

Data Gathering

Group:	SFA Transfer Students
SPT Partners:	Monique Cossich and Debbie Sellman
Date:	November 6, 2014
Design:	Survey
Survey Responses:	97

The survey was sent to 100 SFA students that transferred from other institutions. The results of the survey are below.

What makes SFA special or unique? (71)

- A person can complete their degree at SFA that they started at Angelina College.
- All their efforts to help students such as SI and tutoring sessions.
- Cheer team
- Close to home and online teaching program
- Closer to my family and it's also cheaper
- Diversity and a wide range of different opportunities
- Diversity, many different degree plans and offerings, many ways to get involved.
- East Texas and Pine Trees
- Everyone here is very friendly
- Forestry department
- Friendly professors
- Great location and is recognized by the National Council on Family Relations
- Has program I want
- How dedicated and committed the professors are to their students. I can really tell that they care about their students and are passionate about their work.
- I am able to get a hands-on experience in my career early on, which really helps me place my bearings & know that I'm not taking boring lectures that I'm just going to forget information. I am learning something new each week and using what I learn in real situations.
- I am having a very bad experience with my Instructor, Dr. Gregory Smith, Interpersonal Communications. I thought I was making progress and he tells me a few days ago that I am failing, after thoroughly reading all the chapters. Great time to do that!!!
- I can see somebody I know Every time I walk out my door, which is great. Classes are close.
- I don't have a lot of insight into that. The fact that they were offering a cohort in the program I am taking close to me was the deciding factor.
- I just like the school
- I love how all my classes are in one building.
- I'm currently working for SFA.
- In my opinion it is the environment. The college has really neat traditions and overall I feel that the atmosphere is just laid back to a point.

- It has more of a home feeling, the campus is relatively small so it's easy to get around everywhere.
- It has one of the best business schools, not only in the state, but in the nation as well. It also has small class sizes and professors that actually care about you as a student.
- It has some excellent programs but isn't as overcrowded as other nearby universities.
- It has trees
- It is close to home.
- It is home.
- It is located in East Texas and offers a bachelors and masters of Social Work Degree
- It is smaller than most campuses
- It offers a plethora of student activities and organizations.
- Its culture.
- It's in the oldest town in Texas
- It's small enough to have fun but not too much to get you distracted from your studies
- It's the place where hopefully I will get my teaching certificate.
- its bigger to me and the nature
- Local
- Most of the professors are very helpful and accessible.
- School name, and popularity
- SFA have a unique background and was highly recommend.
- SFA is unique in that it is one of only two universities in Texas that offers a Bachelor's in Deaf Education. (The other is Lamar University)
- Small campus atmosphere, that has a family feel
- Small community and everyone is willing to help when it's needed.
- Small town, friendly people
- Smaller campus, more accessible advising teams
- Special because of the nice people, unique because of the landscape
- Teachers actually care and want to help
- Teaching Online Program
- The beautiful campus, and friendly environment.
- The buildings are very close together.
- The campus is beautiful and I love going to the school sport functions.
- The campus is beautiful.
- The campus is energetic, and is always naturally drawn me.
- The campus is nearly in a forest. I guess that's kind of cool.
- The campus, people, traditions, etc.
- The creative writing program.
- The education program
- The environment and history.
- The environment and the Education Department
- The great professors in my department.
- The location and geology and environmental programs
- The nature and small town feel.
- The nursing program is good
- The programs/areas of study it offers.
- The Rec
- The sense of community.
- The specialized degrees available. The campus and atmosphere also are great.

- The traditions
- There is a lot of comradery
- They have an online degree specialist with whom I contact directly for issues or help with my degree program.
- University in a small town setting

What could SFA do or be to encourage you to support the university? (56)

- Accept a copy of my naturalization for my FAFSA
- Add more kid friendly events- I'm a single mom and appreciate free and fun things for my kids.
- Advertise student activities more
- Allow us to be adults and choose where we want to live. I don't like having choices made for me.
- As of right now there is nothing the University could improve on that would help me to support it.
- Be more one on one with new students, for my first year it honestly could be better. Advisers are disorganized, I didn't have the best of welcoming, resident hall needs improvement, teachers aren't as personal when it comes to class setting, and overall, there's just not any one on one with anyone besides the lady on the main line who transfers your calls. I wish there was something to make this place where I'll be until I graduate feel like something more than just a place.
- Become a Tier One Research University. Join NCAA Division I-A status for all sports instead of being NCAA Division I-AA.
- Bring even more students in. Give better scholarships.
- Bring more awareness to current events and clubs around campus
- Create a carpool system for students without transportation.
- Doing a good job so far.
- Doing pretty good
- Forget Aramark. Also make sure all of your degree plans are clearer to your advising staff. Cool the pool down make it cold. Always cold. Also allow credit cards to purchase drinks from coke machines.
- Get more involved with transfer students
- Give opportunities for transfer students to learn process of how everything works. Only freshman seem to get that info. Info on cafeteria procedures, maps of campus, basic info!
- Great so far
- Have more college visits
- Have more postings on what activities are going to happen.
- Have more programs and maybe a jack camp so it will be easier to get to know people.
- I already support the university.
- I am happy to support this university. I am just unable to be a part of campus activities due to the distance.
- I do support the university
- I do support the University. Strange question.

