

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVENESS

Administration of the Alumni/Graduate Survey
Graduates for December 2014

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 December 2014 semester graduates (N=854). 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 email introduction, informed consent, and the survey instrument are provided at the following link.

https://tarleton.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe3/preview/SV_5gT7z8QcGYQcixL

In total 854 emails were initially sent with 39 emails returning as undeliverable. Thus a net of 815 valid emails were utilized. The survey was launched on May 11 with an ending date of May 23, 2015. Two reminders were sent to individuals not having completed the survey; the first on May 15th and the second on May 22nd. A total of 153 individuals participated in the survey for a response rate of 19% and a +/- 7.18% margin of error.

Instrument

The instrument used in this assessment project was homegrown and developed through feedback from representatives from institutional advancement, academic affairs, and student life. Questions were developed 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.

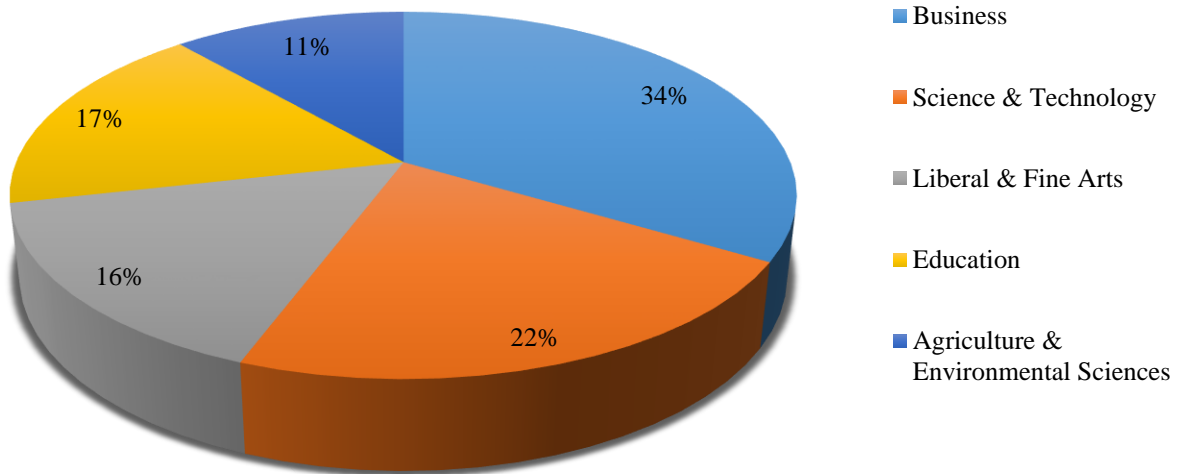
Findings

Question 1:

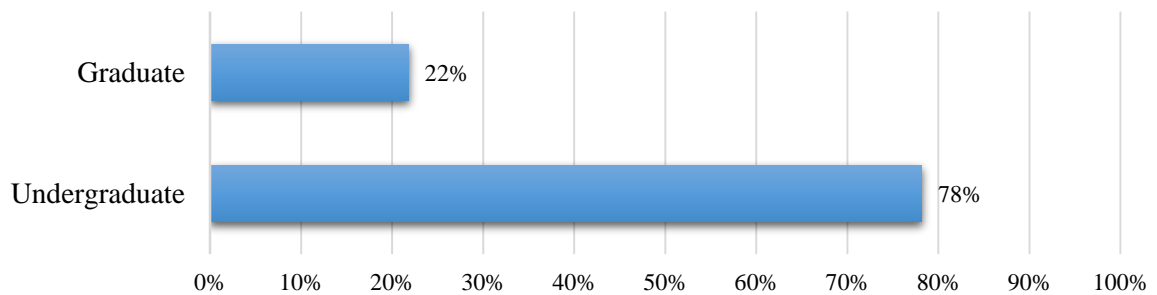
From which college did you graduate?

