there needs to be a parking garage or something. I arrive early just so I can park on the street and hike for forever. The campus is growing and allot of students commute to class daily and I feel that the parking issue is not being considered.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Get thing info out on groups and extracurriculars has just gotten very very sad. They emphasize and shove down your throat to get involved, but don't have much ways of telling you when things happen. Also some requirements to get into some groups are outrageous and some have bad reputations of stuck up or "elite" people.

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>I feel that the art students on campus, particularly those that are Graphic Design, glass, studio art, ceramics, printmaking, and sculpture, are cramped in the space we are provided. No offense to the music majors but either group of us needs our own SEPARATE building to work in. There are more and more music majors every year and they are encroaching upon our space, taking up more and more class rooms that used to be used for the art students. Another thing I wonder is where is all of our money going to specifically? As a graphic design student our program needs the most up to date technology and our Mac Lab often falls short in that area. Specifically with updating the computers. Not only are there simple things like Flash Player that are almost never updated but there are KEY programs like Pages, that is specifically made for the Mac, that was not updated right and now no longer works on any of the student computers. Something that I find highly troubling about the school is how obsessed it is with the facade it presents to incoming students and the outside world. It angers me that the school is more worried about how pretty it looks and less about how well it actually runs. Simple things for example, like heating in the winter. The boilers that provide heat to the entire campus need a major overhaul but have been provided no budget to do so and recently the man in charge of said boilers had to make an executive decision on who got heat and who didn't. THAT IS A PROBLEM. Another issue I have is with response time from people of authority. The person who is in charge of the cafeteria on campus, we spoke to this person about a problem. There were two birds trapped upstairs for more than three weeks, defecating on everything. We did not understand why they were taking so long to remove the animals. It was a problem of sanitation and cruelty towards the animals. The problem was not resolved until quite a few more weeks after we had spoken to the person in charge and the birds had already been in the building over a month before that. THAT IS A PROBLEM. Another thing, concerning the growth of the school, there are new dormitories popping up left and right but there is no balance made to and within the other buildings that house class rooms or the cafeteria. Quiet rapidly we are being forced into rooms like sardines. The worst of it though is with the cafeteria. There are so many new and incoming students that the lines to just getting into the cafeteria during meal times has gotten longer and longer. For those of us who are in class up to lunch and only have an hour for that lunch and go straight to another class, this is a problem. We paid a considerable amount of money to eat daily at this cafeteria, and having less than five minutes to eat is a problem. I've discussed problems so far but as far as the community within the students goes, I'm quite happy. The professors are also really easy to talk to and work with. Please take into consideration what I have mentioned above and hopefully the school is already or will plan a way to address the problems I stated.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>if the school is going to replace everything in the computer lab, replace other important things such as printers. on another note, being a music major, I have been kicked out of the Mac lab several times because of study halls for sports teams, classes that obviously did not need macs. that room is the only room that has our software. make the helc more helpful for all groups including us. the IT people also shouldn't make it seem like it's going to personally harm them if they actually help us with problems we have instead of being on their own computers and rolling their eyes when we ask a question.</p> <p>the financial aid is very unfriendly as well. we all understand it is difficult to help thousands of students but they could be more helpful and not be unprofessional.</p> <p>I have never seen the president around campus besides at sport events. if you are going to run a campus, become more involved.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>Wet Texas A&M University is a great university that offers on-line education to obtain a Master's degree in Nursing Administration</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>It's ridiculous, that ever since I started going to school here at west texas a&m the tuition has gone up very semester.. Good thing I camp when I did because people and businesses are getting selfish with mony and don't car about a students education... It's just all about the money.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>Very disappointed in the Nursing program. I feel there are some biased professors that allow privileges to some students and are extremely critical and negative to others. A process known as weeding out the students that don't want in the program. Definitely allow some students special privileges. One instructor in particular uses a bullying tactic with some students by intimidating them and singling them out.</p>