- I do support the university. I do not participate in sports or homecoming or extra activities like those only academic.
- I don't know
- I have a better outreach program to transfer students can sure they understand University policies without being told incorrect information the first time
- I haven't thought about it
- I think that SFA is doing a great job with gaining support for the university.
- I think they're doing great.
- I would be more supportive if the university were better funding the school of theatre.
- I'm not sure what this means. I support by promoting to friends/family, but I cannot support financially past what I'm already paying in student fees and tuition.
- I'm really not sure
- Let me switch classes to a more supportive instructor, who cares about his students' grades.
- Mail me my parking sticker, I totally support the university.
- maybe more free shirts
- More job opportunities
- More out of sorority or fraternity activities.
- NA
- NA
- No idea
- nothing i support it anyways
- Nothing, it already has my full support.
- Offer more scholarships and add more parking for commuters.
- Parking needs to be improved.
- play more hockey.
- Provide more funding to for the math and computer science departments
- Put yourself in my shoes going back to school after five years is challenging, but rewarding. I really appreciate the support and patience from all of my professors.
- Reduce the number of faculty and staff parking spaces, and turn them into commuter spaces. Many of the faculty spaces are unused throughout the day
- Sending me e-mails letting me know what is going on around campus especially for my major.
- SFA could have lower tuition.
- Show me the benefits
- Social media interaction.
- Start a wrestling club.
- Stop favoring one religion over others. Stop holding Christian events on campus. Crack down on the frats too many rumors of rape and actual scenes of racism.
- The landscaping around the flower beds and the rest of the campus needs more attention
- They are doing a good job. Maybe advertise the football game and other sports a bit more.

What is one innovative idea SFA should implement? (49)

- A city wide bus route or at least to some of the apartment complexes and up and down North St. and University Dr.
- A professional business organization
- Advertise more to get the name of the school out to the public.
- Blackboard instead of D2L.
- Buses to nearby apartments to get access to school
- Combine the alumni tailgate with the regular one.
- Do away with punishment grade wise for being absent from class. Allow teachers to do that if they feel so inclined.
- Either expand the locations where the buses go, or stop running them all together.
- Everything is fine the way it is
- Expand the food options in the EC and SC
- Expanding the hours of the food options at SFA especially on the weekends.
- Gear transfer orientation to include populations such as non-traditional students. (The orientation contained very little to cause me to feel welcome. It was cold and indifferent and the technology in the movie room wasn't working that day.)
- Give students more parking spaces given the fact that there are always an abundance of faculty and service truck parking that is NEVER used.
- Have a jack camp for transfer students
- Have a stronger transfer student support system. Not everyone is confident enough to find friends or acquaintances easily. I would have liked more events targeted for transfer students
- Have more events, groups, organizations, etc., for transfer students like myself to meet and share experiences with other transfer students.
- Have more postings on what activities are going to happen.
- Have students focus more on their major and less on "general" education classes.
- Have voting booths on campus. This would get more students aware of elections and be very helpful for students without transportation.
- I'm not sure if you have students rate their professors after the semester is over, but I feel that kind of feedback is important to locate problem areas that may go unnoticed otherwise.
- Instead of having meal plans, have just dining dollars, and use them for cafeteria food as well as sushi or chikfila
- It would be great if the cafeteria could just give out the raw materials to make their food, and then I could make it whenever i get hungry. Also breakfast would be nice on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Keep up with the signs advertising the lesser known degrees
- Lowering the tuition so that students could afford to be more involved
- Maybe a transfer enrollment help team, I know I wasn't the only student that had trouble with getting everything set up.
- Microwaves available for use so I can bring food from home for lunch.
- More dorms like The Villages

