



SOUTHWEST
TEXAS ★ COLLEGE

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Graduating Student Survey Report

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**Office of Strategic Innovation and Research
Academic Year 2024-2025**

Assessment Division

Fall 2025

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Each year, the Strategic Innovation and Research (SIR) office, formerly the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, administers the Graduating Student Survey to assess students' perceptions of what they learned. Initially attached to Graduation Application forms, the survey has been administered online or via paper during the graduation ceremony since 2015. It asks graduates to rate how well Southwest Texas (SWTX) prepared them in skills aligned with core competencies.

In the Academic Year 2024- 2025 the survey was administered in situ during the ceremony in December 2024 and May 2025, using the Course Evaluations & Surveys (CES) products of Watermark, system implemented in the last four years. The following pages present the collected responses, organized by section.

Preparation in Fundamental Areas at Southwest Texas College

The chart below shows results for the question “How well SWTX prepared you in the following areas”, these results are from Fall 2024 and Spring 2025:

Percent of Responses Excellent or Good	
Rate how well SWTX prepared you in the following areas	N= 542
Professional ethics and life- long learning	95.1
Leadership and teamwork skills	95.0
Locating, organizing and evaluating information	94.8
Critical thinking and problem solving	94.6
Oral communication and listening skills	94.3
Reading comprehension and writing	93.4
Computer literacy and use of technology	87.0
Mathematical skills	81.9

Professional ethics and life-long learning (95.1%), Leadership and teamwork skills (95%), were among the highest-rated skills. Locating, organizing, and evaluating information (94.8%), Critical thinking and problem solving (94.6%) suggest SWTX excels in preparing students with transferable “soft skills” such as ethics, teamwork, communication, and problem solving.

Moderately strong areas were Oral communication and listening skills: 94.3%, Reading comprehension and writing: 93.4%. These findings highlight that while SWTX prepares students well in interpersonal, ethical, and critical-thinking skills, there may be a need to strengthen instruction and support in quantitative and technological skills.

Overall experience at SWTX

The responses collected in Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 are represented in the chart below, the question was “Rate overall experience at SWTX”:

Percent of Student Satisfaction of SWTX	
Rate overall experience at SWTX	N= 542
Very Satisfied	71.7
Satisfied	25.4
Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied	2.3
Dissatisfied	0.3
Very dissatisfied	0.2

Out of 542 respondents, overall student satisfaction at Southwest Texas College is overwhelmingly positive. A large majority, 71.7%, reported being very satisfied, while an additional 25.4% indicated being satisfied. Together, this accounts for 97.1% of students expressing satisfaction with their college experience.

Only 2.3% of students reported a neutral stance (neither satisfied nor dissatisfied), while levels of dissatisfaction were almost negligible, with just 0.3% dissatisfied and 0.2% very dissatisfied.

These results demonstrate that SWTX maintains an exceptionally high satisfaction rate, with nearly all students viewing their experience positively and very few reporting negative perceptions.

Recommending SWTX to others

In the next results, 542 students responded to the question “Would you recommend SWTX to a friend or family member”:

Percent of Responses	
Would you recommend SWTX to a friend or family member	N= 542
Yes	93.9
Maybe	5.8
No	0.3

Out of 542 respondents, an overwhelming majority, 93.9%, stated that they would recommend Southwest Texas College to a friend or family member.

Additionally, 5.8% selected “Maybe,” which may indicate a direct positive recommendation. Only 0.3% indicated they would not recommend the institution.

Overall, these results highlight very strong advocacy and satisfaction levels among students, suggesting that the majority not only value their experience at SWTX but are also willing to endorse it to others.

Influence attending SWTX

The same 542 group of graduates responded to the question “Who was your biggest influence in attending SWTX”, the next chart reflects the responses:

Percent of Responses	
Who was your biggest influence in attending SWTX?	N= 542
Parents	34.5
Teachers	27.8
Myself	22.9
Friends	7.5
Someone else	4.9
A former student	2.4

Among the 542 respondents, the greatest influence in deciding to attend Southwest Texas came from parents (34.5%), highlighting the strong role of family support and encouragement in educational decision-making. Teachers (27.8%) were the second-largest influence, demonstrating the importance of academic mentors in shaping students’ college choices.

Interestingly, 22.9% of students reported that they made the decision independently (“Myself”), reflecting a notable level of self-motivation and personal agency. Other influences were less common: friends (7.5%), a former student (2.4%), and someone else (4.9%).

Overall, these results suggest that family and educators play the most critical roles in guiding students toward SWTX, while self-driven decision-making also contributes significantly. Peer and external influences appear to be comparatively minor.



