

Reasons Why Students Leave TCU: Learnings from The Profile

*Student Affairs Office of Quality Enhancement
June 5, 2013*

The *Profile of the College Student Experience (Profile)* was administered to 4,158 students attending TCU during the Spring semester of 2012. Of those invited to participate in the survey, 1,181 students responded for a response rate of 28.41%. Of those 1,181 student respondents, 1,034 completed the entire survey, for a completion rate of 87.55%. The survey was 100% web-based with an initial e-mail invitation followed by three reminder e-mails.

This report focuses on information provided by those respondents (n=27) who answered “Extremely Unlikely” or “Somewhat Unlikely” to the question, “How likely is it that you would be enrolled at TCU next semester?”

When prompted, “Please comment on the reason(s) why you may not be enrolled at TCU next semester,” the following responses were cited:

Financial/Cost Issues

1. Because I cannot afford it at all whatsoever and do not want to be in huge debt from student loans after I graduate.
2. Costs (how much it money it cost to go here)
3. Financial Issues
4. I'm failing a class I need and I can't afford to pay for another year of classes while I wait to retake the one I need
5. Loss of financial aid
6. Money
7. Money might make me transfer
8. No funding
9. Unfortunately, financial difficulties have come up recently these past few weeks which will hinder my chances of returning to TCU next semester
10. Will be divorced and will lose the tuition benefit from spouse
11. Ridiculous tuition, it should be said.

Culture/Goodness of Fit Issues

1. Greek life runs the school
2. I am not happy here
3. I don't like it here
4. I will be transferring because another school will fit m personality better than TCU has.
5. People
6. Racist tendencies, Extreme division between Greek and Non-Greek students, self-segregation, not enough housing.
7. TCU is not the environment for me. I thought the school would be more Christian, which is why I sacrificed going to top 25 universities to come here. All I received was a secular school with little prestige. The greek system creates such a social hierarchy that I've been

written off as uncool, and not worth talking to because I'm not in the top fraternity. I've been bullied for not being in the top frat by several pi kapps in my dorm, and have been made fun of on a consistent bases for how I dress. It feels like I'm in high school part 2. Finally, it's been my dream to have a career in music which TCU can not help me attain because of the non existence of contemporary music focuses.

8. Transferring to a school not in the state of Texas and to a school with less of a Greek population.

Academic/Advising Issues

1. A lot of my credits did not transfer and with all the core and upper level classes to take it is just going to take me too long to graduate from here.
2. I intend to go to a school that offers the program in which I am most interested. TCU, on the other hand, does not offer it. Otherwise I would probably stick around. It's a pretty good place.
3. Only require a few more classes, TCU incorrectly advised my degree plan, Taking through a cheaper school to finish Masters.
4. The science classes for my pre-medicine track were not taught in a way that I could succeed academically here at TCU. I am not going to be able to attend this school because I am going to be forced to drop the Honors College and will lose my academic scholarship. I love TCU and I have a great desire to continue my path to being a doctor, but I do not have the ability to stay here. It breaks my heart to say that and be in this situation when I will have to leave behind all the progress I've made in groups and with my amazing friends and faculty relationships at this school in the past two years.
5. Horrible academic advising

Responses seemed to organically fall into three main categories: Financial/Cost issues, Culture/Goodness of Fit issues, and Academic/Advising issues. While these statements reflect a small percent of the student population (2.6%), they should be strongly considered as it is quite likely they represent a much broader undercurrent of student dissatisfaction. The lessons provided by these comments, if addressed, could allay potential problem issues in the future. While these issues may be having minimal effect at present, if left unattended, these issues could have potential major impact on student satisfaction, recruitment, and retention in the future.