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Female	If I would change one thing about my educational experience it would be Greek life. The specific sorority I was part of did not emphasize learning as they claimed and in fact would send out fines for not being at a outing if you were busy with school. They also made it extremely difficult to get out of when the time came. I also wasted much of my time seeking a degree in which classes were only offered when it seems the professors felt up to teaching. In order to stay with that major after the college decided to drop it, required me staying enrolled. Resulting in paying for classes I didn't need and having to change my major to graduate and now having to deal with the 45 hour rule as I return for a useful degree. I feel very misguided by my institution. However, I am very happy with my current advisor and feel he has gone above and beyond to help me reach my goal the second time around.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I wish that the president would focus more of the money that is brought into this school into more useful things such as equipment for classrooms, having more than only 2 faculty members in the computer science department and rejecting the proposal for a new faculty member this past fall, updating classrooms in the Animal Science building, and more parking lots instead of on a new dorm each year that I have been attending.
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>The Life Earth and Environmental Science department is under staffed and over showed by the Agriculture department. The dean does not give the department funding to hire enough faculty members, and when they do tell them to hire new faculty, they force them to hire people with an Agriculture focus, who are eventually "stolen" by the Agriculture department. I know that many students are frustrated by this. The wildlife biology major has grown significantly over the last 5 years, but we have not gotten a new faculty member that is fully devoted to wildlife courses.</p> <p>Also, I think the money spent on athletics is ridiculous. I don't understand why so much money is being spent of such a small fraction of the student body. The administration should be using that money to hire more professors. Dr. O'brien wants to grow the student body, but is not hiring enough faculty to keep up. Instead of building new dorms, they should focus on increasing the quality of the classes. Academic prestige will draw in more new students than a pretty, empty dorm.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	I'll be sad to graduate as I love being a Buff and participating in courses online! Thanks especially to Dr. Brock, Dr. Furner, Dr. Gerlich, Dr. Humphreys and Dr. Barbara Huang.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I feel unprepared to fully enter the workforce. I am have learned more in my semester of student teaching than any other semester I have completed. Information is not communicated very clearly, and some of our courses I feel were not taught effectively.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The experience is not all bad, but this sememster has been really frustrating because I have a teacher who is extremely unorganized and I am not learning anything from the class. I feel this class should be more beneficial to me and if it were taught by another teacher I'm sure it would be. Another issue I have is with my advisor, she has caused countless students to graduate late because she doesn't seem to know what she is doing. I think advisors should be watched as much if not more than teachers and I don't feel they are being held to any sort of standard.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I am so grateful for the opportunity I have had to attend West Texas A & M University in Canyon, Texas. It has been a very fulfilling educational journey for me and I am so thankful for the supportive staff that have invested in me.
Senior	Full-time	Female	My experience at West Texas A&M has been a roller coster! Many many great professors at this University, but just as many very very poor professors. This University needs to take a step back and look at how their professors are teaching and communicating with the students. My experiences with communication has been very very poor this semester. After what I have gone through, I will start advising future students to go elsewhere for their education.

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Female	My experience in the education department at WTAMU has mostly been wonderful. My instructors and advisors are my main focus of praise. The instructors are all very knowledgeable of the content and truly inspired me. Because of them I feel confident in my knowledge and I strive to be the very best educator that I possibly can be. The advisors work very hard and were often helpful to me when I was completely lost, especially Connie. Dr. Bingham, Dr. Hwang, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Hughes, Dr. Medrano, Dr. Williams, Dr. Kelly and Dr. Lawler will never be forgotten and I thank them very much for their contributions to my education. Cindy Meador and Jabobsen challenged me in ways that I never thought possible. I may have hated it at the time but it proved valuable. My main complaint is that of Financial Aid. I understand that it is a very busy part of the University but there were times that my entire academic career could have been put to a sudden stop for absolutely no fault of my own, which to me is unacceptable. There were also times that I found online classes to mostly be full of busy work that did not hold much value but took up a great deal of time, much more than if I were in class. Having to work over full time and being a single mother made this very difficult.
Senior	Full-time	Female	this is the best Agriculture department in the state. very glad i picked here instead of A&M college station.
Senior	Full-time	Female	None except I am very disappointed with the current nursing service program.
Senior	Full-time	Female	My only complaint is really the ridiculous parking I issues. WT keeps accepting more students and we still have the same amount of parking available. We need a parking garage.
Senior	Full-time	Male	The institution treats the athletes like gods while the hard working normal student has fewer opportunities and are treated poorly. The student medical services gives every chance they can to help athletes and even puts the athletes first in front of the other students. If it wasn't for the fantastic teachers, I would have left years ago.
Senior	Full-time	Male	GREAT EXPERIENCE!!!
Senior	Full-time	Male	So far it has been really good. My only qualm is that our President of the school seems to be spending too much money on new dorms and other frivolous things instead of improving the dorms that we have or the other buildings many students use. Also, we would retain many more students if they were not forced to stay on campus because O'Brien and the board has changed the rules to make it much harder to get off campus. I have heard tell that O'Brien wants to make WT a Division One school, and I think that is a load of bull crap. The town doesn't have the resources to support that many students, and doing so would drive tuition rates way through the roof, and that is one reason WT is so popular that it is a down home school that is affordable. Not some high dollar, Texas Tech ish crappy place.
Senior	Full-time	Male	West Texas A&M University has provided me with the best educational experience I believe is possible. It has not only been in the classroom but through its connections outside of the classroom. Leadership groups, study abroad opportunities, the individual college offerings... The faculty and staff provide the most unique experience where all students have the ability to connect with them and seek assistance and support. Forever I will be a Buff and a supporter of West Texas A&M University.
Senior	Full-time	Male	We need to learn more programs that are relevant to the real world of engineering instead of ones that no one in the workforce has heard about. Instead of Ansys teach us Comsol or Inventor. Instead of matlab teach us a program like Mathcad.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I love West Texas A&M University
Senior	Full-time	Male	Generally my experience is not too bad. But honestly, given a choice again, I might not come here.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I would like the university to have a go-to person when I am having a personal problem, healthwise. Even though I would inform the instructors/professors of the nature of the issue, it would help if there was a person who would assist me with options as well as informing the instructors/professors without me having to always repeat the issues.
Senior	Full-time	Male	The school needs to cover the Athletes during trips when they get things stolen from them
Senior	Full-time	Male	Only thing I would like to see happen, is to not gear every education class towards the earlier grades. More secondary information/Classes would be great.

