TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVENESS

Administration of the Alumni/Graduate Survey Graduates for December 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 December 2015 semester graduates (N=989). 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 6feLgH6tfnsMjPL

In total 989 emails were sent. The survey was launched on April 12, 2016 with an ending date of April 26, 2016. Three reminders were sent to individuals not having completed the survey; the first on April 14, 2016 and the second on April 20, 2016, and a final reminder on April 25, 2016. A total of 150 individuals participated in the survey for a response rate of 15% and a \pm -7.4% 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.

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Findings

Alumni Graduation Survey for December 2015 Graduates

From which college did you graduate? (n=149)

Answer	%	Count
Agriculture and Environmental Sciences	6.71%	10
Business	42.28%	63
Education	18.12%	27
Liberal and Fine Arts	15.44%	23
Science and Technology	17.45%	26
Total	100%	149

Which degree did you most recently receive from Tarleton? (n=150)

Answer	%	Count
Undergraduate	72.00%	108
Graduate	28.00%	42
Total	100%	150

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What was your major? (n=150)

Answer	%	Count
Business Administration	15%	22
Criminal Justice	9%	13
Accounting	6%	9
Psychology	6%	9
Computer Information Systems	5%	8
Biomedical Sciences	4%	6
Kinesiology	4%	6
Management & Leadership	4%	6
Biomedical Sciences	4%	6
Kinesiology	4%	6
Management & Leadership	4%	6
Nursing	3%	5
Nursing	3%	5
Other	46%	66
Total	100%	150

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Which Tarleton location did you primarily attend? (n=149)

Answer	%	Count
Stephenville	61.74%	92
Fort Worth	20.81%	31
Waco	14.77%	22
Midlothian	2.68%	4
Total	100%	149

What is your gender? (n=149)

Answer	%	Count
Female	61.74%	92
Male	37.58%	56
Prefer not to answer	0.67%	1
Total	100%	149

Did you graduate in the time frame you expected? (n=150)

Answer	%	Count
Yes	85.33%	128
No	14.67%	22
Total	100%	150

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For students not graduating in the expected time frame, which of the following barriers were applicable to your situation? (n=22)

	Answer	%	Count
	Financial	55%	12
	Family commitments	41%	9
	Academic preparedness	27%	6
	Availability of courses	23%	5
	Change of major	45%	10
Other	 Other Health issues divorce/home life Nursing added new semester of prerequisites Early career opportunities that slowed my progress of taking classes 	18%	4

Did you work (on or off campus) during your enrollment at Tarleton? (n=150)

Answer	%	Count
Yes	86.00%	129
No	14.00%	21
Total	100%	150

How many hours per week? (n=129)

Answer	%	Count
1-10	6.20%	8
10-20	14.73%	19
20-30	20.16%	26
30-40	19.38%	25

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40+	39.53%	51
Total	100%	129

Did you have an internship? (n=150)

Answer	%	Count
Yes - Required for my degree	16.00%	24
Yes - Not required for my degree	10.67%	16
No	73.33%	110
Total	100%	150

During your time at Tarleton, did you hear of the Keeping It R.E.A.L. or Applied Learning Experience Program? (n=150)

Answer	%	Count
Yes	37%	55
No	63%	95
Total	100%	150

Did you participate in the Keeping It R.E.A.L. or Applied Learning Experience program during your undergraduate studies? (n=150)

Answer	%	Count
Yes	17%	26
No	83%	124
Total	100%	150

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

Answer	%	Count
1	23%	6
2	19%	5
3	19%	5
More than 3	38%	10
Total	100%	26

If no, what was the biggest barrier to your participation in the program? (n=132)

Answer	%	Count
Time	20%	27
Availability of Experiences	3%	4
Lack of interest	5%	7
Lack of information about the program	53%	70
I did not believe it would have increased future opportunities for me	2%	2
 I did not know about it. never heard of it. Insufficient ALE paperwork Did not know about it not familiar with the program I have never heard about it. Had not heard of it, but I would not have had an opportunity to participate anyway due to work and family obligations. Availability of courses needed to complete degree Never heard of it. Never Heard About It I did not know about this program. working, and family I dont know what it is 	17%	22

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 I participated but it hasn't really done anything but fluff my résumé. I was an online student, and I have no idea what this program is. Never heard of it. Never heard of it. 		
Total	100%	132