(n=143)

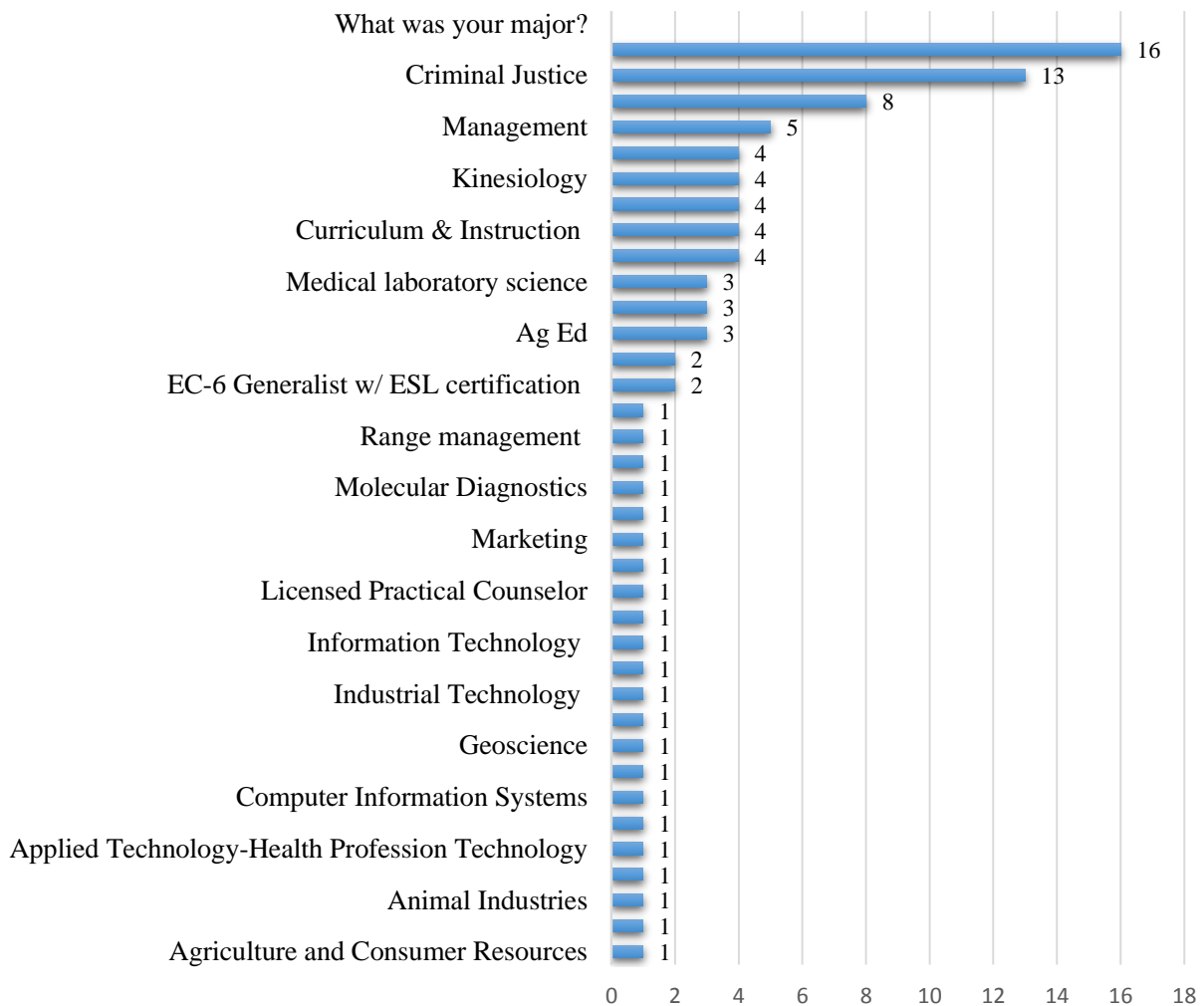
	Response	Percentage
Agriculture and Environmental Sciences	16	11%
Business	49	34%
Education	24	17%
Liberal and Fine Arts	22	15%
Science and Technology	32	22%



Question 2: Which degree did you most recently receive from Tarleton? (n=142)



Question 3: What was your major? (n=97)



Question 4:

Which Tarleton location did you primarily attend?

(n=137)

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Stephenville</i>	85	62%
<i>Fort Worth</i>	31	22%
<i>Waco</i>	16	12%
<i>Midlothian</i>	5	4%

Question 5:

What is your gender?
(n=140)

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Female</i>	89	64%
<i>Male</i>	49	35%
<i>Prefer Not to Say</i>	2	1%

Question 6:

***Did you graduate in the time
frame you expected?***
(n=142)

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	126	88%
<i>No</i>	16	11%
<i>Prefer Not to Say</i>	2	1%

Question 7:

***If no, did it take longer then you
expected?***
(n=16)

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	16	100%
<i>No</i>		
<i>Prefer Not to Say</i>		

Question 8:

