**Food, Housing & Security: Obstacles to Academic Advancement for UTEP Students**

*Where enrolled participants come from:*

- **93.5%** of participants are from the Paso del Norte region
  - El Paso County, TX: 92.4%
  - Las Cruces, NM: 1.09%
  - Ciudad Juárez, MX: 0.04%

**Student Demographics**

- **68.1%** Female
- **30.9%** Male
- **0.2%** Transgender
- **0.8%** Other

**Pronouns**

- **66.9%** She/Her
- **30.0%** He/Him
- **1.4%** Them/They
- **1.7%** Other

**Ethnicity**

- **77.7%** Hispanic/Latino
- **14.0%** White/Caucasian
- **2.7%** Asian
- **2.7%** Black/African-American
- **2.7%** American Indian/Alaska Native
- **1.1%** Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- **1.4%** Other

**Employment Status**

- **42.6%** No Job
- **38.6%** Part-Time
- **16.6%** Full-Time

**Enrollment**

- **83.4%** Full-Time Student
- **16.6%** Part-Time Student

**Academic Level**

- **25.0%** Sophomore
- **24.6%** Junior
- **22.6%** Senior
- **10.8%** Graduate (Master’s)
- **4.9%** Doctoral
- **0.3%** Professional (Certificate Program)

**Working Location**

- **16.6%** On Campus
- **83.4%** Off Campus

**Working Hours**

- **44.8%** More than 19 hours
- **55.2%** 19 hours or less

**Reliability of mode of transportation to and from college:**

- **55.9%** Almost always on time and/or able to attend
- **33.2%** Frequently on time or able to attend
- **8.7%** Late or unable to attend class sometimes
- **2.2%** My mode of transportation means I regularly do not attend class

**Mode of Transportation to and from college:**

- **64.9%** Car (alone)
- **11.4%** Car (someone drives to and from college)
- **7.7%** Bus/Public transportation
- **4.3%** Carpool (with people from campus)
- **2.8%** Walk
- **0.6%** Bike
- **0.1%** Trolley
- **2.4%** Other

**Top Ten Zip Codes of Total Respondents (%):**

- 79912: 13.4%
- 79938: 12.5%
- 79939: 8.4%
- 79902: 8.1%
- 79928: 7.8%
- 79924: 4.5%
- 79907: 4.2%
- 79936: 3.9%
- 79925: 3.9%
- 79927: 3.8%

**Household Characteristics**

- **8.5%** Live Alone
- **22.6%** Head of Household
- **19.4%** Dependents
- **40.2%** 1 Person
- **49.1%** 2-3 Persons
- **10.7%** 4 or more Persons

**Total Household Income, 2019**

- **Less than $10,000**: 16.6%
- **$10,000-$19,999**: 16.7%
- **$20,000-$29,999**: 15.6%
- **$30,000-$39,999**: 12.5%
- **$40,000-$49,999**: 10.4%
- **$50,000-$59,999**: 9.0%
- **$60,000-$69,999**: 5.4%
- **$70,000-$79,999**: 6.3%
- **$80,000-$89,999**: 0.1%
- **$100,000 or more**: 0.04%

**FOR UTEP STUDENTS**

- **83.4%** Full-Time Student
- **16.6%** Part-Time Student

**Student of...**

- **College of Liberal Arts**: 13.7%
- **College of Engineering**: 14.3%
- **College of Science**: 26.5%
- **College of Health Sciences**: 31.5%
- **College of Business**: 10.9%
- **College of Education**: 10.8%
- **School of Nursing**: 4.9%
- **School of Pharmacy**: 0.3%
- **Other**: 0.9%

**Head of Household**

- **Female**: 68.1%
- **Male**: 30.9%
- **Transgender**: 0.2%
- **Other**: 0.8%

**Reliable of mode of transportation**

- **Almost always on time and/or able to attend**: 55.9%
- **Frequently on time or able to attend**: 33.2%
- **Late or unable to attend class sometimes**: 8.7%
- **My mode of transportation means I regularly do not attend class**: 2.2%