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

	Answer	%	Count
	I am pursuing additional undergraduate study	4%	6
	I am pursuing graduate study	27%	40
1	found employment in an area related to my degree.	40%	60
	I am employed in an area unrelated to my degree.	23%	34
	I started or assumed ownership of a business.	2%	3
	I am still searching for employment.	26%	39
	I have started or am raising a family	11%	17
	I am serving in the military	1%	1
	I am pursing volunteer service	5%	8
Other	 Other I am still employed the way I was when I graduated. I received my degree to keep the job I have still working at same place I remain employed by the same company I worked for while obtaining my degree. Have been working in the same field as before completing my Master's degree I already owned a business Traveling for boyfriends job I am working in my area, but would also like to seek teaching opportunities at the university level. I was already employed in an area related to my degree I am presently searching for employment to increase my earnings as my degree is not compensated for where I work 	12%	18

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•	None	
•	promotion	
•	Im an older student, with a family, full time job	
•	I got a promotion at my current job that is indirectly	
	related to my fill of study.	
•	Continued original employment.	
•	Already had a job in law enforcement, was simply	
	earning a degree for my job.	
•	My degree was for career advancement	

When did you obtain your first career related position? (n=60)

	Answer	%	Count
	Before graduation.	33%	20
	One month after graduation.	27%	16
	Two months after graduation.	8%	5
	Three months after graduation.	10%	6
	Remaining with the same employer as during my undergraduate education.	7%	4
	Remaining with the same employer as during my graduate education.	10%	6
Other	 Other Promoted within my current employment Four Months after graduation 4 months after graduation 	5%	3
	Total	100%	60

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=77)

Answer	%	Count
I am continuing my college education.	22%	17
I am unable to find a job in my field.	21%	16
I am working in another field while continuing to look for a position related to my major.	30%	23

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	I have not seriously sought employment.	1%	1
I	have found another job in another field.	9%	7
	I am caring for my family.	3%	2
Other	 Other My job is vaguely related to my degree NA talking with current employer about opportunities in my major Traveling to different states for boyfriends job Working N/A N/A Family business. Local options are crummy and I cannot relocate at this time, thus I have to work in a job a degree isn't even required for. 	14%	11
	Total	100%	77

Total number of years employed at current business: (n=92)

Answer	%	Count
Less than 1 year	52.17%	48
1 to 5 years	28.26%	26
6 to 10 years	10.87%	10
11 to 15 years	4.35%	4
16 to 20 years	2.17%	2
20 to 25 years	1.09%	1
More than 25 years	1.09%	1
Total	100%	92

Approximate salary earned per year: (n=92)

Answer	%	Count
Less than \$20,000	22.83%	21
\$20,000 - \$29,000	11.96%	11
\$30,000 - \$39,000	17.39%	16
\$40,000 - \$49,000	21.74%	20
\$50,000 - \$59,000	11.96%	11
\$60,000 and over	14.13%	13
Total	100%	92

After Graduation, did you remain within a 50 mile radius of Stephenville? (n=149)

	Answer	%	Count
	Yes	34%	51
No (If no, Why?)	 No (If no, Why?) live in waco, Live in Waco Moved to a bigger city. I attended TSU online and at Fort Worth remote campus I already lived in Fort Worth Live in ennis Live in Metroplex Relocated for work Waco Not my hometown Wanted to live in the city Job is in waco Graduate study Live in Fort Worth Located in Dallas and took classes online No Live in Waco 	66%	98

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- Moved home
- distance learner
- Began working at NASA
- Moved to Dallas for more opportunities
- online student
- Attended in Waco; remained in Waco
- attended FW campus, never went to Stephenville
- Did at first then traveled for boyfriends job
- Moved back to my hometown
- Moved home to get help raising child
- In Waco area-never in S-ville area.
- My job took me to the panhandle
- Job opportunity in the DFW metroplex
- I was a Fort Worth student and I remain in Fort Worth.
- Moved back home until I can get a job
- Girlfriend
- Never within 50 miles. Fort Worth
- moved back home to Dallas
- lived in Waco- stayed in the Waco area
- I Stay in Mexia, TX
- Work
- Moved home
- Better opportunities
- divorce/moved away
- live in Waco
- No, I never lived within a 50 mile raduus
- Reside in FW- Online
- I took online courses, never in Stephenville area
- I live in Ft. Worth
- Lived in fort worth.
- Live in Waco area
- I went to FW campus
- Moved to Austin
- No hospitals I wanted to work at
- Came back to home town
- Fort Worth area resident
- Went back home
- I went to the Waco, Tx campus.
- Online
- I was an online student.
- Moved to Amarillo
- Live in Fort Worth
- Online student (reside in Houston)
- Online Student in Waco, TX
- I wanted to live elsewhere.
- I attend the Waco Campus and live in Bellmead, Texas.
- I live in waco tx
- Job opportunities better in Austin