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Male	The professors and faculty have been great at WTAMU. They are the university's saving grace, in fact. Were it not for the faculty and many specific professors, I would have abhorred my experience at WT. The administration, for the most part, seems not to care at all about non-traditional or commuting students. In turn, I don't much care for many within the administration. I came into WT thinking it would be simply a business transaction, and it has been.
Senior	Full-time	Male	We have some really good professors and some that do not seem to care very much. I do not at all like the fact that professors are not required to post grades online. I feel that professors who do grade papers in a reasonable amount of time as well as those who do not post grades online do not have much regard for students or the learning experience. -Benton Allen
Senior	Full-time	Male	I've learned a lot these last couple of years at WT. Not only did I learn facts and gain competence about my career choice, but I learned how to work in the real world and deal with others on a more personal level. I thank my professors and advisors for being supportive and informative along the way.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I believe that WT is the most important higher educational resource in the upper pan-handle. I would like to see a closer link between WT and A&M College Station as well as with the local extensions. The growth of WT is evident and I am excited to watch it continue and to be a part of shaping WT's future.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I have never had a college respond to my emails, needs, etc. as quickly as WTAMU does. I am a distant student, and anytime I need help, someone always answers the phone or calls me right back, and someone always responds to my emails. thank you so much for this!!!
Senior	Not full-time	Female	None
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I would like to see more opportunities for those students that want to learn about research to do so. None of the professors I have asked in my major field are conducting research, so there are no opportunities to gain experience in research. I have never used any research software and feel my chances of getting a job in the research field are very small as a result of no academic experience, and being told no by faculty when asked to have field placements related to research and not social work. WTAMU is a small university but the professors are sometimes aloof, do not keep the office hours they post, or are always on their way to another meeting and do not have time to meet. WTAMU is a university for faculty and staff, but not so much for students wanting to be competitive in the field of sociology.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	The faculty is great but is often undermined by the upper management (i.e. the president of the university, the board). Should the professors be given more freedom to teach as they please and should more emphasis be put on education rather than sports or extracurriculars, the university would be in a much better place. How much money the school can attain seems to be the primary goal of this university. Overhaul the upper echelons of the administration and WT would be in a much better place.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	WTAMU is a great college, and I would recommend it to everyone
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I'm disappointed with WTAMU online programs. I have 12 hours left to complete and most of my final courses aren't offered but once in a blue moon. One of the courses I tried getting into last semester the professor wouldn't let me in since I wasn't green lighted in time (though I had asked to be green lighted a month before) and the class filled. I understand his predicament but now that course won't be available until MAYBE Spring 2015. It's frustrating to be an online student and no schedules are posted in advance so it's pretty much impossible to graduate in a timely manner.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	As a non traditional student, who has a full-time career and family, online courses are the best method for me to complete my degree. Professors lose the ability to "read" a person when they are out-of-sight. Sometimes they speak to us as though we are just out of high school and simply lazy or non-motivated with our assignments. When in fact, the reality is that we are completely covered up with other responsibilities and our time is precious. Just a reminder that there are many types of students at this wonderful institution and we have all made an investment into our education. Thank you for allowing me to make these additional comments and keep up the good work. Our futures depend on great education!
Senior	Not full-time	Female	WTAMU is a wonderful university and I have had no negative experiences. The teachers and the material have been great. I would choose this school again if I had a chance to!

