

# SURVEY OF GRADUATE STUDENT ALUMNI

**SPRING 2023**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Graduate School™

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Students graduating from Texas Tech University with graduate degrees benefited from expert and supportive faculty and felt they gained the relevant and necessary experience to succeed in their chosen careers. They are innovators and researchers; entrepreneurs; health care providers; educators and university faculty; leaders in business, government and nonprofit sectors; and advancers of the arts and humanities. Their contributions to the workforce enhance society and significantly enrich the local, national and global economies. Below is a synopsis of the survey results:

- Most graduates (74.1 percent) with TTU graduate degrees entered the workforce directly without continuing their education.
- Of those students graduating with TTU graduate degrees who continued their education, most went on to earn/work toward doctoral (45.6 percent) or master's/professional (38.4 percent) degrees.

Almost 35 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in higher education, while just over 65 percent were employed in other sectors, including K-12 education (14.8 percent), business (22.5 percent), government service (9.4 percent), healthcare (5.4 percent), military (0.6 percent), nonprofit (3.1 percent), self-employed (5.8 percent) and other (3.5 percent).

- Most graduates with TTU graduate degrees (60.8 percent) were employed full-time; 27.1 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were not seeking employment or were retired.
- A majority of graduates (61.5 percent) with TTU graduate degrees were employed in Texas.
- 52.7 percent of graduates with TTU degrees reported being born in Texas.
- 53.4 percent of graduates with TTU degrees made up to \$100,000 per year, 33.0 percent made between \$100,001 and \$250,000, 5.7 percent made over \$250,000, and 8.0 percent preferred not to answer.
- A vast majority of graduates with TTU graduate degrees (86.7 percent) felt their graduate degrees were very closely or closely related to their current or most recent job.
- Over 92.5 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were very satisfied or satisfied with their overall program quality. 96.1 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the intellectual challenge of their program and 91.9 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of faculty.
- Most graduates with TTU graduate degrees (89.0 percent) were very satisfied or satisfied with the adequacy of facilities and equipment. The majority of graduates were also very satisfied or satisfied with IT services (64.7 percent), and library or electronic resources (82.8 percent), and graduate student life experiences (72.8 percent). Only 46.5 percent were very satisfied or satisfied with assistance provided in finding employment.
- Graduates with TTU graduate degrees felt their graduate experience would have been enhanced by better climate/associations with others (9.6 percent), better career guidance/placement (10.5 percent), an improved program/ class availability/accessibility (15.3 percent), improved university infrastructure (12.9 percent) and better professional development (12.0 percent).
- Survey demographics, provided at the end of the survey, show age range of participants were distributed with the 65-74 year old range being the largest percentage of participants (19.9 percent). Just over half of participants (55.3 percent) were male and 43.6 percent were female. 94.6 percent of participants identified with one race while 1.6 percent of participants identified with 2 or more races.

## INTRODUCTION

Graduate education plays a critical role in the workforce strategy of the U.S. and is essential for innovation in all fields of endeavor, from the arts and humanities to science, technology, engineering and mathematics<sup>1</sup>. Graduate degree holders bring increased value to the workforce and to society through their specialized knowledge and problem-solving ability<sup>2</sup>.

The purpose of this survey was to determine the career paths of students following the completion of their graduate program at TTU and to learn if their graduate program (1) met students' expectations, (2) helped students attain their career goals and objectives and (3) provided students with the skills to become successful in their careers. The survey was purposefully brief to encourage maximum participation from alumni, including some who graduated more than 30 years ago. This is the fifth Graduate Student Alumni Survey that Texas Tech University has conducted.

## SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

The survey was administered by the Texas Tech University Office of Institutional Research to all alumni of record who earned a graduate degree at TTU, had an address on file, and graduated between 1961 and 2021 in five-year increments (e.g., 2021, 2016, 2011, etc.).

- 6683 emails requests were sent with 673 being bounced back due to an invalid address; 4358 postcards were then mailed to alumni we did not have an email address for as well as the alumni that had emails bounce back.
- Email requests were initially sent on November 23, 2022; responses were collected until January 31, 2023.
- A total of 482 responses were received, yielding a response rate of about 9.5 percent.
- Of the total responses received, 149 were doctoral degree recipients and 333 were master's degree recipients.