Total	100%	149
 I live in Fort Worth Military move to Washington State Moved home Graduate Program I never lived in Stephenville Online student Live in Fort Worth Couldn't get away fast enough. Moving towards home I moved back to my parents' house to save money I don't like the area Midlothian Campus Husband got internship elsewhere location I live in Fort Worth 	100%	140
. I live in Fant Worth		

Do you intend to pursue another degree, license, or certification? (n=146)

Answer	%	Count
Yes	67.12%	98
No	32.88%	48
Total	100%	146

What other schools or universities are you considering?

Tarleton

Angelo State

One that has the Master's Degree to become a librarian

Texas woman's university Texas state university

Texas Tech School of Pharmacy

PHD with TSU

UNT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER TEXAS

WOMANS UNIV. UNIV. OF ST. AUGUSTINE UT SOUTHWESTERN-Dallas TEXAS STATE UNIV.

Clemson University, University of North Texas, Texas

A&M MCC

Sam Houston State University Baylor University Texas A&M

Texas A&M

UNTHSC A&M Texas Tech UT Southwestern UT

San Antonio UT Austin UTA University of Walden

TCC, UTA

Syracuse University Georgia Tech

Tarrant County Community, University of North

Texas

I am pursuing a project management certification through the project management institute of which I am a member.

TSU

I want to go to Tarleton for my Graduate studies

University of north texas, saint marys, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Texas Wesleyan

Navarro

UNT, A&M, TCU, UT

Tarleton State University – Online

University of Tennessee School of Law, University of Kansaa School of Law, University of Oklahoma School of Law, University of Mississippi School of

Law.

Tarlton Sam Houston

None Texas a&m

Staying with Tarleton University of Alabama

Tarleton

I am a graduate student at Tarleton State University

UTA for an MBA in a few years.

Texas State University, University of Texas

University of North Texas

None at this time.

Houston Baptist, Medical School, UT Austin,

Arlington, and schools in San Antonio

Idk...no schools in Texas offer the counseling program

online as Florida and Massachusetts do.

UTA A&M Not sure Tarleton

Certification program through local ESC.

TCU UNT TSU

PA school eventually or a master's

Multiple online only Masters programs or possible

PHD programs.
None specifically yet

Emory University wound care program

Only Tarleton State

n/a

Tarleton grad school

Texas State None

University of Colorado

TCU

Unsure at this time

Undecided Navarro

UNT, A&M, TCU, UT

Tarleton State University - Online

TWU, Amarillo College, Del Mar, TCC, Baylor

College of Dentistry

UTA Austin and Baylor University

Midwestern State University

Will be back to Tarleton

N/A TCU

Unsure at this time

Undecided

Texas State or TSU Unsure at this time. Tarleton; Baylor

Did you apply to a professional school (i.e. law, medical, veterinary, etc.)? (n =97)

Answer	%	Count
Yes	7.22%	7
No	92.78%	90
Total	100%	97

Did you get accepted to the professional school (n = 7)

Answer	%	Count
Yes - (What school)	57%	4
No	43%	3
Total	100%	7

How much debt did you incur to finance your Tarleton education? (n=148)

Answer	%	Count
0-\$2,499	34.46%	51
\$2,500-\$4,999	4.05%	6
\$5,000-\$9,999	5.41%	8
\$10,000-\$14,999	9.46%	14
\$15,000-\$19,999	10.14%	15
\$20,000-\$24,999	8.11%	12
\$25,000-\$29,000	6.76%	10
\$30,000 or more	21.62%	32
Total	100%	148

Would you refer a friend or family member to Tarleton State University based on your experience? (n=148)

