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# NSSE 2014

## Student Comments

University of Houston

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The final page of the NSSE survey asked students to respond to the following question in an open text box:

*"If you have any additional comments or feedback that you'd like to share on the quality of your educational experience, please type them below."*

**Important:**

- Confidential student responses to this question appear on the following pages. Because student comments are confidential, student identifiers are not given in this report but are provided in a separate SPSS data file. For this reason, please use discretion when using, storing, and disseminating the SPSS file.
- **These comments appear exactly as the students entered them and may not be suitable for distribution without prior review. Faculty members, administrators, or other students may be mentioned by name, and comments were not edited for grammar, offensive language, excessive length, or otherwise questionable content.**
- Comments are sorted by class, enrollment status, and sex. Information for these variables was provided by your institution.



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### University of Houston

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
First-year	Full-time	Female	CASA is more of a convenience for the faculty and not the students although the administration claims otherwise. Many students have complained about the dysfunctions of the facility.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Very good experiences so far.
First-year	Full-time	Female	I just wish teacher's would help me understand more. I don't like the feeling of it being impersonal.
First-year	Full-time	Female	great experience
First-year	Full-time	Female	Go Coogs!
First-year	Full-time	Female	I love our school. The student resources are limited and they make sure we know that they want us to succeed.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Although this university is diverse and friendly with good professors for the most part, many of the classes are too large for their to be one-on-one help from the professor. It sometimes feels like one is just a number in a crowd. However, I can't stress how open and inviting UH has been to me.
First-year	Full-time	Male	So far so good.
First-year	Full-time	Male	The debt is crippling. Families do not help most students.
First-year	Full-time	Male	It's being amazing
First-year	Full-time	Male	All of the administration and student services are incompetent at best, frequently incorrect, and result in an endless chase from office to office to resolve the simplest questions. They should all be fired and not replaced. The administration grows, yet class sizes increase and are more and more often "taught" by TAs entirely. Calling or emailing is useless. The use of technology is generally comically useless and seems to be done "because the university already bought it" or because it's shiny and new rather than for any actual benefit. Textbooks and online course materials chosen are stupidly and unreasonably expensive in the face of the free online materials available from MIT, Cornell, Stanford, etc. Money is thrown away on sports instead of actual academics, all in the name of "attracting donors because of the sports teams, yet tuition and administration increase without any benefit to students. Unfortunately the only other university worth considering in Houston is Rice, which I can't afford.
First-year	Full-time	Male	Felt the school is great academically, poor in terms of drawing people to campus. Very little offered outside of academics.
First-year	Full-time	Male	Jhj
First-year	Full-time	Male	Commuting is the primary detriment to my education experience; not living on-campus is currently my largest obstacle to my academic life.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Well over all the university of Houston has a female student with children shouldn't go to college atmosphere. There be tone of time where I received unbelievably unfair treatment changing class time after enrollment is close to something I can't attend do to childcare issues. Once while enrolled in class schedule from 11:30 to 1:00 the testing time was from 5:30 to 7:00 and at the time my daycare closed at 6:30 and was a hour across town. When I asked for help the told me that was a personal issue I would have to deal with I end up doing terrible in the class because of it and almost gave up going to college completely. There have been other time as well as that one all in all the one reason why I'm still in college is my determination to succeeded for the sake of my children. I don't know if other college are more inviting to single parents but if I found out there was one that was in the area then i would serious consider transferring, because sometime I get tired of going home crying about the unfair situation I have to face this semester, or this next semester sometime older people want a fair chance to.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The academic advisor for Mathematical Biology is not helpful at all. He seems irritated whenever I meet with him and I avoid advising at all costs. Whenever I needed advice on graduating or course material I would use google or faculty members. Dr. Vida and Dr. Valier are two of the best professors at this university.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Positive ratings are based on a handful of classes. Quality depends greatly on the area of study and the professor. I am taking business classes for a minor now and they are nothing but memorization of what I consider common sense ideas. Academic advisers are overworked as and marginally helpful. Career center and other services are not something I have experience with to judge their quality.