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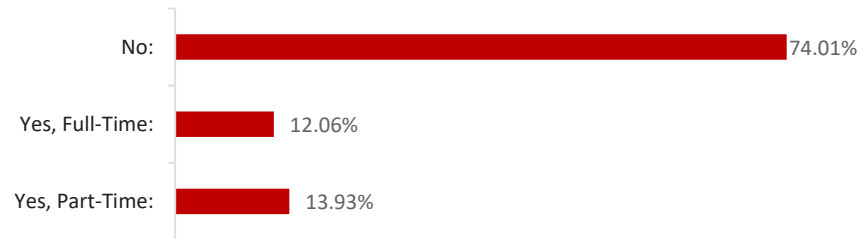
<sup>1</sup>The Path Forward: The Future of Graduate Education in the United States, 2010, Commission on the Future of Graduate Education in the United States; Pathways through Graduate School and Into Careers, 2012, Commission on the Future of Graduate Education in the United States.

<sup>2</sup>Graduate Education: The Backbone of American Competitiveness and Innovation, 2007, Council of Graduate Schools, Washington, DC; Graduate Education and the Public Good, 2008, Council of Graduate Schools, Washington, DC.

### QUESTION 1

Have you enrolled at a college or university since receiving your graduate degree from Texas Tech University?

(481 responses, 1 skipped questions)

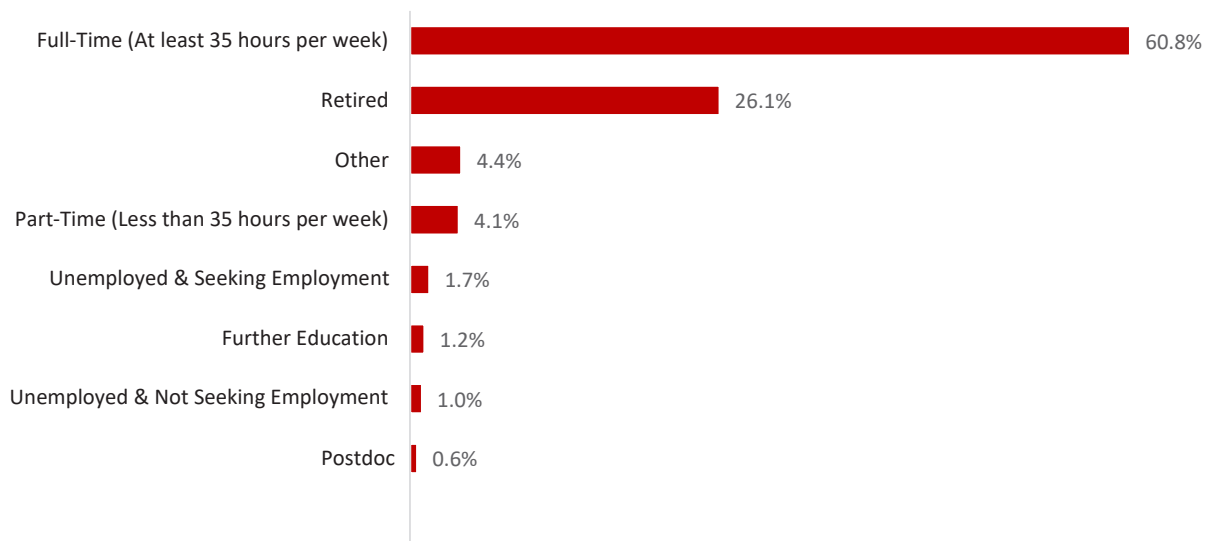


- A majority (74.0 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees did not continue their education.
- Of the graduates with TTU graduate degrees that continued their education, 12.06 percent continued full-time, and 13.93 percent continued part-time.

### QUESTION 2

What is your current employment status?

(482 responses, 0 skipped question)

