



New Undergraduate Student Survey, Fall 2020

All new undergraduate students (First Time in College [FTIC] and transfer), including branch campuses, were invited to complete the New Aggies Student Survey September 8-27, 2020. The survey gathered feedback on a variety of topics including pre-college experiences, sense of belonging, campus climate, potential obstacles, and campus resources. A total of 7,288 students responded to the survey. This report will address the question, “What do you want to accomplish during your first year at TAMU to consider the year a success?” Overall, 5,580 students made 10,091 unique comments.

Comments were categorized into 12 themes (53 miscellaneous/not applicable responses are not included in this report). Table 1 shows the number of unique comments in each category. Many students’ comments spanned more than one category.

Category	Responses/ Percent	Description
Grades/Pass/Dean’s List	4,439 (44%)	Wanting to make a specific GPA (4.0, >3.75, mostly As), pass their classes, be on the Dean’s List
Friends/Network/Connections	1,482 (15%)	Making lifelong friends, connecting with faculty, support system
Involvement/Experiences	1,091 (11%)	Getting involved, joining organizations, participating in traditions, having an internship, volunteering
Major	803 (8%)	Getting/transferring into their desired major, participating in research, accumulating credits, specific courses
Personal	643 (6%)	Satisfaction, health, happiness, spirituality, fun, memories, motivation, growth
Study Skills/Time Management	410 (4%)	Learning how to study, balancing life, developing a successful routine
Knowledge/Learning	350 (3%)	Developing skills, learning material not just for grades
Adjusting to College	333 (3%)	Acclimating to college, transitioning, adapting, seeking resources
Life/Career Choices	244 (2%)	Deciding on a career, developing a future plan, figuring out a life purpose
COVID Impact	140 (1%)	Struggling with virtual learning and engagement, health concerns
Money	103 (1%)	Getting/keeping scholarships, not going into debt

Table 1: Number of Comments by Category (n=10,038)

The following pages provide some exact quotes that illustrate how students were envisioning success in their first year at Texas A&M University.





Get a job (on campus preferably) and maintain a good gpa (3.2+). I also want to make new friends, meet new people, use resources given to me, seek out help for mental health, learn how to manage stress and anxiety, and just be content with myself and what I have accomplished during the first year. (Asian, Female, Science, FTIC)

During my first year at A&M, I would like to learn how to be successful in my classes by passing them and making good grades. I would like to learn some ways in which I could save money. Also, it would be nice to make some friends, however with campus being on "lock down" to open groups, it is kind of hard to make new friends. (White, Female, Business, FTIC)

A successful first year would be to make a group of good, solid friends, get involved on campus, and maintain a 3.5 GPA. (White, Male, Engineering, FTIC)

Academically, a 4.0 gpa. I also want to make friends that I can invite to my wedding and stay physically and emotionally healthy. Also start to get involved in organizations/programs that will lead to leadership positions, resume padding, etc. (White, Female, Liberal Arts, FTIC)

Having a high academic profile and a greater knowledge of succeeding in my aspiring career (Latinx, Female, Dentistry, Transfer)

I want to establish myself firmly within the TAMUG community. I hope to feel completely confident in my knowledge of the campus and have the ability to find assistance from a tutor and/or peer when necessary. (Latinx, Male, Galveston, FTIC)



I need to finish this year with a 3.5 or higher so I can join the honors college, but I need help. I feel like I'm alone on my journey, and that is not good. I know I have resources here, but I don't know how to access them. (Black, Female, Engineering, FTIC)

Manage my responsibilities with school and the needs of my children/family well. Learn the skills, language, and attitudes that will aid me in my future career as a nurse. (White, Female, Nursing, Transfer)

Getting grades I know I am capable of. I no longer want to undermine myself and say certain assignments are impossible or beyond comprehension to where I let them control me. I want to be able to complete everything in a timely and organized manner and maintain that work ethic until I reach my final graduation here at A&M. I am terrified if I should ever be proven unworthy of having been accepted here, but I know I was brought here for a reason and wish to see why I was. If I fail, I will be so disappointed that I never showed what I can truly accomplish as I had done in high school. I do not want to give up this early yet; I want to succeed, learn, and grow. (Latinx, Female, Science, FTIC)

To be able to get a GPA over 3.6 and be able to get the merit based scholarship in order to take financial burden off my parents. To actually have learnt whatever was taught to me. (International, Male, Qatar, FTIC)

Honestly I don't know. I thought college was the thing for me, but I have since realized that I came only to satisfy what my family thought best for me, but I don't believe it is now. So I think my time here has been successful in the way that I found out that college is just not for me. (White, Female, Education, FTIC)

Have the best GPA possible to land me a good paying internship. I want to do this so I don't have to pull loans out of my future semesters here at A&M. (Latinx, Male, Architecture, Transfer)

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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