Most Beneficial Aspects of Student Experience at SWTX

One of the questions asked in Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 to graduates was “What did you find the most beneficial during your time at SWTXC”, the responses are shown below:

Percent of Responses	
What did you find to be the most beneficial during your time at SWTX?	N= 542
Instructors	41.475
Advisors	29.19
Student Organizations	13.255
Events	5.985
Library	5.88
Tutoring	4.215

Out of 542 respondents, the most beneficial aspect of their time at Southwest Texas College was overwhelmingly identified as instructors (41.5%), underscoring the central role faculty play in shaping students’ academic success and overall satisfaction. Advisors (29.2%) followed as the second most impactful factor, reflecting the importance of academic guidance and personalized support in helping students navigate their educational pathways.

Other resources and opportunities played a smaller, but still meaningful role: student organizations (13.3%), events (6%), library services (5.9%), and tutoring (4.2%). While these areas were less frequently selected, they contribute to a well-rounded student experience and provide valuable support beyond the classroom. Overall, the data highlights that direct interaction and support from faculty and advisors remain the most influential drivers of student success and satisfaction at SWTX.

Reasons for Choosing SWTX

45.5 % of the 542 graduates answered Location as the primary factor influencing students’ decision to attend SWTX was location making it by far the most significant consideration.

The following chart shows the complete percentages:

Percent of Responses	
Why did you decide to attend SWTX?	N= 542
Location	45.5
Cost	20.1
Parents encouragement	17.9
Reputation	11.1
Friends' recommendation	5.4

Location suggests that proximity and accessibility play a critical role in enrollment decisions. Cost (20.1%) was the second most influential factor, reflecting the importance of affordability in higher education choices. Parents’ encouragement (17.9%) also contributed notably, highlighting the role of family support in decision-making. Reputation (11.1%) was another consideration, though less impactful compared to location and cost. Finally, friends’ recommendation (5.4%) was the least influential factor.

Overall, students primarily choose SWTX because it is accessible, affordable, and supported by family influence, while reputation and peer recommendations play a secondary role.

Graduate Pride in SWTX

During Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 on of the questions asked to the graduates was “How proud are you have graduated from SWTX”, the responses are shown next:

Percent of Responses	
How proud are you to have graduated from SWTX?	N= 542
Very proud	89.2
Somewhat proud	7.9
Neutral	2.8

The majority of graduates reported a strong sense of pride in their achievement at SWTX, with 89.2% indicating they are “very proud.”



An additional 7.9% reported being “somewhat proud,” while only 2.8% expressed a neutral stance. Notably, no respondents indicated negative feelings, suggesting that graduates overwhelmingly view their time at SWTX as a source of accomplishment and satisfaction. This result highlights a strong institutional impact on student identity and pride, reinforcing the value of the college experience in shaping positive graduate outcomes.

Inclusivity in SWTX

The responses to the question “How well do you feel SWTX fostered an inclusive environment that respected and celebrated diverse backgrounds and perspectives? Are represented in the next chart:

Percent of Responses	
How well do you feel SWTX fostered an inclusive environment that respected and celebrated diverse backgrounds and perspectives?	N= 542
Excellent	81.2
Good	18.9

Survey results reveal that SWTX is highly successful in fostering an inclusive environment that values and celebrates diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

A substantial 81.2% of respondents rated the college as “excellent” in this area, while an additional 18.9% rated it as “good.” These overwhelmingly positive responses indicate that over 100% of students felt respected and included, reflecting the institution’s strong commitment to diversity, equity, and belonging.

Sense of Belonging at SWTX

71.2% of the 542 students felt a strong connection to the SWTX community, these answers were collected from the question “Did you feel you belong to the SWTX community during your time here?” the complete information is represented in the next chart:

Percent of Responses	
Did you feel you belong to the SWTX community during your time here?	N= 542
Strong sende of belonging	71.2
Moderate sense of belonging	17.0
Neutral	10.9
Minimal sense of belonging	0.8
No sense of belonging	0.2

The findings showed that the vast majority of students felt a strong connection to the SWTX community. 71.2% reported a strong sense of belonging and an additional 17.0% indicated a moderate sense of belonging, meaning nearly nine in ten students (88.2%) felt positively integrated into campus life.

Only a small percentage expressed neutrality (10.9%), and minimal proportions reported either a minimal sense of belonging (0.8%) or no sense of belonging at all (0.2%). These results highlight SWTX's success in cultivating a welcoming and supportive campus environment where students feel valued and included.