Answer	%	Count
Yes	91.89%	136
No	8.11%	12
Total	100%	148

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

- What would you change about your Tarleton experience?
- I would recommend better advising each semester. The advising department did not seem to care enough if the class would go towards a degree plan as a requirement or be an elective. It felt like the advising department was in a hurry to move the students through too quickly.
- Tarleton made current students feel important
- Clearer communication between students and faculty regarding availability of courses at a distance location.
- Tarleton is not student focused anymore, the focus is on admitting as many students as possible. The professors have to dumb down classes to accommodate the low admittance requirements or risk not getting a promotion due to poor student reviews. At some point employers will not want to hire people with a degree from Tarleton because their education is inadequate. Also, the facilities and services have not grown to accommodate the needs of the students.
- Adjustments made to the Vet Tech Program. It is the most unorganized program I have ever seen.
- Job placement and more lab time or internship opportunities
- Interaction with advisors and staff were not all pleasant, helpful, and I left with the feeling that I was waiting their time. Also, the graduation process reminded me that the whole program for non-conventional adult online students is that there is no connection to campus support. Therefore, I feel as though I got a paper to support my career but I didn't actually feel a part of Tarleton. It is unfortunate because I have heard good things from other online degrees from competing schools. There needs to be more support structure for off campus degrees that also includes a website component. From advisors that take the time to walk through the process, to staff to fully support concerns that don't have the luxury of in-person meetings. At the end, I am deeply regretting my decision to come to Tarleton and I can't say that I would recommend this school to others in my situation.
- Doing it

What would you change about your Tarleton experience?

- No
- I earned my doctorate in Educational Administration. This degree has the potential of opening many doors for me.
- NO
- As a non-traditional student I loved the diversity of the classroom. For me the people and friends I made, even though we were not on a main campus, is what I loved about attending Tarleton-Waco!
- N/A
- Figured out my life plan. I will eventually own my own pharmacy and co-own a scuba shop with my best friend I met at Tarleton. It will be called Landy Land Scuba. We have yet to decide a location.
- Dr. XXXX rallied around me with the mental support and confidence to achieve graduation~ It meant a great deal to me, coming such a distinguished and established individual.
- My internship at the Laboratory for Wellness and Motor Behavior (LWMB) was an amazing and most definitely a life-changing experience. Being able to work with stroke survivors, quadriplegics, paraplegics, cancer survivors, and several more disabilities, conditions and injuries has really broadened my horizons and I have come to realize how precious life is. The fact that I am about to assist these individuals not only physically but mentally and emotionally is so rewarding. Because of

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my dedication and perseverance throughout my internship I was appointed the Graduate Assistant for the LWMB.

- Father lost job. Grandfather passed away.
- I wouldn't say it was life changing but the distance learning program allowed me to work full time and pursue my master's degree full time also. I learned some invaluable lessons while managing both school and a career and I am thankful I had the opportunity to attend a school like Tarleton for my graduate studies
- My extracurricular activities in the Psychology Club was a platform for me to grow my professional and leadership skills. Also, working as Dr. XXXX research assistant increased communication, writing, and professional skills that will help my future career.
- No I did not.
- Yes it was life-changing! I worked as the Editor-in-Chief for the Grassburr for 2 consecutive years. It was my dream to work on a college yearbook. I also pursued my degree at one of the best education programs in the state of Texas. I felt loved and wanted at this university. Although I have grown apart from it and moved on to something much larger then myself, Tarleton will always remain in my heart.
- I was told that I needed a Master Degree to continue in my position. I applied to many different online universities and was denied due to my low GPA from 1986. Tarleton gave me a chance-I completed with a GPA of 4.0.
- No
- Loved the instructors; and the SMALL class size at the time I was enrolled. The FTWorth Campus was great!
- N/A
- I had a child and got married. My aunt passed away from cancer. My sister was diagnosed with cancer. I was diagnosed with cancer. My father was severely injured and was left out of work. My mother had a huge upset in employment. My husband lost his job. My brother in law entered into the navy and served on deployment. Many friends passed away in many ways; car crash, cancer, suicide, overdose. I could go on it but why.....
- Yes. I was the first person in my family to earn a Bachelor's degree.
- I got a lot of exposure at Tarleton
- More confidence in myself. I could and did succeed in getting my degree and making the Dean's the entire time at Tarleton
- It is never too late to earn your education. I entered the University after a dramatic life altering experience. I felt my life could've taken a negative turn. I decided that even if a relative left I still could work and go to school to set up a good example for my children. I did it!
- Education of a life time. I was able to work and still finish a BA without moving on anything. Thank you for the opportunity to finish my degree online!
- Yes, graduating from Tarleton allowed me to enter the career field and find a job in a surprising time limit!
- Getting to rodeo
- In the biology department, I found my home. I faced challenges and received support and encouragement from my amazing mentor and other faculty members within the department. I found it very frustrating that so many students complained about how hard the classes were. I thought a bachelor's degree was supposed to be challenging, and something a person must earn.
- N/A
- Studying abroad in Spain was an amazing, life-changing experience and I made many friends through it.

