

**Executive Summary Master's Student Exit Survey**  
**University-wide Results**  
**Fall 2024 – Spring 2025**

The Master's Student Exit Survey was deployed at UTA during the fall 2024 and spring 2025. During these terms, 3,712 students were invited to participate in the survey. These students have fulfilled the requirements of their respective programs for the conferring of their Master's degree. From those, 1,754 responded to the survey (47%) and 1,466 (84%) completed it in its entirety. **Table 1** shows the number of graduates and the response rates for each college and school. On average, students took 18 minutes to respond to the survey questions <sup>1</sup>.

**Table 1:** *Survey response rates per college/school*

College/School	# Graduates	# Respondents	Response Rate
College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs	140	73	52%
College of Business	601	170	28%
College of Education	248	140	56%
College of Engineering	1,398	407	29%
College of Nursing and Health Innovation	769	364	47%
College of Liberal Arts	60	23	38%
College of Science	101	60	59%
School of Social Work	372	172	46%

**Most of the respondents started their graduate program in the fall of 2023 (60%). UTA was their first option (73%)** due to reputation of the program (21%), educational costs (17%), geographical location (16%), and the admission requirements (14%). Eighty-eight percent (88%) of those **students reported being pleased with their choice.**

**Around 69% of these students have attended the orientation** provided by their graduate program, and 78% were acquainted with the academic requirements and expectations for completion of their degree.

**The quality of the graduate curriculum, teaching, and overall program** were rated "Excellent" or "Very Good" by most students (**Table 2**). However, 43% of them **would like better assistance in finding employment.** Comprehensive exams (37%), and Capstone projects (30%) and courses (27%) were chosen as their preferred end of program experience.

**Table 2: Quality of Graduate Curriculum, Teaching, and Overall Program**

Program Satisfaction Areas	Total "Excellent" and "Very Good"
Quality of the graduate curriculum	70%
Quality of graduate-level teaching by faculty	67%
Overall program quality	60%
Preparation for thesis, comprehensive examinations, or capstone	60%
Quality of academic advising and guidance	56%
The opportunity to collaborate across disciplines	53%
Assistance in finding employment	32%

**Only 11% of those students were involved in teaching and 8% in research** during their time at UTA. From those teaching, only 26% have received any training in instructional methods and 63% of these said this training was very helpful. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of those who engaged in research affirmed that this was a very helpful experience.

According to the students, the **assistance received from faculty advisors was mostly regarding learning course material (75%), planning their program of study (73%), providing information about campus resources for professional development (63%), and conducting research (61%) (Table 3).**

**Most students did not seek other faculty mentors** in addition to their faculty advisors (64%). Interestingly, **several students consulted their departments' staff and academic advisors** for academic (51%) and career (40%) advice.

**Table 3: Assistance from Faculty Advisor**

Type of Faculty Assistance	Total "Very helpful" and "Somewhat Helpful"
Assistance with learning course material	75%
Planning your program of study	73%
Providing information about campus resources for professional development	63%
Conducting your research	61%
Exploring additional training/education	58%
Exploring career options	53%
Searching for employment	45%

Regarding **factors impacting their academic success**, students indicated that **work/financial commitments (38%) and family obligations (25%)** were the major obstacles they encountered.

**Most of the respondents described their post-master's degree status as employed full-time** (average of 30 hours or more per week) (42%), and 41% were seeking employment. Only 7% were planning on pursuing further study for another degree (51% of those were planning on pursuing a PhD), mostly at universities located in Texas (90%).

**The graduates surveyed were employed mostly in the health sector (44%),** followed by education-related fields (21%). Around **84% described their employment as related to their area of study.** The

annual base salary for most of these students ranges between \$40,000 to \$84,999 (50%), with 31% of these students earning \$100,000 or more.

Only 29% of these students had any part of their master's education paid via employer-sponsored reimbursement/direct payment plan. **More than half took out loans to pay for their education** (62%), with 76% borrowing up to \$50,000. **Most of these loans were used to cover expenses with tuition and fees** (82%).

Overall, **most students said they would select UTA if they had to start it over again** (67%) and that **they would choose their same field of study** (74%). Eighty-six percent (86%) reported that **they were likely to recommend UTA to others**.