A&M-Commerce Alumni Survey Findings (2018 & 2019)—Employment, Social Mobility Highlights

Quality Day, 2019

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Background

- Demanding needs of the post graduation information (e.g. national surveys, program reviews, university Strategic Planning, a mean of measuring student success, and institutional effectiveness)
- Give graduates an opportunity to reflect upon their employment experiences after graduation
- Information is used to improve the college experience for future students by identifying strengths in our programs as well as areas that need further development.
- The survey includes issues relating to satisfaction with A&M-Commerce regarding academic programs, intellectual and personal growth, student services, and preparation for a career or a graduate/professional school
- Make connection with Alumni to strengthen the relationship as well as help build program curriculum
Background

• Launched 2018 survey in December, 1, 2, 5 year out graduates, class of 2013, 2016, 2017 (N=1,457), Population: 9782, response rate=15%

• 2019 survey sent in August, 1, 3, 5 year out graduates, class of 2014, 2015, 2018 (N=1,327), Population: 9229, response rate=14%

• <¼ took survey via student email
Background

• Jobs and careers (14 questions, e.g. 83% undergrad, 93% grad secured paying job within 12 months)
• Your life now (7 questions)
• Student debt (1 question)
• Your Undergrad/Grad Experience (1 question)
• Keep in touch (3 questions)
Alumni Survey--Loan and Debt Status

- 38% graduate with $0 debt
- Average debt $27,000

Percentage graduating without loans:
- 35% undergraduate
- 40% graduate

2019 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac

- Student with debt 65% (35% without debt)
- Average student debt $29,879
- Parent debt portion $2,667
What is/was the pay range of your first paying job and current position after graduating from A&M-Commerce (Undergrad)?
What is/was the pay range of your first paying job and current position after graduating from A&M-Commerce (Grad)?
Alumni Primary Activity:
Standard Reporting for NACE
Employed, or not Seeking Employment (%)

Undergrad:
- Employed Full-time: 85%
- Employed Part-time: 72%
- Employed, Multiple Jobs: 4%
- Continuing Education: 3%
- Not employed, not seeking: 4%

Graduate:
- Employed Full-time: 96%
- Employed Part-time: 3%
- Employed, Multiple Jobs: 4%
- Continuing Education: 13%
- Not employed, not seeking: 5%
- Not employed, seeking: 1%
Are America’s colleges promoting social mobility?

Stories of upward mobility were once a key feature of American life. Children born in the 1940s were almost guaranteed to grow up and earn more than their parents did.

“By the time you get to when I was born in 1980, only 50 percent of kids earn more than their parents do”- John Friedman (Brown University economist)

https://hechingerreport.org/are-americas-colleges-promoting-social-mobility/
Alumni Survey

A question asked alumni to compare me today to my family when I started college.

Thinking back to when you started college, how would you say your family's standard of living compared to the average American family (The latest government published Median Household Income was $67,617)? How would you place yourself today?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Far above average</th>
<th>Above average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below average</th>
<th>Far below average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My family, when I started college</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Me, today</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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</tbody>
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Did TAMUC degrees help students’ upward social mobility?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakdown</th>
<th>Me, today</th>
<th>My family</th>
<th>Significantly better?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall (N=981)</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>YES!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Students (N=557)</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>YES!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergrad Students (N=424)</td>
<td>3.08</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>YES!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-FirstGen (N=488)</td>
<td>3.35</td>
<td>3.21</td>
<td>YES!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FirstGen (N=493)</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>2.81</td>
<td>YES!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Results produced by utilizing Paired-Samples T Test, $p = .000$ for all the comparison.*
<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2013 (N=312)</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>YES!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2016 (N=319)</td>
<td>3.38</td>
<td>2.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2017 (N=350)</td>
<td>3.21</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (N=527)</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>2.91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male (N=417)</td>
<td>3.65</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Income range mode: Female $40,000-59,999; Male $60,000-79,999
- *Results produced by utilizing Paired-Samples T Test, $p= .000$ for all the comparison.
Higher education can be part of improving both economic opportunity and social stability in our country.

What determines SMI: low tuition, recruit more economically disadvantaged students, and ensure that enrolled students graduate into good paying jobs.

The results strongly suggest that TAMUC promotes our graduates’ social mobility upwardly.
A&M-Commerce not only ranked at National University level. It is also one of the 28 Texas national universities which is ranked as top performers on Social Mobility. We out ranked TWU and Rice University.
Comments:

“I was very impressed with Dr. Mario Hayek. With professors like him, focus on online education, and with some game changing ideas, I believe Texas A&M has the potential to become the "go-to-school" for employers and a magnet for students interested in getting the right training to launch new business ventures and achieve success.”

“TAMUC is a Lion when it comes to academic excellence and research motivation.”

“A&M Commerce is an exceptional school, and I am so grateful for my time there. I earned an excellent education, made meaningful friendships, and still keep in touch with faculty today. I wouldn’t trade my time there for the world.”

“Once again, I am grateful for the opportunity. My TAMU-Commerce graduate degree stands as my most significant life achievement, even after 32 years of military service (I still serve).”