- More of a variety of social events. Things to draw in the university community.
- More organizations dedicated to helping STEM students with employment and research
- More parking for commuters
- More parking places
- Nothing it already has everything
- Start a wrestling club.
- The advancement of research status and offering more Master's and Ph.D's.
- The police... They are a bit ridiculous and are very ticket happy.
- The school could offer an in-house daycare service for single parent household students...
- They should start a transfer department that handles the admission of transfer students
- To be able to talk and see your advisor face to face on computer
- Not sure (6)
- N/A (3)
- None (2)

What do you believe students need to get from a college education/experience to be successful in life? (63)

- A good education and an idea of what they want to do with their life.
- A good education to land a good job in whatever you study
- A good education, SFA has that...its why I came here
- A great networking system that will enable students to continue to receive help even after they've graduated.
- A piece of paper that gets us through the door and into an interview. A college degree signifies that you can start and finish something. I'm sure that companies know that half of what we learn in college (and a lot of high school) will never be used in the real world.
- A piece of paper.
- A practical application of the materials presented in classes
- A strong, competitive education. But more importantly, leadership opportunities while still in school to amplify the learning we receive within the classroom
- A well-rounded education that uses real world examples to teach classroom concepts including visuals, graphics, teamwork, etc.
- A wife. Hands on experience. Starbucks. A degree. A good work ethic. A good play ethic.
- An actual education and not just the "college" experience
- Be challenged
- Being able to know that you can do it, be on your own, and be fine. Knowing that when you receive a task, that you will be able to accomplish it.
- Both an education and a healthy social environment.
- Classes with more realistic business examples and field trips
- College is a learning experience, I transferred from a community college where I commuted and it wasn't a big deal to be going to that school. Whereas here I'm dependent on the school, I have to eat whenever the cafeteria is open, I have to walk to my classes which are slightly more

difficult than my previous school. I moved four hours away from everything I knew and that helped a lot with me finding my independence. To be successful in college you've got to make those mistakes of skipping class and regretting it later or bombing a test to figure out that you need to study more and have time management skills. You also need to chill every once in a while and focus on what you want to do with your life and if college is a thing that can help you along the way.

- Connections, experience, and confidence.
- Connections. How to interact with the outside business world. Anyone can learn stuff. Real people are molded by communication and experience.
- Enjoyable, fulfilling college experience.
- Experience
- Good life skills, to be taught perseverance, to be taught about deadlines. Classes to be more like work.
- Good professors, a good support system, and loads of fun!
- Good work ethic and skills. How things will truly be out in the real world.
- Great professors who encourage learning
- Group work. Sharing many ideas.
- Hands on experience not just classroom knowledge
- How to apply their skills in a real life situation - such as internships.
- I believe students just need to experience life. This is a time for them to make friends, learn, try new things that they wouldn't ordinarily do. From these experiences, life can be built and one can feel satisfied instead of having so many "What ifs".
- I believe that it is important for students to just gain experience and have a chance to learn and grow. This time in our lives is meant for us to step out of our comfort zones and experience life before we have to start a family and career.
- I believe that students need to be learning the right information in the classes they are taking at a college, to be successful in life. I believe a student needs to get a sense of independence while in college to be successful in life.
- I think SFA needs something that helps students actually know what they want to do with a career. I don't know what career I want but I know my major will be very helpful with whatever I chose. I also know a few other students who also don't know what they want to do as a career.
- I think students should get confidence
- In all honesty a college degree is worthless. Unless you truly have a desire to learn it is a revenue generator designed to succeed. Plenty of people can be successful monetarily without a degree. Most career fields have a BA or BS requirement; making that the ONLY reason to go to college.
- Knowledge and skills for their career path
- Learn how to work hard.
- Learning how to apply their knowledge to a desired career.
- Make good friendships
- More involvement groups of their degree.
- N/A
- Networking, and an open discussion based class environment. Practical experience is also useful.

- One should gain the tools and understanding of what it takes to be successful when pursuing a career.
- Practical and hands on experience plus memorable educational experiences.
- practical training for jobs
- Real life skills
- Reliable teachers/advisors that show care and compassion for the students success
- Skills and knowledge to use in working and life.
- Strong values and real life experiences
- Students need the ability to be resourceful and creative and to adapt quickly to change.
- Students need to figure out what they enjoy out of their intended degree, because if they are able to find a job they love they will be successful in their career and life.
- Students need to learn more than facts & statistics, but showing them real experiences they will face after graduation.
- Support from professors and learn everything they can before graduating
- Supportive professors who are good at imparting information.
- The best education they can get
- The right professors
- They need to be able to finish their degree
- They need to enjoy their experience.
- Time management skills
- Well rounded view of the world
- Yes (2)
- Yes I do
- You do this already in many ways but more real world applications in your classes. Like Q and A sessions with working business people/or whatever department. And more things like the stock trade room in the business building. And LESS GROUP PROJECTS.
- You need to be told the correct information about graduation requirements the first time

