

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVENESS

Administration of the Alumni/Graduate Survey
Graduates for August 2015

Introduction

The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE) administers the Alumni/Graduate survey to new Tarleton graduates approximately four months after their respective commencement. This assessment is an initiative of Academic Affairs, the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, and Career Services.

Design and Methodology

Participants

The population for this survey research was August 2015 semester graduates (N=521). The Banner Student Information Management System was used to identify the population and obtain accompanying email addresses. The survey is housed in Qualtrics and distributed with an invitation to participate via email. A copy of the introduction, informed consent, and the survey instrument are provided at the following link.

https://tarleton.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe3/preview/SV_2r9AH3X0Em4W8eN

In total 521 emails were sent. The survey was launched on January 12, 2016 with an ending date of February 2, 2016. Four reminders were sent to individuals not having completed the survey; the first on January 14th and the second on January 19th, the third on January 25th and a final reminder on February 1st. A total of only 21 individuals participated in the survey for a response rate of 4% and a +/- 20.5% margin of error.

Instrument

The instrument used in this assessment project was locally developed through feedback from representatives from institutional advancement, academic affairs, and student life. Questions were designed to collect student demographics, aspects of their Tarleton experience, and post-graduation activities. Current address and other contact information was collected for use by Advancement and External Relations.

Findings

Alumni Graduation Survey for August 2015 Graduates

From which college did you graduate? (n=21)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Agriculture and Environmental Sciences</i>	14.29%	3
<i>Business</i>	33.33%	7
<i>Education</i>	14.29%	3
<i>Liberal and Fine Arts</i>	14.29%	3
<i>Science and Technology</i>	23.81%	5
<i>Total</i>	100%	21

Which degree did you most recently receive from Tarleton? (n=21)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Undergraduate</i>	71.43%	15
<i>Graduate</i>	28.57%	6
<i>Total</i>	100%	21

What was your major? (n=21)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Business Administration</i>	14.29%	3
<i>Other</i>	14.29%	3
<i>Kinesiology</i>	9.52%	2
<i>Applied Science</i>	4.76%	1
<i>Biology</i>	4.76%	1
<i>Computer Information Systems</i>	4.76%	1
<i>Ag Services & Development</i>	4.76%	1
<i>Animal Science</i>	4.76%	1
<i>English</i>	4.76%	1
<i>History</i>	4.76%	1
<i>Human Resource Management</i>	4.76%	1
<i>Management & Leadership</i>	4.76%	1
<i>Medical Laboratory Technology</i>	4.76%	1
<i>Psychology</i>	4.76%	1
<i>Social Work</i>	4.76%	1
<i>Wildlife Management</i>	4.76%	1
<i>Total</i>	100%	21

Which Tarleton location did you primarily attend? (n=21)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Stephenville</i>	57.14%	12
<i>Fort Worth</i>	33.33%	7
<i>Waco</i>	9.52%	2
<i>Midlothian</i>	0.00%	
<i>Total</i>	100%	21

What is your gender? (n=21)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Female</i>	57.14%	12
<i>Male</i>	38.10%	8
<i>Prefer not to answer</i>	4.76%	1
<i>Total</i>	100%	21

Did you graduate in the time frame you expected? (n=21)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Yes</i>	80.95%	17
<i>No</i>	19.05%	4
<i>Total</i>	100%	21

For students not graduating in the expected time frame, which of the following barriers were applicable to your situation? (n=7)

<i>Answer</i>		<i>Count</i>
<i>Financial</i>		1
<i>Family commitments</i>		
<i>Academic preparedness</i>		1
<i>Availability of courses</i>		2
<i>Change of major</i>		2
<i>Other</i>	<i>Multiple Transfers</i>	1

Did you work (on or off campus) during your enrollment at Tarleton? (n=21)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Yes</i>	80.95%	17
<i>No</i>	19.05%	4
<i>Total</i>	100%	21

How many hours per week? (n=17)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>1-10</i>	11.76%	2
<i>10-20</i>	17.65%	3
<i>20-30</i>	17.65%	3
<i>30-40</i>	23.53%	4
<i>40+</i>	29.41%	5
<i>Total</i>	100%	17