***Which of the following barriers
were applicable to your situation?***
(n=25)

	<i>Response</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Financial</i>	5	31%
<i>Family commitments</i>	1	6%
<i>Academic preparedness</i>	4	25 %
<i>Availability of courses</i>	3	19%
<i>Change of major</i>	3	19%
<i>Other</i>	9	56%

Other

Advisors not giving me the proper information regarding classes needed

Undecided for too long

Nursing program was 5 semesters instead of 4

I was immature

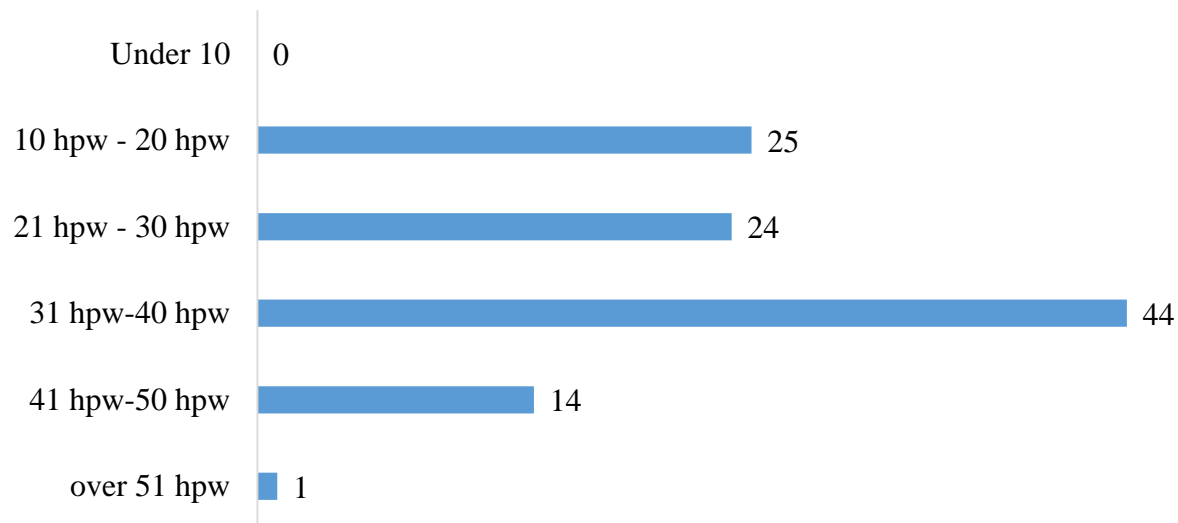
Idiots running the registrar office.

Outside Stress which hindered academic success

Question 9:

*Did you work (on or off campus)
during your enrollment at
Tarleton? (n=142)*

	<i>Response</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	121	85
No	21	15

Question 10: How many hours per week did you work? (n=108)**Question 11:**

Did you have an internship? (n=141)

	<i>Response</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes - Required for my degree	33	23 %
Yes - Not required for my degree	18	13%
No	90	64%

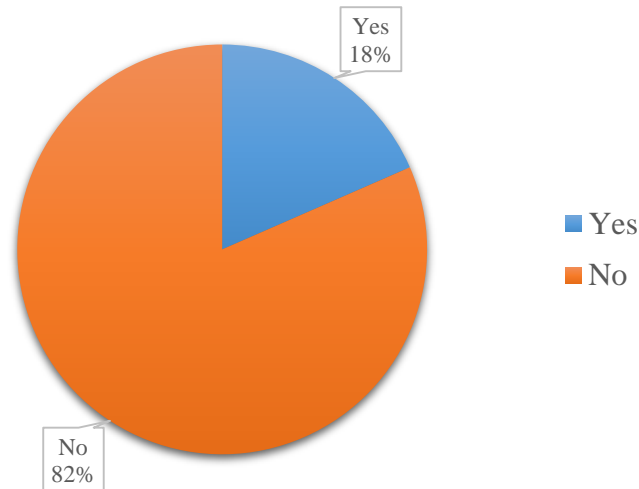
Question 12:

*During your time at Tarleton, did
you hear of the Keeping It R. E. A.
L. or Applied Learning
Experience? (n=141)*

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	63	45%
No	78	55%

Question 13:

Did you participate in the Keeping It R. E. A. L.” or Applied Learning Experience during your time at Tarleton? (n=141)



If yes, how many experiences did you complete? (n=26)

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1	9	35%
2	5	19%
3	6	23%
More than 3	6	23%

If no, what was the biggest barrier to your participation in the program?(n=118)

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Time	21	18%
Availability of Experiences	1	1%
Lack of interest	10	8%
Lack of information about the program	58	49%
I did not believe it would have increased future opportunities for me	3	3%
Other	25	21%

Question 13 cont'd:**Other**

Never heard of it

Did not know about it

Didn't need to participate. I worked full-time while getting my MBA

Did not know about program

No knowledge of the program.