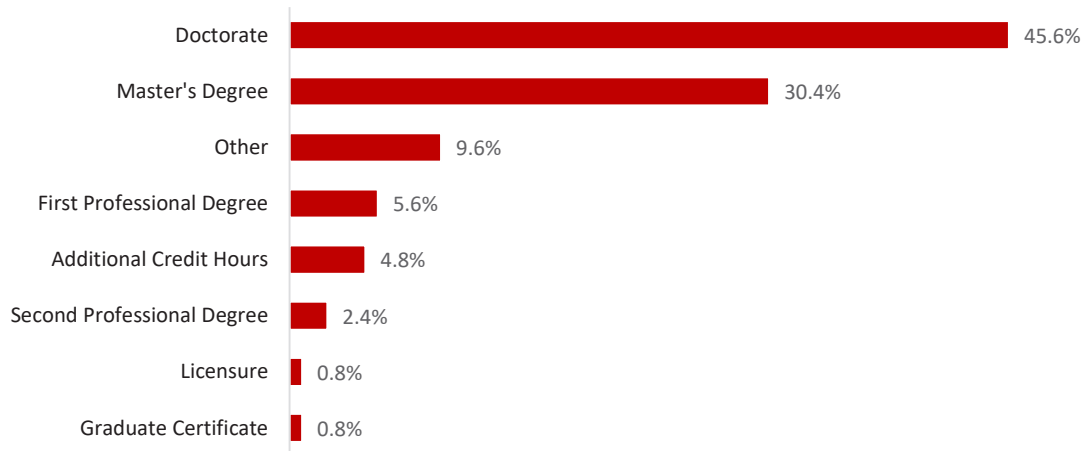


- A majority (60.8 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed full-time.
- 27.1 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were not seeking employment, including retired individuals.

### QUESTION 3

**If you have enrolled at a college or university since receiving your graduate degree from TTU, what is the highest degree you have achieved or toward which you are currently working?**

(125 responses, 357 skipped question)



- Almost 46 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees who continued their education after leaving TTU obtained or were pursuing a doctorate; 30.4 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees who continued their education after leaving TTU obtained or were pursuing a master's degree; 8.0 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees who continued their education after leaving TTU obtained or were pursuing a first or second professional degree.
- 16 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees who continued their education after leaving TTU sought or were seeking additional credits rather than a degree, including 0.8 percent seeking a graduate certificate, 0.8 percent seeking some type of licensure, 4.8 percent seeking additional credit hours, and 9.6 percent seeking some other type of additional education.
- Representative institutions at which graduates with TTU graduate degrees continued their education after leaving TTU are as follows:

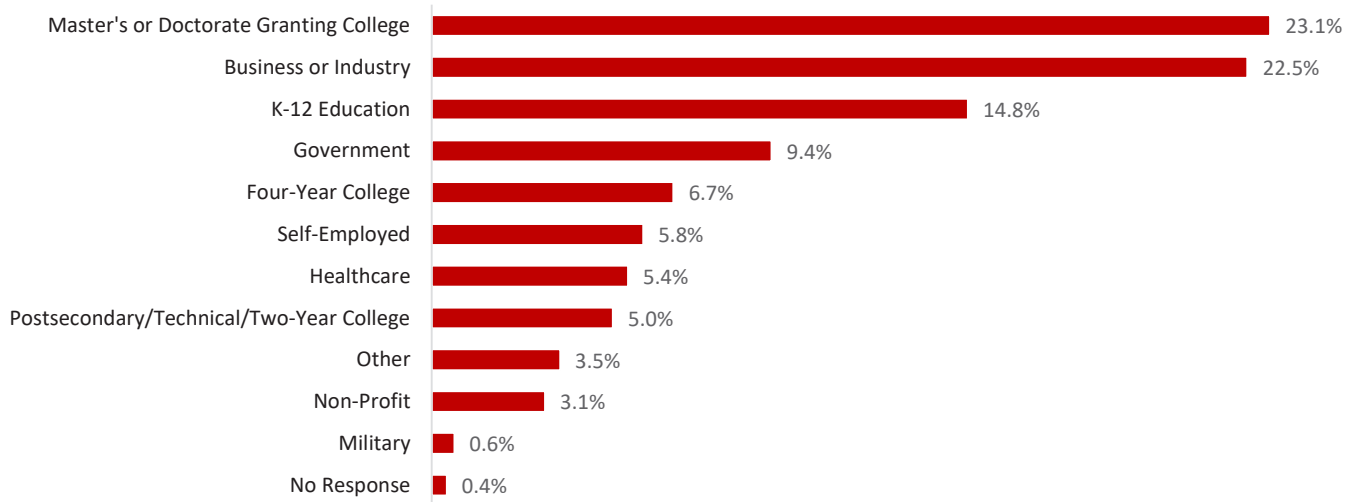
Abilene Christian University  
Angelo State University  
Baylor University  
Bethel University  
California Lutheran University  
Florida State University  
George Washington University  
Indiana University – Bloomington  
Lamar University  
Lubbock Christian  
Montana State University  
Mississippi State University  
North Carolina University  
Northwestern University  
Oklahoma State University  
Portland State University