Is there anything else we haven't asked about that you'd like to tell us? (41)

- No (20)
- N/A (2)
- Didn't feel there were activities for transfer students. Only freshman or non-freshman (which we didn't understand the details)
- Have staff in the rec center be more experienced/knowledgeable about exercises and fitness. Instead of a blanket policy to prevent people from hurting themselves and prohibiting certain exercises, have staff that know how to do them in order to coach others if they need it.
- I love SFA!
- I think that SFA should take more time explaining to transfer students what needs to be done during their first semester here. I know that many students were rushed at the last minute to finish their AlcoholEdu and having classes because they didn't even know about it until someone mentioned it in passing. Sending emails is not enough, most students don't check their

university email especially now that professors are stressing the use of d2l email instead of titan email.

- Mrs. Emily Payne, out of all the advisers that I have had, was by far the best.
- No but maybe in the future
- Not that comes to mind at the moment... Other than the thought that transfer students shouldn't be treated as freshmen. I know most are sophomores, but still I've met several coming in, like me, as a junior, and people look at us like we're aliens because we didn't attend the past two years. This applies to staff, faculty and peers
- Offer for more as we are paying for this and so little is offered to us in a manner that is free or obtainable.
- Overall good small school
- Parking is a nightmare, especially commuter parking. I strongly feel that somebody should fix that.
- Student parking is TERRIBLE. T-E-R-R-I-B-L-E. While it's great that the staff has such excellent parking available to them, the student body pays entirely too much money to have such inadequate parking. Why are we required to pay such high parking fees when, more often than not, we're parking illegally two or three blocks away from campus?
- Take down the Hall 20 dorms because they are old and moldy.
- There needs to be some kind of camp for transfer student to meet people
- There is not.
- Transfer orientation was NOT helpful. My time was not utilized effectively. It was chaotic, there was not enough room in the individual rooms when we broke away from the big room. The orientation helpers (students) did not know where to direct us, and had us going down the wrong hall. I spent money to attend and drove over an hour only to feel like I wasted the whole day. I took off work to attend. I expected SO much more from a university. The presenters in the big movie room didn't seem prepared and we missed the main movie because it wasn't working. I STILL don't know what that experience should have taught me.
- Y'all's transfer process is seamless. I haven't had any problems and most of the time I forget that I haven't been going to SFA all this time.
- Yes. I feel that adding two extra semesters of foreign language to a Liberal Arts major is despicable. A vast majority (probably well over 90%) will never use the language they have "learned." For example, I am a History major wanting to coach baseball and teach at the high school and college levels. I will never speak German to my baseball team when giving them a pep-talk. You could have easily allowed me to take two more history classes in place of the extra foreign language nonsense.
- You should cut down on your parking costs. I never had to pay to park at TJC. I do understand your limited spacing but TJC also has very limited spacing with no room to expand but it was always free.
- You should drop Suddenlink and get a provider that carries comedy central.

What is your classification? (99)

- Freshman – 8 (8.25%)
- Sophomore – 39 (40.21%)
- Junior – 45 (46.39%)
- Senior – 5 (5.15%)

From what school did you transfer? (72)

- Lone Star Community College – 9 (12.5%)
- Angelina College – 7 (9.72%)
- Tyler Junior College – 7 (9.72%)
- Collin County Community College – 4 (5.56%)
- Panola Community College – 4 (5.56%)
- Kilgore College – 3 (4.17%)
- San Jacinto College – 3 (4.17%)
- Tarrant County College – 3 (4.17%)
- Austin Community College – 2 (2.78%)
- Blinn College – 2 (2.78%)
- Houston Community College – 2 (2.78%)
- Sam Houston State University – 2 (2.78%)
- University of North Texas – 2 (2.78%)
- 22 (30.56%) additional students gave the following 22 responses:
 - Alvin Community College, Blinn, Panola and UTPA, Community College of the Air Force, Grayson County College, Hill College, Indiana State University, McLennan Community College, Navarro College, North Central Texas College, Northeast Texas Community College, Northwestern University, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma State University, Panola College and Texas A&M, San Antonio College, South Plains College, Southwestern Assemblies of God University, St. Edward's University, Tarleton State University, Temple College, Trinity Valley Community College and University of Texas – Tyler