Distance Learner

I was not aware of the program.

I do no recall hearing about it.

Didn't know about it

Did not know about it

Question 14:

Since leaving Tarleton, which statements are applicable to you? (check all that apply) (n=192)

	<i>Response</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>I found employment in an area related to my degree.</i>	65	34%
<i>Other</i>	16	8%
<i>I am pursuing additional undergraduate study</i>	5	3%
<i>I am employed in an area unrelated to my degree.</i>	29	15%
<i>I am still searching for employment.</i>	22	11%
<i>I started or assumed ownership of a business.</i>	5	3%
<i>I have started or am raising a family</i>	13	7%
<i>I am serving in the military</i>	0	0%
<i>I am pursuing volunteer service</i>	4	2%
<i>I am pursuing graduate study</i>	33	17%

Other

I worked full-time while gaining my MBA already had a job

Still employed in same job i was when i started college

I have been promoted within my current company that was related to my degree.

Still employed

I use it in my current career as a pastor

I am in the middle of the hiring process in an area related to my degree.

Considering graduate study

I am a Graduate Assistant

I am using my graduate degree in a related field

Question 15:

<i>When did you obtain your first career related position? (n=85)</i>	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Before graduation</i>	26	31%
<i>One month after graduation</i>	12	14%
<i>Two Months after graduation</i>	6	7%
<i>Three Months after graduation</i>	6	7%
<i>Remaining with same employer (undergrad)</i>	15	18%
<i>Remaining with same employer (graduate)</i>	6	7%
<i>Other (specify below)</i>	14	16%
<i>Other</i>		
4 months after graduation		
Teach math at Tarleton		
6 months after graduation		
The Tuesday after graduation		
In law school		
N/A - grad student		
5 months after graduation		
Promoted at existing employer		
Six months after graduation		
6 months		

Question 16:

<i>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=3)</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>I am unable to find a job in my field.</i>	0	0%
<i>I am working in another field while continuing to look for a position related to my major.</i>	1	33%
<i>I have not seriously sought employment.</i>	0	0%
<i>I have found another job in another field.</i>	0	0%
<i>I am caring for my family.</i>	0	0%
<i>Other</i>	2	67%

Question 17:***Total number of years
employed at current business:****(n=109)*

	<i>Response</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Less than 1 year</i>	63	58%
<i>1 to 5 years</i>	33	30%
<i>6 to 10 years</i>	7	6%
<i>11 to 15 years</i>	3	3%
<i>16 to 20 years</i>	1	1%
<i>20 to 25 years</i>	0	0%
<i>More than 25 years</i>	2	2%

Question 18:***Approximate salary earned
per year?****(n=106)*

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Less than \$20,000</i>	15	14%
<i>\$20,000-\$29,999</i>	14	13%
<i>\$30,000-\$39,999</i>	24	23%
<i>\$40,000-\$49,999</i>	26	25%
<i>\$50,000-\$59,999</i>	14	13%
<i>\$60,000 and over</i>	13	12%

Question 19:***After Graduation, did you
remain within a 50 mile
radius of Stephenville?****(n=136)*

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	43	32 %
<i>No</i>	93	68%

If no, why?

Already owned a house in another town

I attended FW campus

Always lived outside Austin

I did not attend the Stephenville campus,
however I attended the Waco campus and am
still in Waco

Career

I didn't live there

Did not attend TSU at Stephenville

I have always resided in Fort Worth

Didn't live in Stephenville or attend classes
there

I have never lived in this area

Domestic stress

I live in Fort Worth

Don't live there

I live in Waco

Question 19 cont'd:

Employment opportunity	I move back to my home of record in Lampasas
Family	I went to Midlothian
Few things in Texas are appealing to me	In law school
Fort Worth Student, live in Ft Worth	Job
Found a job in a different location	Job at Disney
From over 50 miles away	Military Spouse
Ft Worth Student	Moved back around where I was raised
Grad school in Houston	Moved to live with husband
Home is over 5- miles away	Moved to Portland
Not enough jobs that pay well enough	No job opportunities
Owned home away	There's nothing to do (entertainment or employment) within 50 miles of Stephenville
Relationship	Thought I would have better luck in the Metroplex

Question 20:

Did you intend to pursue another degree, license, or certification?