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
San Antonio College  
St. Edwards College  
Syracuse University  
Texas A&M  
Texas Christian University  
Texas Tech University  
Texas Tech School of Law  
Texas Woman's University  
University of Colorado  
University of Houston  
University of Nebraska  
University of New Mexico  
University of North Florida  
University of Texas at Arlington  
University of Texas at Austin

#### QUESTION 4

### Which category best describes the sector of your current or most recent employment?

(480 responses, 2 skipped question)



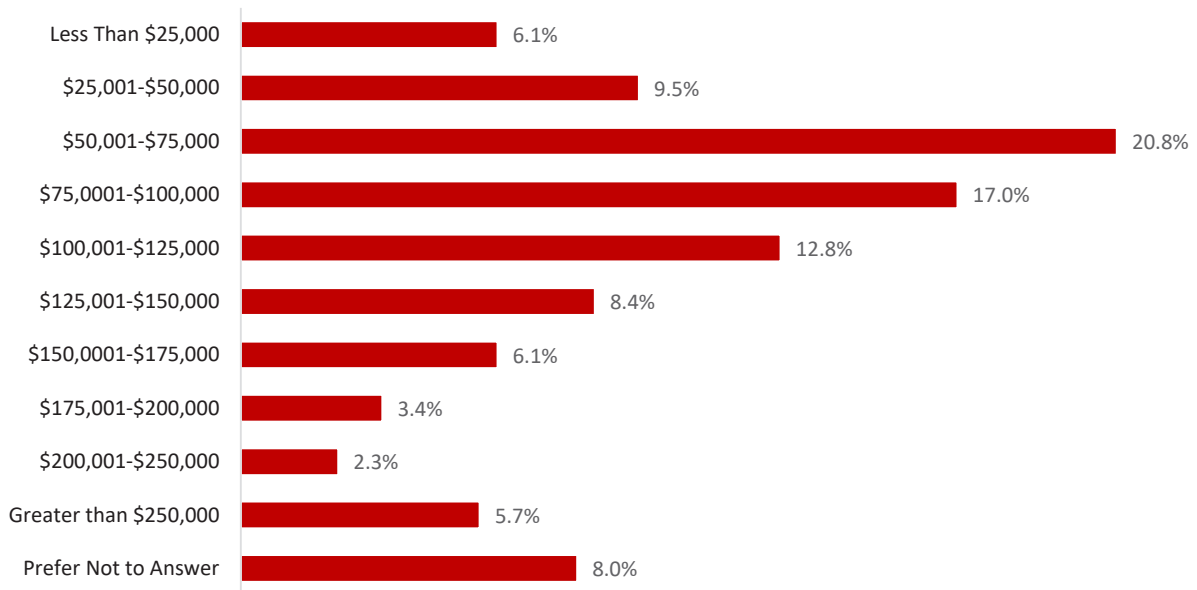
- In keeping with national trends, almost 35 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in higher education, including 23.1 percent at research universities, 6.7 percent at four-year colleges and 5.0 percent at two-year college/technical schools.
- A majority (59.3 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in other sectors, including K-12 education (14.8 percent), business (22.5 percent), government (9.4 percent), healthcare (5.4 percent), military (0.6 percent), nonprofit (3.1 percent), and other (3.5 percent).
- 5.8 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were self-employed.
- Individuals with TTU graduate degrees obtained employment at the following entities:

ADP	Lockheed Martin
Advanced Micro Devices Inc.	Los Alamos National Laboratory
AECOM	Louisiana State University
Air Force Research Laboratory	Lubbock Christian University
Alamo Heights ISD	MD Anderson
Amarillo College	MIT
Angelo State University	National Nuclear Security Administration
Apple	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Baylor University	Occidental Petroleum
BOEING	South Plains College
Boston University	SpaceX
City of Lubbock	Texas A&M University
CVS Health	Texas Christian University
Datalogic Software	Texas Tech University
Federal Bureau of Investigation	The Healing Center
Federal Bureau of Prisons	United Health Care
H-E-B	U.S. Department of Agriculture
IBM	University of California, Berkeley

### QUESTION 5

#### What is your current or most recent annualized 12-month salary?

(476 responses, 6 skipped question)

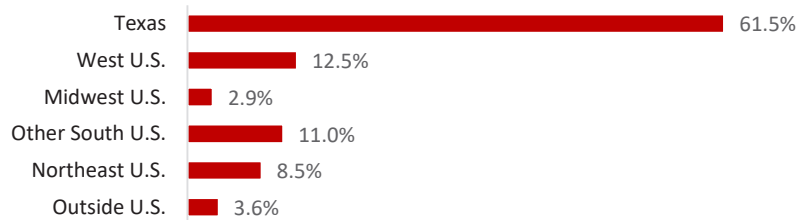


- A majority (53.4 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees made up to \$100,000 per year.
- 33.0 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees made between \$100,001 and \$250,000.
- 5.7 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees made over \$250,000.
- 8.0 percent preferred not to answer.