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Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>Below average academic experience</p> <p>University uses technology in all the wrong ways for educating. Publisher websites are a waste of time and money for everyone. I can't believe the courses I have spent \$ on only to have the instructor read publisher provided slides and assign hw sets from publishers online system. I think that you should assume that college students can actually read – I'm shouldn't be paying this much money just to be read to in class; it is insane how often this happens. Maybe UH should teach it's instructors how to teach, that might be something. Or whatever.</p> <p>More emphasis should be on teaching students how to use existing software to solve business problems and to think analytically. Also guess how many research papers I have had to do? 0. We hardly do any writing here ever. It is shameful.</p> <p>Advisors are crap and just don't care.</p> <p>Class sizes are too large.</p> <p>Also the new-ish coogs logo is horrible. Try harder.</p> <p>Set a higher bar for your students – this university's academic standards are pathetic .</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	Terrible. I will never recommend this UH program to anyone.
Senior	Full-time	Female	As a non traditional student, more resources could be provided. For example, how to prepare for a job interview as a student <u>changing careers</u> . <u>Organizations designed for networking opportunities</u> .
Senior	Full-time	Female	I absolutely love the University of Houston Education Department, and the university itself. I feel more than adequately prepared for my future employment, and know that the rigor in our program is what helped me secure a job. I have been pushed to my limits by this school and have turned out much better for it. I would recommend this school for anyone.
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>With regard to student involvement: there is none for older students.</p> <p>So, I have volunteered off campus.</p> <p>With respect whether i would attend here if I could do it over: I answered probably not primarily because there is a serious gap between what the school claims to offer in courses and what is actually offered. Moreover, the level of online dependence to teach languages leaves no options for someone who is hard of hearing.</p> <p>Opportunities for research are excellen. With a few exceptions the professors are also excellent.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	It all depends on the professors honestly. Some professors I have had are amazing and some are terrible. I would recommend giving students more options in regards to choice of professor when it comes to a required class. Some of the hardest classes offered are taught by the worst professors and many students average a low grade not just myself.
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>Like any university, there are good and bad professors. I have had mostly amazing professors in my actual major classes. The required courses however are a different story. The professors seem to care less nor do they actually want you to learn. It is all about memorization. There is no critical thinking.</p> <p>Financial aid is an absolute horror to deal with at UofH. In fact, I have had to drop out of school because of their mistakes on my account which resulted in a balance of over \$4,000 owed. They over-awarded me, took back the money and said sorry they couldn't do anything about their mistake. It is terrible. I would rather go to the DPS than financial aid.</p> <p>Academic advisors for my major was amazing, but the general academic advisors had no idea what they were doing. I could talk to one academic advisor, go in to another's office and they would tell me something totally different. It was terrible and I often ended up taking classes I did not even need, wasting money.</p> <p>As time as progressed, the involvement on campus has become greater and it is about time! That is been the only upside to my time here, aside from the professors in my major. University of Houston needed school spirit which <u>Dr. Khator has brought and I am very thankful for that.</u></p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	I have had some great professors that provide us with valuable information concerning my major. However, since I am a Bilingual Education Generalist I have found that there is very minimal support for bilingual education students. Advisors are unable to well informed answers to any questions I have had about testing or other important aspects of my major.
Senior	Full-time	Female	n/a