(n=138)

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	85	62%
<i>No</i>	53	38%

If Yes above, please indicate what other schools or universities are you considering?

Texas Woman's University
 Working on professional certifications.
 University of Houston
 Texas A&M
 Baylor
 University of Houston
 UTA
 SMU
 Texas Tech University
 Abilene Christian University
 UTSA
 University of Mary Hardin Baylor
 UNT
 Texas Southern
 UTEP
 Texas State
 Stony Brook University
 UTD
 Dallas theological seminary and Truett seminary

Question 20 cont'd:

Odessa College
 McLennan Community College
 Austin Community College
 Amarillo College

Question 21:

*Did you apply to a
 professional school (i.e. law,
 medical, veterinary, etc.)?*
 (n=85)

	<i>Response</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	5	6%
No	80	94%

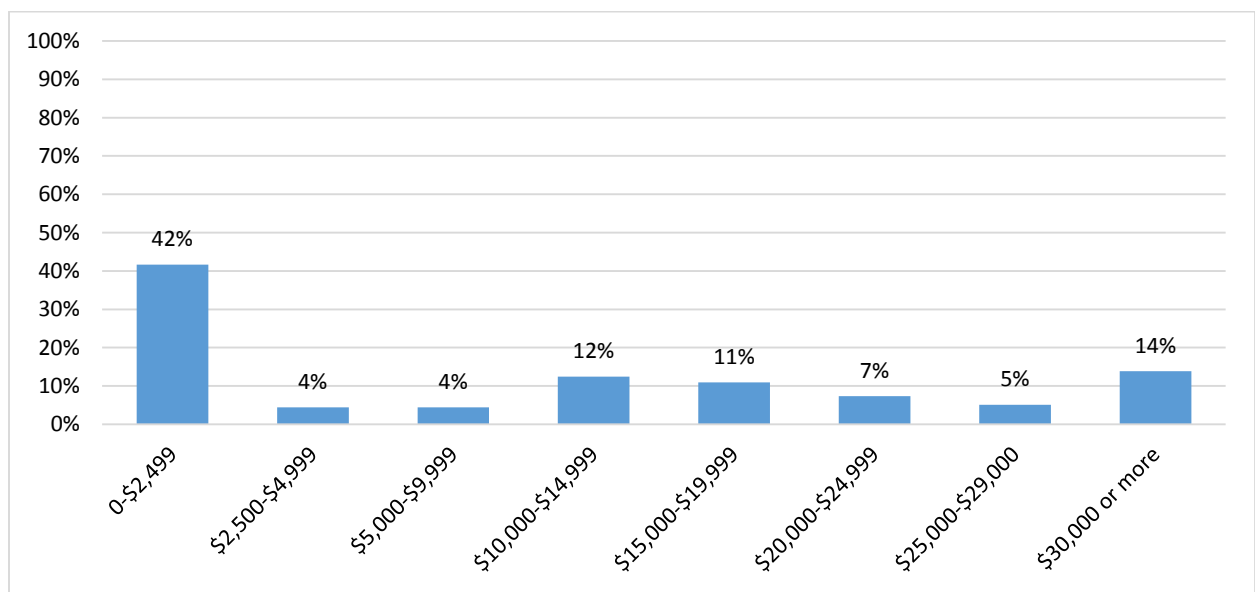
Question 22:

*Did you get accepted to the
 professional School? (n=4)*

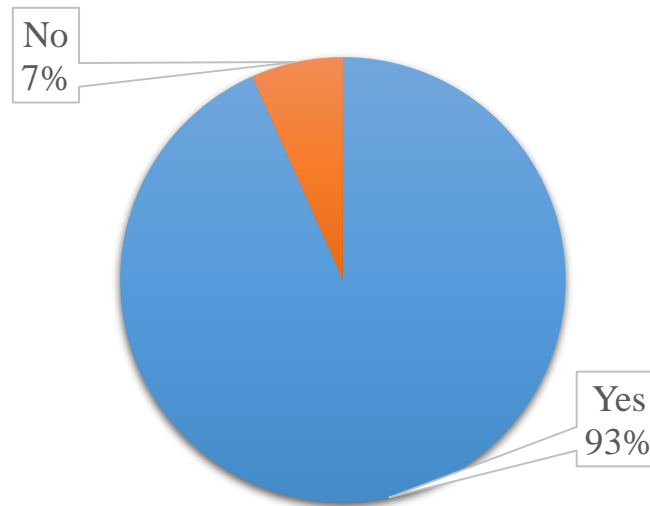
	<i>Response</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	3	75%
No	1	25%

If Yes, what school?