## QUESTION 6

### What is the location of your current or most recent employer?

(447 responses, 35 skipped question)

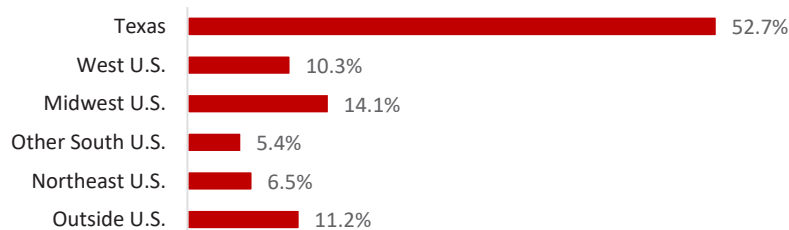


- A majority (61.5 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in Texas.
- 8.5 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in Northeast U.S. states<sup>1</sup>.
- 12.5 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in West U.S. and Pacific states<sup>2</sup>.
- 11.0 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in other Southern U.S. states<sup>3</sup>.
- 2.9 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in other Midwest states<sup>4</sup>.
- 96.4 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were employed in the U.S.

## QUESTION 7

### What is your place of birth?

(448 responses, 34 skipped question)



- A majority (52.7 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in Texas.
- 6.5 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in Northeast U.S. states<sup>1</sup>.
- 10.3 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in West U.S. and Pacific states<sup>2</sup>.
- 5.4 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in other Southern U.S. states<sup>3</sup>.
- 14.1 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in other Midwest states<sup>4</sup>.
- 88.8 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees were born in the U.S.

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<sup>1</sup>Includes NY, PA, NJ, CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, and ME

<sup>2</sup>Includes NM, AZ, CO, UT, NV, WY, MT, ID, OR, WA, CA, HI, and AK

<sup>3</sup>Includes OK, LA, AR, GA, FL, NC, SC, TN, KY, WV, MD, DE, DC, VA, AL, and MS

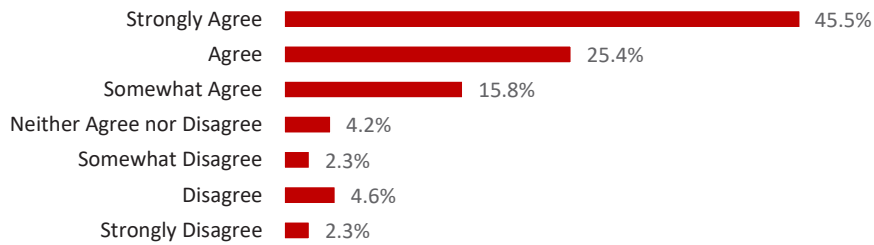
<sup>4</sup>Includes KS, MO, IL, IN, OH, MI, WI, IA, NE, SD, ND, and MN



## QUESTION 8

### My current or most recent job is closely related to my graduate degree?

(481 responses; 1 skipped question)

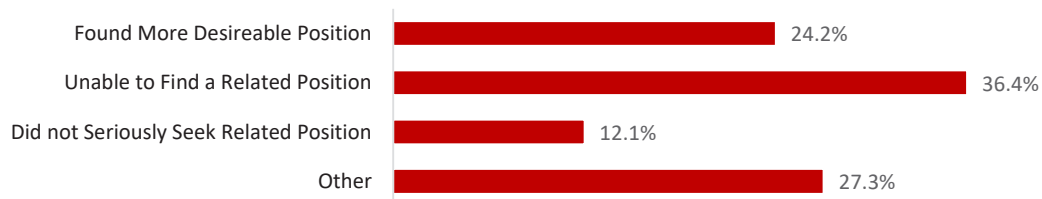


- A vast majority (86.7 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate degrees strongly agreed (45.5 percent), agreed (25.4 percent), or somewhat agreed (15.8 percent) that their degrees were closely related to their current or most recent job.
- Only 9.2 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees somewhat disagreed (2.3 percent), disagreed (4.6 percent), or strongly disagreed (2.3 percent) that their degrees were closely related to their current or most recent job.