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- Leaving home for the first time gave me more independence as well as courage, it was the push I needed to come out of my shell. Tarleton offered a very friendly environment for a timid person like myself to feel comfortable and grow. I now have more confidence in myself to peruse anything I set my mind to.
- N/A
- Once graduated, I decided to pursue my MBA at TSU. I became the graduate assistant for the Career Services Department. Being in this position, with this amazing group of individuals, allowed me to grow and realize I was pursing the wrong Masters. A few individuals in the office convinced me to schedule a career counseling appointment, and during this appointment my eyes were open to the many possibilities and different routes I could take for my Masters. I then changed my MBA to a Master's of Science in Health and Wellness. I am now happier than ever and truly believe I am on the path God intended for me. None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary individuals of the Career Services Department!!
- Yes I came out of my shell more than I ever could have imagined I think going to Tarleton was the best decision I ever made and I make great friends how I consider family
- Yes, I enjoyed being with my classmates every night and I learned several reading, writing, and math strategies. I also enjoyed presenting my lessons in front of my classmates. I also enjoyed being a part of the classroom at the schools.
- I had my kids
- I had a professor that really cared & understood that I was working 45+ hours a week. She kept encouraging me when I would come to class exhausted after a 10 hour day dealing with mentally ill patients. It really changed my life & made me look at Tarleton in a different way.
- Wonderful experience through academics, volleyball, friendships and my relationship
- N/A
- I was able to get into a job that is now that makes enough to where I can get a new house and do better for my family.
- I was a graduate student, I did however, enjoyed all the faculty.
- Yes, I loved it. Met a lot of life-long friends and I have a degree that will be with me forever.
- No
- A lot, too many to type up.
- I met 2 very important people in my life. My roommate and my now boyfriend. They both helped shape what I have become.
- Sigma Chi, and being a duck camp leader
- I was so impressed how Dr. XXX & Dr. XXX treated me as a student. Very professional and felt like their door was open any time.
- I never thought I would graduate at the university and when I finally did. It was one of the best day of my life.
- n/a
- I would refer to my previous answer.
- During my internship I worked for our county DA's office. In that time it changed my entire outlook on the criminal justice system, law, and opened my eyes to the career I was seeking. I learned more about what it meant to be a prosecutor than in any class I took at Tarleton. That is not to say the classes were not important, it is more of a testament to what that internship meant to me.
- I spiraled into a state of depression that went unnoticed by everyone around me and by myself until my last semester. I lost most of my friends and became rather hermit like. I felt like I lost parts of my personality that could take months, if not years to regain. But I also gained valuable knowledge and speaking skills that I would not otherwise have. My vocabulary and world view has developed far

beyond what I ever would have expected. What I lost out weighs what I gained, but at least I gained something.

- N/A
- I was there once the MLK racist party took place. It was a trying experience for myself and other African Americans
- No
- no
- Not really. The best part about Tarleton were the down to earth professors/instructors. They just always felt like real people I would enjoy a conversation with outside of class. (Fort Worth Campus) Keep up the good work!
- Yes. I learned what it was to work hard as I balanced running track, work, and nursing school. Almost met my current girlfriend.
- Sorority recruitment. I know it sounds cliché but the women I met while going through recruitment as well as throughout my college career changed my life and made me who I am. The girls encouraged me and made me strive to do well. Also, they taught me professionalism and how to handle conflict appropriately. Study abroad. I saw sights I never dreamed I would. I made friends with people I never would have been exposed to. My trip to the DR made me appreciate the earth and all it has to offer. My trip to Italy and Austria have been a dream to travel and see all the world has to offer.
- It was a transformative period of my life but not because I was going to Tarleton
- The Tarleton Aeronautical Team opened the door to my 65k salaried position after graduation. Please continue support for that program.
- N/A