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Senior	Full-time	Female	Its very frustrating to be given a set of guidelines and schedules to keep up with and then have our coordinators change everything on us. Questions about internship requirements are answered very vague and yet we are reprimanded for making the slightest mistakes or missing even one day for being sick. Advising appointments are only offered during class time. It also doesn't help that the faculty is always changing and that the program itself is changing while we are in it. Its been very hard to keep up with the requirements of the education program.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Nope.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Overall, proud student. :)
Senior	Full-time	Female	My overall quality of my educational experience was enhance and made me more engaged when I was heavily involved with internships and extracurricular activities inside and outside of the university. I think universities should encourage this applied learning approach more so students figure out what they want to study and what career they are interested in after graduation. When I say they should encourage an applied learning approach, I don't just mean that they should encourage hypothetical scenarios in assignments. They should try to make internships or community-based learning projects apart of the core curriculum, especially in the senior year. Currently this is treated as something marginal and optional in the degree and academic requirements. This would definitely create more engagement, and I have personal have felt this difference and feel that I am reaping the great benefits.
Senior	Full-time	Female	UH is a great place to study but I don't believe that we are using our whole potential. I don't like the grading policy either. The A- should not be part of the grading system especially since there is no such thing as an A+. Also the staff at UH are rude. Books should not be so expensive and same thing goes for parking.
Senior	Full-time	Female	My overall experience of University of Houston( Main Campus) has been excellent. My major is Creative Writing Poetry. I think that the professors in the Creative Writing English Department are outstanding. The advisors also very helpful. I am so glad am getting my bachelors at a University that has such a diverse student body and gave me the opportunity to interact with people of such different backgrounds. I am not a traditional student, in that I am 50 years old, yet I was never made to unwelcome by students or staff.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The mathematics tutoring center isn't a very good place to seek help for math majors (go figure). It's difficult to get help on homework/topics of advanced level courses.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I am very satisfied of my decision to come to UH for my degree! I can't believe that four years ago I started as a freshman and couldn't even imagine what I would be like to graduate from this university. Now, my final semester, graduation is around the corner and it feels like yesterday I was a freshman. I am proud to be graduating within 4 years which helps make my school, UH, look better by adding to the 4 year graduation rate! I worked so hard!
Senior	Full-time	Female	The college of art is desperately neglected both architecturally and in supply funding. The teachers are great, but paying an additional fee for art courses implies that it will be used for something relevant.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I would like to see improvement to the finance program at UH. No recruiters come to this school. Anything to help boost the program would be a benefit. There are way too many students I personally know that have a lot of skill but will likely get looked over by these companies because they went to UH.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I would like to add that my professors in the Educational Department have been outstanding. It is the administration that has been disappointing in the constant changing of our program. There is no transparency in our program, no organization, and no one knows who will provide leadership. I would never recommend this University's educational program until their leadership issues are resolved.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The University of Houston is an excellent school; however, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences has been poorly maintained. The University needs to reinforce its technological and energy research reputation in Houston and the country by emphasizing that the next generation of engineers, architects, energy pioneers, etc. possess a well rounded liberal arts education as well. The facilities in which the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences are located are shameful because they are not updated and in some cases, like Agnes Arnold Hall, they are in a somewhat dilapidated state.
Senior	Full-time	Female	This institution is good for what it offers; a commuter school within the city that has many different choices available for study. The downside though is that the college places much higher value on things such as building a new football stadium which in turn takes away a great amount of available parking for students. While they did provide a new parking garage to make up for this, the cost to park there is so high that people still pay for lot parking and end up having to struggle to find parking and get to class on time.
Senior	Full-time	Female	none
Senior	Full-time	Female	I feel that I should qualify one of my answers. I do not feel that my school promotes discussion between people of different ethnic groups and financial backgrounds because this school does not require such promotion. Students here, especially those of the music school, do this naturally, without hesitation, and need no provocation to do so.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I think the University of Houston needs to take the initiative to instill more school pride in the student body.

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Senior	Full-time	Male	<p>I was a student for five years twenty years ago (1986-91) and have recently (Sept 2013) returned to complete my original degree requirements and complete requirements for a second degree. Upon returning, I was immediately struck by three things.</p> <p>First, UH has fully and effectively embraced technology in every possible respect - applying, enrolling, seeking financial aid, library services, communicating, submitting work, etc. It has made the educational experience, especially in the library, is so much more rewarding and easily fulfilled. I can't praise the library enough - what an awesome facility.</p> <p>Second, the campus is in dreadful shape. The buildings are dirty and streaked and the landscaping seems largely ignored. Weeds and trash tree saplings choke the beds, and the desirable plants are poorly maintained and succumbing to invasives and lack of care. I'm guessing that most faculty, staff and students have grown used to it and don't even notice, but for me, walking across the campus is an ugly and depressing experience. There's so much potential to the spaces on campus; a potential that is ignored, unappreciated, and unrealized.</p> <p>Fourth, it doesn't seem to matter how many additional lots and garages are built, trying to find a parking space after 10:00 is pretty much as impossible today as it was twenty years ago. I guess some things never change.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Male	This campus has literally changed my life. From the Human Situation to Physical Chemistry I, I have been given an new insight into myself and the world.
Senior	Full-time	Male	<p>Staff is usually terrible. We finally got a new academic adviser that actually helps students. The old adviser would give straight wrong information to students and make ridiculous course recommendations.</p> <p>There is no 24 hour computer lounge for students except the small (~10 computer) one in the library where homeless people sleep. The computers in the Tech Commons and library are trash. They are probably 7 years old and incredibly slow. Most computers don't even have the basic software I need to complete engineering assignments.</p> <p>If the same engineering class is offered twice a year and taught by different people the course content will be completely different. This hurts students when they may not have the prerequisite knowledge in a later class. <u>Course consistency is not a UH strong point.</u></p>
Senior	Full-time	Male	University of Houston (UH) should have more sororities and fraternities, bigger sororities and fraternities, more dedicated events to sororities and fraternities, and more dormitories, including becoming a bigger institution at the main campus and as a whole.
Senior	Full-time	Male	N/A
Senior	Full-time	Male	I really enjoy it here at the University of Houston and the Moores School of Music and I am truly a better human being because of my studies here!
Senior	Full-time	Male	This survey is leaning on the idea that students are in a non technological major and are more of a English or history major. With computer science you RARELY ever write and you use technology 24/7 and that applies for most technology based majors and engineering majors.
Senior	Full-time	Male	no additional comments
Senior	Full-time	Male	Great University
Senior	Full-time	Male	Overall, UH is a great intuition. All of the classes in the business school for sure are oriented and though by experienced industry workers which help student lean more through examples than simply books.
Senior	Full-time	Male	The University of Houston significantly lacks student involvement. This issue has improved over the five years I have been here and continues to improve, however it is still a commuter school where most students do not participate in activities. Increasing campus residency including dormitories, apartments, and Fraternity and Sorority houses would improve this, as would an increase in the number of independent establishments catering to University of Houston students including restaurants, bars, and entertainment venues.