## QUESTION 9

### If your current/most recent position is/was not related to your graduate degree, what best describes your situation?

(33 responses; 449 skipped question)



- Of the 9.2 percent of graduates with TTU graduate degrees who felt their graduate degrees were unrelated to their employment, 24.2 percent answered, “found more desirable position in another field,” 36.4 percent answered “not able to find a position related to my graduate education” and 12.1 percent answered “I have not seriously sought a position related to my graduate degree” as the main reasons.
- “Other” reasons identified for why current/most recent position was not related to graduate degree include the following:

“I did not find a job in my field at time of graduation. I accepted a position that involves a few of my classes.”

“I retired from a teaching career and am now self-employed on our family ranch.”

“The job I do doesn’t require a degree.”

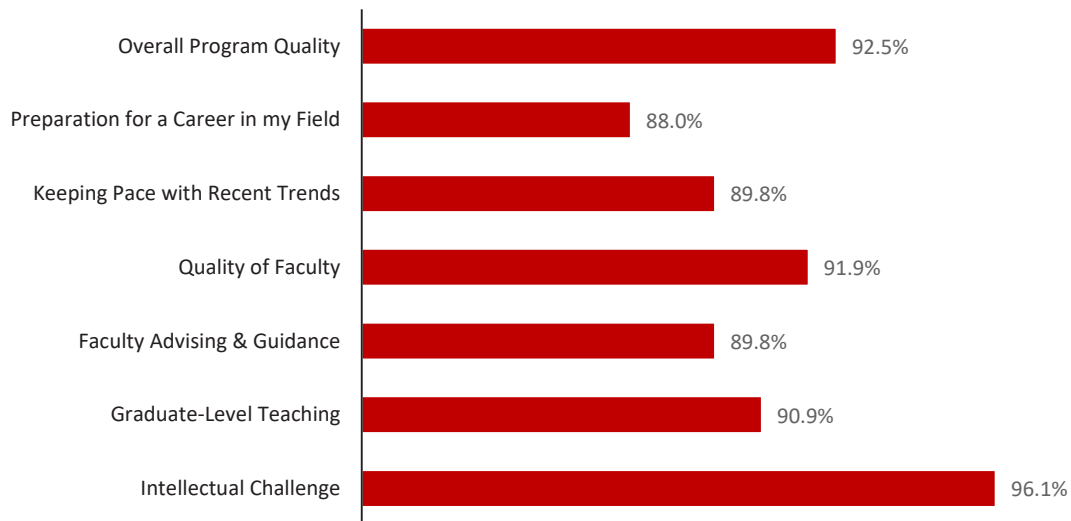
“I was able to make more money in a different field.”

“I previously retired from being a Finance Manager at a hospital. I concurrently served as Probate Judge and just retired from that position.”

## QUESTION 10

How satisfied were you with the following academic elements of your graduate program? Percentages reflect those who responded very satisfied or satisfied.

(481 responses; 1 skipped question)



- Graduates with TTU graduate degrees felt the most positive aspect of their graduate experience was the intellectual challenge of their program (96.1 percent). Overall program quality (92.5 percent) and quality of faculty (91.9 percent) were ranked under intellectual challenge.
- Specific positive experiences mentioned by graduates with TTU graduate degrees include the following:

“I learned how to use my knowledge to become a better professional musician.”

“Professors that challenged the students and fostered creative thinking.”

“The faculty provided me with some excellent opportunities--teaching assistant, internship with producers in Hollywood”

“Being able to meet students from different countries, sharing our views on a variety of subjects and learning from each other.”

“Strong balance of study in advanced fields with practical application and experiences.”

“There was a huge emphasis on relationship building, which came in handy when I needed support in research and my defense”.