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Not full-time	Female	The education department has a redundant curriculum. Not only that, but more in-classroom time needs to be spent at the beginning of the academic journey, as opposed to waiting until the last two semesters before earning a degree to be exposed to the real-world climate in schools. Advisers need to be better trained on all aspects of the degree plans and be held accountable for the information they hand out.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	It would be more helpful for students to learn if they were able to evaluate all their instructors and not just the ones that do not have been teaching at the same institution for more than ten years.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	This semester has been extremely difficult for me because of my two instructors' failure to respond to my requests for assistance. This has also been frustrating to some of my fellow students. There have been glitches in our site for assignments because the instructors failed to take appropriate action. For example, we still do not know in one course how we are doing in any of our written assignments because those grades are not posted (where we can see them). Efforts to work through the department head's office has been futile because the department head is not available. On the other side, the academic advisers and IT support have been absolutely effective with their response. If it were not for them, I would probably look somewhere else to study. I understand and hope that this is just a fluke, having both instructors as such duds.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I recently graduated with a BSN and feel that this program really helped prepare me for my career. I feel that this educational experience helped me to grow in the profession of nursing. Excellent teachers, communication and help that I needed along the way to accomplish this. My learning was all online!
Senior	Not full-time	Female	Your instructors could help identify problem issues with students if they stayed current on their grading and I mean my classes are as much as 3-6 weeks behind on grading anything that is not computer graded. Some are not good about answering emails. I dropped one class already this semester and may drop one or both before the end of year and I am an "A" student.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	Since I am taking only online classes, much of this survey doesn't apply.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	The faculty at WTAMU-Canyon, TX is amazing. Very helpful with any questions, and they all seem genuinely interested in seeing and helping the students succeed.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	I feel it is dumb to charge online students ancillary fees for services that they do not fully benefit from. This is a huge scam! Fees should be pro-rated!
Senior	Not full-time	Male	This survey was extremely long.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	I'd appreciate it, if someone would speak with Randal Combs and explain to him his quality of teaching is not effective. He does not provide good examples. He acts like your bothering him upon approach to his office, and he verbalizes his frustration that a student is present asking for help. This is not quality teaching, and to hide behind tenure is ridiculous. He has said this on more than one occasion in different classes. He doesn't care what we write about him because he has tenure. I'm glad this college hired him, because it is the reason so many students do not complete a secondary education certificate.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	This school lacks a diversity of biology classes. Because of the weakness in the number of biology classes with the way they are scheduled, it has taken me extra semesters to complete my degree. The types of biology classes I needed were offered at the same day and time.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	WTAMU has provided a great opportunity and learning experience when I had no other options. As a non-traditional distance learning student, I was able to enter a program that was relevant and useful in my full time employment.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	WTAMU is a very good institution that gives Firefighters the opportunity to complete coursework while still serving their respective communities. I have learned a ton about social issues during my education and interaction with professors and students at WT. I appreciate the assistance I've been afforded with tuition and distance fee waivers to make my education affordable.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	I am a distance learning student.

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West Texas A&M University

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Not full-time	Male	There is the organic chemistry professor here that will make students fail. This is not a jaded student's opinion, but a factual one. I had to repeat his course and still could not get the minimum grade I needed. This was after getting a tutor and spending countless hours studying solo and with other students/TAs. Students have reported that they go during a summer semester to another college down the road and will pass the full year with an A. It saddens me that this professor has been allowed to completely destroy students lives by making his course almost impassable. He is what brought down my opinion of the faculty. Almost every faculty member will try to change and help their students succeed. I would not recommend WT to anyone trying to pursue a science degree for acceptance into a professional school. The outdated science building compared to the brand new sports complex seems to be a sore spot with multiple faculty members and students as well.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	I am a 39 year old man. My education did not and does not hindge on the brick and mortar or the access via console to the boundaries of this or any other institution.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	WT Rocks!
Senior	Not full-time	Male	I have enjoyed the education I have received from this university. However as someone that has been in the workforce 15+ there are several courses I am required to take for my degree that I feel are borderline pointless due to my workplace experience. If I was 18 or 19, I understand the importance of some of these courses. However I do think the degree plans could be more tailored to meet the needs of individual students. Because of this experience I can see why places like University of Phoenix appeal to older students compared to this university.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	Excellent staff and environment. Faculty in my chosen major are, unfortunately, sub-par.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	In the last 2 and 1/2 years, I have accumulated nearly 48 hours of coursework at WT and all but 5 classes were completed purely online. I have worked full time as a middle manager in healthcare, performing nearly all my coursework at night and on the weekends. The WT Class platform is outstanding and is network support is very responsive, accountable and knowledgeable. Only in Fall 2013 was I able to attend campus classes and I truly enjoyed those classes. Not a traditional student, I saw my time on campus through the lens of a 51 year-old whose freshman experience was in 1981-82. Although I have long been skeptical of the Millennial generation's work ethic, my time on campus left me encouraged and optimistic that they will do just fine. I wish my work circumstances would have enabled me to take more campus-based coursework.