Did you have an internship? (n=21)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Yes - Required for my degree</i>	33.33%	7
<i>Yes - Not required for my degree</i>	4.76%	1
<i>No</i>	61.90%	13
<i>Total</i>	100%	21

During your time at Tarleton, did you hear of the Keeping It R.E.A.L. or Applied Learning Experience Program? (n=21)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Yes</i>	52.38%	11
<i>No</i>	47.62%	10
<i>Total</i>	100%	21

Did you participate in the Keeping It R.E.A.L. or Applied Learning Experience program during your undergraduate studies? (n=21)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Yes</i>	23.81%	5
<i>No</i>	76.19%	16
<i>Total</i>	100%	21

If yes, how many experiences did you complete? (n=5)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>1</i>	40.00%	2
<i>2</i>	20.00%	1
<i>3</i>	20.00%	1
<i>More than 3</i>	20.00%	1
<i>Total</i>	100%	5

If no, what was the biggest barrier to your participation in the program? (n=13)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Time</i>	6.67%	1
<i>Availability of Experiences</i>	0.00%	
<i>Lack of interest</i>	6.67%	1
<i>Lack of information about the program</i>	60.00%	9
<i>I did not believe it would have increased future opportunities for me</i>	0.00%	
<i>Other</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>did not attend Tarleton as undergrad</i> <i>Never heard of it.</i> <i>Was in honor college and for my major didn't believe there were any opportunities</i> 	26.67%	4
<i>Total</i>	100%	15

Since leaving Tarleton, which statements are applicable to you (check all that apply)

Answer		Count
<i>I found employment in an area related to my degree.</i>		7
<i>I am pursuing additional undergraduate study</i>		2
<i>I am employed in an area unrelated to my degree.</i>		5
<i>I am still searching for employment.</i>		5
<i>I started or assumed ownership of a business.</i>		2
<i>I have started or am raising a family</i>		1
<i>I am serving in the military</i>		
<i>I am pursuing volunteer service</i>		
<i>I am pursuing graduate study</i>		6
<i>Other</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Pursing 2nd master's</i> <i>Graduate Assistant Position</i> <i>still working my goals</i> 	3

When did you obtain your first career related position? (n=6)

Answer	%	Count
<i>Before graduation.</i>	16.67%	1
<i>One month after graduation.</i>	16.67%	1
<i>Two months after graduation.</i>	16.67%	1
<i>Three months after graduation.</i>	33.33%	2
<i>Remaining with the same employer as during my undergraduate education.</i>	0.00%	0
<i>Remaining with the same employer as during my graduate education.</i>	16.67%	1
<i>Other</i>	0.00%	0
<i>Total</i>	100%	6

If you are NOT working in a job related to your major, please check ONE statement which best describes why you are not working in a job related to your major. (n=13)

Answer		%	Count
<i>I am continuing my college education.</i>		23.08%	3
<i>I am unable to find a job in my field.</i>		38.46%	5
<i>I am working in another field while continuing to look for a position related to my major.</i>		0.00%	
<i>I have not seriously sought employment.</i>		0.00%	
<i>I have found another job in another field.</i>		15.38%	2
<i>I am caring for my family.</i>		0.00%	
<i>Other</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>it's good</i> ▪ <i>Financial reasons</i> 	23.08%	3
<i>Total</i>		100%	13

Total number of years employed at current business: (n=13)

Answer	%	Count
<i>Less than 1 year</i>	69.23%	9
<i>1 to 5 years</i>	15.38%	2
<i>6 to 10 years</i>	7.69%	1
<i>11 to 15 years</i>	0.00%	
<i>16 to 20 years</i>	0.00%	
<i>20 to 25 years</i>	0.00%	
<i>More than 25 years</i>	7.69%	1
<i>Total</i>	100%	13

Approximate salary earned per year: (n=13)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Less than \$20,000</i>	23.08%	3
<i>\$20,000 - \$29,000</i>	15.38%	2
<i>\$30,000 - \$39,000</i>	15.38%	2
<i>\$40,000 - \$49,000</i>	30.77%	4
<i>\$50,000 - \$59,000</i>	0.00%	0
<i>\$60,000 and over</i>	15.38%	2
<i>Total</i>	100%	13

After Graduation, did you remain within a 50 mile radius of Stephenville? (n=21)