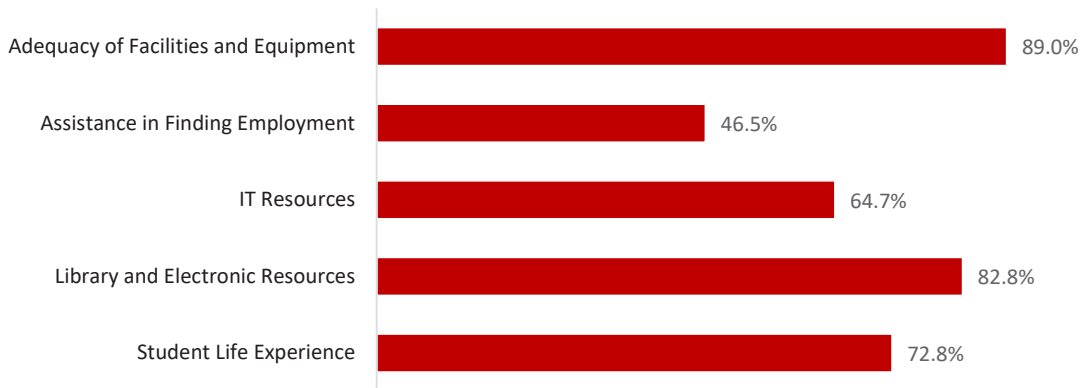
“The hands-on laboratory learning. We did aspects of the job we wanted to get and had a chance to travel and visit employers working on projects.”

“Prepared me for the challenges of my profession.”

### QUESTION 11

How satisfied were you with the following elements of your graduate program? Percentages reflect those who responded very satisfied or satisfied.

(470 responses; 12 skipped question)

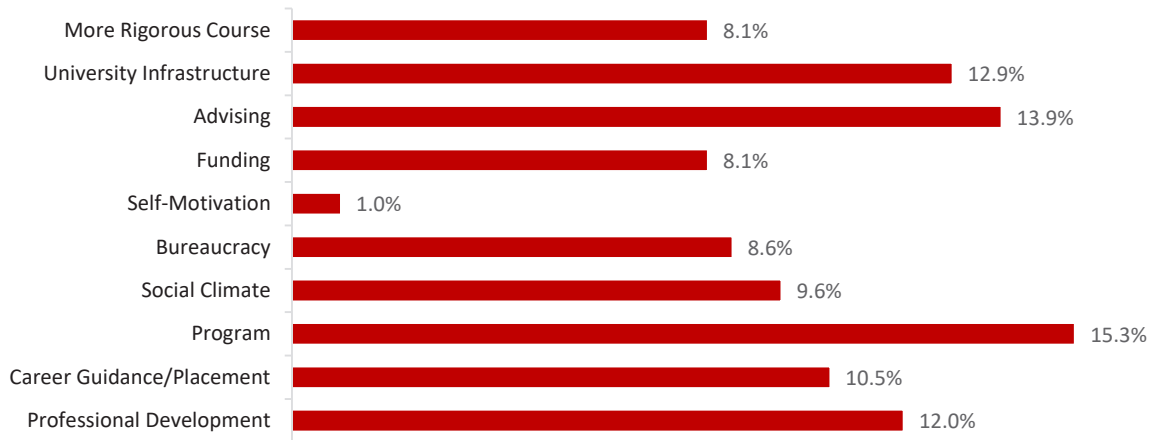


- A majority (89.0 percent) of graduates with TTU graduate were very satisfied or satisfied with the adequacy of facilities and equipment.
- 46.5 percent of graduates with TTU graduate were very satisfied or satisfied with the assistance provided in finding employment.
- 64.7 percent of graduates with TTU graduate were very satisfied or satisfied with the IT resources.
- 82.8 percent of graduates with TTU graduate were very satisfied or satisfied with Library or electronic resources.
- 72.8 percent of graduates with TTU graduate were very satisfied or satisfied with the student life experience.

## QUESTION 12

### What aspects of your graduate experience could have been enhanced?

(209 responses; 273 skipped question)



- Graduates with TTU graduate degrees felt their graduate experience would have been improved by greater program/class availability/accessibility (15.3 percent), improved advising (13.9 percent), improved university infrastructure (12.9 percent), professional development (12.0 percent) and career guidance/placement (10.5 percent).
- Graduates with TTU graduate degrees also felt their graduate experience would have been improved by social climate/associations with others (9.6 percent), more effective communication/reduced bureaucracy (8.6 percent), more rigorous courses (8.1 percent), enhanced stipends/ financial assistance (8.1 percent), and self-motivation (1.0 percent).
- Specific recommendations mentioned by graduates with TTU graduate degrees for enhancing the graduate experience include the following:
  - “More flexibility in taking less than full-time course work.”
  - “More opportunities to publish, attend conferences, and be aware of the profession.”
  - “Better mentoring and guidance in scholarship/research.”
  - “Provide more real-world applications – business as well as educational.”
  - “Better preparation and connections for employment post-graduation.”
  - “Continue to have professors who can provide up-to-date guidance in core capabilities to adequately guide graduate students.”
  - “More interdisciplinary flexibility.”
  - “Stronger partnerships with industry.”
  - “Building more comradery between graduate students in the program”

## SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

### QUESTION 13

#### What is your sex?

(477 responses; 5 skipped question)

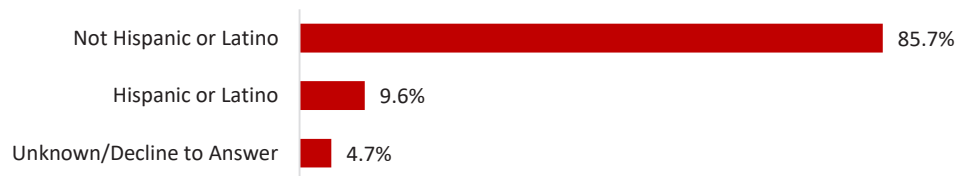


- Just over half of participants (55.3 percent) were male with 43.6 percent being female and 1.0 percent preferring not to answer.

### QUESTION 14

#### What is your ethnicity?

(470 responses; 12 skipped question)

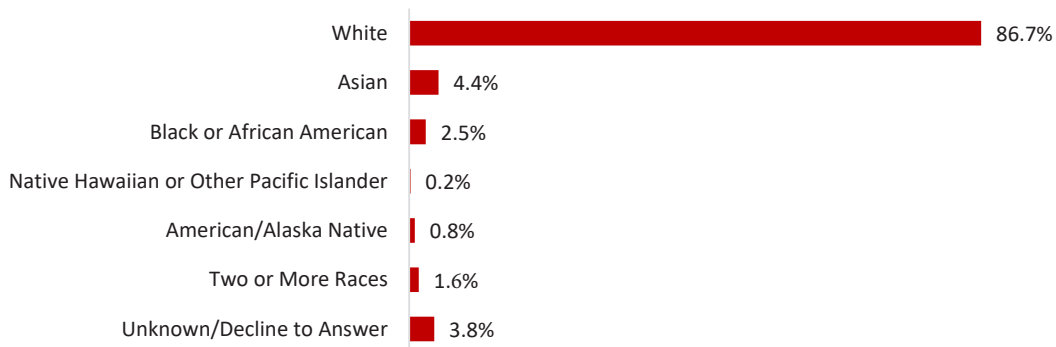


- A vast majority (85.7 percent) of participants selected Not Hispanic or Latino while 9.6 percent selected Hispanic or Latino and 4.7 percent selected unknown or prefer not to answer.

### QUESTION 15

#### What is your race? Select more than one if you are multiracial.

(474 responses; 8 skipped question)

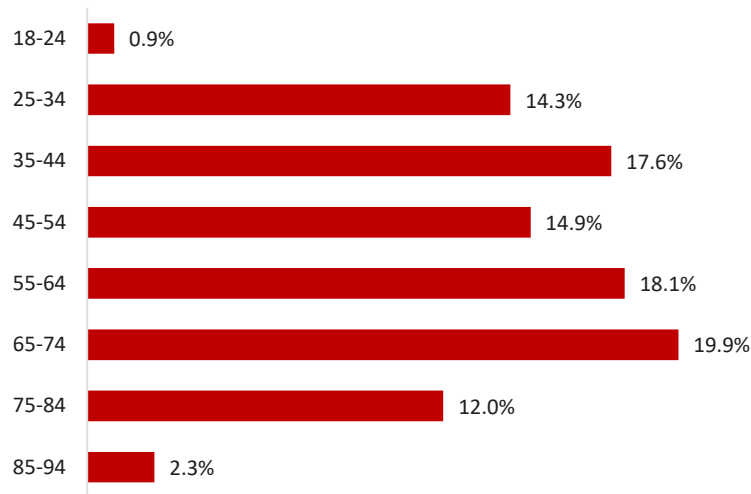


- Most participants (86.7 percent) selected white as their race with Asian (4.4 percent) and unknown or prefer not answer (3.8 percent) being the next most selected choices.
- A majority of participants (94.6 percent) selected one race while 1.6 percent of participants selected two or more races.

## QUESTION 16

### What is your age?

(442 responses; 10 skipped question)



- Age categories represented by the survey were fairly even. Responses consisted of 17.6 percent 35-44 year old, 25-34 years old (14.3 percent) and 45-54 years old (14.9 percent), 55-64 years old (18.1 percent), and 65-74 years old (19.9 percent).
- Less represented age ranges include 75 years and older (14.3 percent) and 18-24 years old (0.9 percent).





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