Baylor law
 Baylor. SMU. TCU. OU.
 University of Houston College of Optometry

Question 23: How much debt did you incur to finance your Tarleton education? (n=137)

Question 24: Would you refer a friend or family member to Tarleton State University based on your experience? (n=135)



Questions 25:

What would you change about your Tarleton experience?

Assistance securing employment

Better administration. I've met all the board of directors and laughed in their face. They are all a joke and not for education but rather money hungry idiots.

Better infrastructure. More parking. More staff in financial aid. More seats in more core classes. Another dining option to free up time and space in the dining hall and food court.

Career placement being more than setting up an account on CareerBuilder or indeed

Na

Need more hand on training

Nothing

What would you change about your Tarleton experience?

Questions 26:

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

Being in Delta Zeta

Confidence and self-worth learned from those in my department and counselling. Also, learning to come to terms and deal with living in an abusive environment through counselling.

Questions 26 cont'd:

Field experiences with the geoscience department (Dr's .xxx, xxx, xxx, xxx) and the real world training they provided

Found my dream job while in graduate school. Love teaching nursing students!

Graduating was the only life-changing experience I had.

I absolutely love Tarleton State University. I am so proud to say I graduated from this school. I was never just a number. Tarleton will always be home to me.

I did not. I do not believe that the Midlothian campus is big enough to have the "college experience". It felt as if you were still in high school or community college.

I fulfilled my dream, got married, and made many connections that will help in the future.

I made friends there that I still cherish deeply. The experience I got from living on campus was amazing. They have such a great staff that takes time for their students.

I met my husband at Tarleton.

I realized that people care more about income (A.K.A. Rent income from dorms) than they do about improving lives (A.K.A. paying better professors and creating ease for students to get around campus. Build up Tarleton, build up ^. This little town only has so much space for you to expand without taking out much needed residential living.

I saw the bigger picture of life itself and there are many bad things in this world but not as many as good things.

I think my experience was life changing in that I was able to grow as a person during my time at Tarleton. Prior to enrolling in the graduate program I was never pushed to my limits. Now I have new limits. After graduating, I was offered a promotion with a very bright future. This would have never happened had I not pursued a graduate degree. I look forward to advancing my career.

I was never the type of girl that wanted to join a sorority but when I went to an organization fair I found Sigma Alpha and knew I was home. Sigma Alpha was a blessing.

It was life changing because it allowed me to get my degree and better myself

Kind of. Just learned more responsibility with not only academics but work as well. Also during this program I went to a point in my life I never experienced before. I pushed myself to the hardest, had many tears shed, but in the end, had the most gains. My faith pulled me through!

Loved Tarleton. The professors are awesome and strive to make you a better person and ready for the real world. Glad I chose to come to Tarleton.

Meeting my wife

My time at Tarleton reinforced my love for the field that I work in. It expanded my perspective and exposed me to some of the best folks in the business. I was encouraged to be creative, challenge the status quo and dream BIG. I was given the necessary freedom to try and fail, as well as the support needed to get back up and try again. The culture of the Tarleton community feels like home - no matter how far you may be from campus. I am a proud Tarleton Texan!

Bleed Purple!

Na

No

No

No

No

Question 26 cont'd:

Nope.

not at all

Really enjoyed my time at Tarleton. The classes weren't too big so we really had that one on one time with a professor if needed. We weren't just a number to them and it made learning the material so much easier and prepared us for the real world.

Study abroad

Summer study abroad from June through August in Italy (Urbino Program) and France (Cannes, Independent study)

Tarleton itself is life changing

The College of Education at Tarleton State University provided me with a wealth of knowledge as well as authentic classroom experiences.

Throwing for the Tarleton State Track and Field team. Made a lot of memories and they taught me a lot

Yes being an RL

Yes, I realized I could go anywhere and be anything I wanted to be instead of doing what I thought was convenient to my family and the ones helping me with school.

Yes, Tarleton prepares you for the real world. I felt as though I had already been a teacher when I stepped foot into the school that I work for now. I was very well prepared and I wasn't as nervous as I thought I would be.

Yes. Found out I'm too old to get a job with the degree I pursued

Yes. I was better off putting all the tuition money in the bank instead.