	<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
	<i>Yes</i>	52.38%	11
<i>No (If no, Why?)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I live in Ft. Worth</i> <i>Live in Ft. Worth</i> <i>I lived in Arlington and attend Ft. Worth campus</i> <i>Not from Texas</i> <i>Moved closer to home.</i> <i>Move back towards Austin for more job opportunities.</i> <i>job outside of 50 miles</i> <i>Fort Worth campus</i> <i>I was never around Stephenville</i> <i>Live in Waco, Texas</i> 	47.62%	10
	<i>Total</i>	100%	21

Do you intend to pursue another degree, license, or certification? (n=21)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Yes</i>	85.71%	18
<i>No</i>	14.29%	3
<i>Total</i>	100%	21

What other schools or universities are you considering?

What other schools or universities are you considering?

<i>Tarleton graduate program</i>
<i>n/a</i>
<i>Only Tarleton</i>
<i>UT Tyler UNT</i>
<i>Nova Southeastern University PH.D. program</i>
<i>several</i>
<i>Here for my masters, and then maybe somewhere in Colorado or California for</i>
<i>Doctorate</i>
<i>Texas State, UT</i>
<i>TSU UTA SMU</i>
<i>None</i>

Did you apply to a professional school (i.e. law, medical, veterinary, etc.)?
(n=18)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>Yes</i>	0.00%	
<i>No</i>	100.00%	18
<i>Total</i>	100%	18

How much debt did you incur to finance your Tarleton education? (n=21)

<i>Answer</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>
<i>0-\$2,499</i>	28.57%	6
<i>\$2,500-\$4,999</i>	4.76%	1
<i>\$5,000-\$9,999</i>	14.29%	3
<i>\$10,000-\$14,999</i>	4.76%	1
<i>\$15,000-\$19,999</i>	14.29%	3
<i>\$20,000-\$24,999</i>	9.52%	2
<i>\$25,000-\$29,000</i>	4.76%	1
<i>\$30,000 or more</i>	19.05%	4
<i>Total</i>	100%	21

Would you refer a friend or family member to Tarleton State University based on your experience? (n=20)

	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	80.00%
<i>No</i>	20.00%
<i>Total</i>	100.00%

Did you have a life-changing experience while at Tarleton, and, if so, would you briefly describe it?

- HR and COBA
- I would not have come to Tarleton if I had known what the MLS/MLT program was really going to be like. Also, I would not have come if I had known the actual amount it was going to cost. In the preview, they told us tuition. They did not tell us fees were almost the same amount as tuition, nor did they tell us of other expenses we would incur, i.e., having to pay almost \$300.00 for notebooks with copies of the power points, which had many errors, and some professors had completely changed so we did not have the updated copy. We had to print them off to get the updated copy, which was another expense. Also, the faculty were not very positive in handling academics.
- Parking.
- More rigorous classes, graduate level options

What would you change about your Tarleton experience?

- No
- I was an RL, an SI an SLA and a TA. I loved being so involved with spreading my love of Tarleton to other students.
- Yes, I was let down by the school in an educational manner as well as an employee. My degree was a joke, thankfully COBA has done away with it and it cost me thousands of dollars for leveling courses not necessary when I completed the capstone with an A.(mind you, program didn't put a hold On my acct so that I may not register for other course until Those leveling had been competed) I had a friend/ employee get her leveling courses (3) waived this past December after I fought all the way up Dr. Snyder in the Spring to get mine waived. That's the Tarleton way. I also made a formal complaint as employee, an undergrad with one HR class could have handled it more appropriately than Tarleton. It was going to initially be investigated by the spouse of this person's boss. No one would have known that is a conflict of interest until I brought it to light. This is The Tarleton Way.
- It made me doubt higher education.
- Just a good solid, affordable education.
- Yes. Joining a sorority was life changing. Losing two littles in a car crash changed the way I viewed life as a whole.
- My time with the Tarleton State Equestrian Team. I made friends, elevated my leadership skills, and became a better, more accomplished rider. I was the first TSU rider to qualify for Regionals and Zone 7 Finals in Wisconsin.
- No
- Yes, it has given me the opportunity to travel and I had great supportive professors. Now I will have the opportunity to complete a dream I have had since high school.