**Student of...**

- **91.5%** Hispanic/Latino
- **80.6%** White/Caucasian
- **77.4%** Asian
- **68.1%** Black/African-American
- **66.9%** American Indian/Alaska Native
- **64.9%** Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

**FOOD, HOUSING & SECURITY:**

- **Obstacles to Academic Advancement**
- **Where enrolled participants come from in El Paso County:**
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**Top Ten Zip Codes:**

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- **79928**: 7.8%
- **79924**: 4.5%
- **79907**: 4.2%
- **79936**: 3.9%
- **79925**: 3.9%
- **79927**: 3.8%

*Information reported by The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) survey respondents, not UTEP’s overall student body. Source: UTEP’s Border Biomedical Research Center survey, 2020.
Food, Housing & Security: A Vulnerable Student Population

Student Participant Address
Where do you live?

Options to Spend a Night without a Permanent Address:
- Home or room of a family member: 42.3%
- Home or room of a friend: 26.7%
- Hotel or motel: 7.1%
- Public spaces like libraries or abandoned buildings: 6.1%
- Shelter: 1.6%
- Transitional Living Center: 0.0%
- Other: 16.0%

Frequently spent the night elsewhere in the past six months without permanent housing options:
- Often: 13.0%
- Sometimes: 32.7%
- Rarely: 54.3%

19.1% of UTEP student participants have experienced homelessness.

Public Assistance
Receiving Benefits in the Past Six Months:
- Unemployment Benefits: 11.3%
- Medicaid: 8.6%
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): 8.0%
- Military/Veteran Services: 2.3%
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): 0.6%
- Social Security Income (SSI): 0.7%
- Social Security Disability Benefits: 1.4%
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): 1.2%
- None of the above: 62.3%

Receiving Federal Student Aid in the Past Ten Months:
- Grants: 41.2%
- Loans: 25.7%
- Scholarship: 10.6%
- Emergency loan: 4.3%
- Work Study: 3.5%
- Other: 1.2%
- None of the above: 13.0%

Food Security
In the last 12 months, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there was not enough money for food?
- None: 66.4%
- Yes: 33.6%

In the last 12 months, “The food that I bought just didn’t last, and I didn’t have money to get more”:
- Never True: 57.5%
- Sometimes True: 41.9%
- Often True: 8.6%

In the last 12 months, “I couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals”:
- Never True: 51.4%
- Sometimes True: 34.7%
- Often True: 13.9%

COVID-19 Impacts
Since COVID-19 in March 2020, have you or another household member:
- Had work hours cut: 24.1%
- Lost a job: 15.8%
- Visited a food bank/pantry to get food: 14.5%
- Had difficulties getting health care: 9.4%
- Did not have enough money to pay rent or bills: 8.1%
- Asked family or friends for food: 6.6%
- Increased consumption of alcohol or drugs: 4.5%
- Asked family or friends to stay at their place: 4.2%
- Had difficulties getting vaccines: 2.6%
- None of the above: 10.7%

Since COVID-19 in March 2020, have you or any other household member:
- Provided emotional support to struggling friends or family members: 30.0%
- Gave money or food to struggling friends or family members: 18.3%
- Provided struggling friends or family members with information about food: 17.3%
- Donated money to a food bank/pantry or other community organization: 7.6%
- Had struggling friends or family members stay at my place: 7.0%
- Volunteered at a food bank/pantry or other community organization: 5.9%
- None of the above: 12.7%

Personal or household expenditures change since COVID-19 in March 2020:
- Decreased: 26.5%
- About the same: 44.6%
- Increased: 28.9%

Personal or household financial income change since COVID-19 in March 2020:
- Decreased: 54.7%
- About the same: 41.5%
- Increased: 3.8%

Personal or household debt change since COVID-19 in March 2020:
- Decreased: 5.9%
- About the same: 49.4%
- Increased: 44.7%

Since COVID-19 in March 2020, how often have you found it difficult to concentrate on your schoolwork because you are worried about paying for food, rent, or other basic necessities?
- Almost every day: 28.5%
- About once a week: 21.4%
- About once a month: 23.6%
- Never: 26.5%