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Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Male	<p>I Identify as female, but wrote "transsexual woman" under gender identity for the purposes of accurate and inclusive demography.</p> <p>University of Houston has a strong emphasis on making as much money as it possibly can, and not much else. The campus is overriden with bureaucrats, unnecessary and seemingly never ending construction projects, multinational food chains, and vendors on every corner. The faculty members who care about their classes and students, while greatly appreciated, are far and few between. The students rarely speak to each other outside of highly exclusive social groups such as sororities and fraternities, and it is difficult for even extremely social students to make friends. Parking is so awful that it is more time efficient for me to ride a bicycle to school for nearly 40 minutes than to drive for 10 minutes, unless I wish to pay \$9/day for one of the ample visitor parking spots (or take the \$250-400/semester for parking pass that many students opt for).</p> <p>This isn't some on the fly assessment of the school by an inexperienced freshman new to campus. I've been attending this university for nearly six years and am graduating with two degrees this semester. People go here because it's an easy school to get into, not for much else.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Male	<p>University of Houston!!!!</p> <p>Go Coogs!!!!!!</p>
Senior	Full-time	Male	<p>There is nothing differentiating this college from any other. The only thing that singles this college out is its mediocrity. This is simply a for-profit venture where the only concern is for appearances. Half of my tuition goes towards fees. One class or 10, it's the same back breaking fees. Any claim of bettering society though education is betrayed by the lack of emphasis on actual student education. One class I attended was taught in the "Socratic Method" which, in practical terms meant unqualified and inexperienced students taught the course while the professor sat in the corner. Home is piled on in an unending stream by professors with unrealistic expectations of how much work can be completed. The norm is to copy from online homework services like chegg. Ultimately, success at this institution is determined by ones finances. If you can afford to not take out student loans, live on campus, eat on campus, homework solutions manuals, better technology, possibly tutoring, and ghost writers for your projects, then you succeed. If not, or if you try to be ethical, you fail. You also need amphetamines to keep up with the ridiculous amount of work professors substitute for actual instruction. This college sucks.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Male	Fix Cullen Blvd!
Senior	Full-time	Male	<p>In my opinion, the tenure system is ridiculously flawed and a poor way to pick instructors. Some professors that have been at the school for a long time are horrible while others that are new and younger are really great. I feel that hiring and compensating teachers based on how well they help students to learn would be better than paying and retaining teachers simply because "they've been there a long time."</p>
Senior	Full-time	Male	<p>University of Houston is a great school. Each person makes their own experience at any institution and U of H provides every available means to get the the best education possible.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Male	<p>University of Houston is a commuter school, because of my situation I was not able to attend to most of the activities that took place after the usual school hours, but it's a great experience non-the-less</p>
Senior	Full-time	Male	<p>The Cullen College of Engineering at the University of Houston is a sub par school when compared to many others. Proper advice from faculty is almost never given, labs are not offered, and practical material is not taught (only focuses on concept). I have noticed that this University does not care about its students but only its research and how much money they can make.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Male	<p>This educational experience has empowered me with a sense of "can do" and furthermore, prompted me to begin considering other institutions to further my education. The University of Houston is a marquee institution with a global student body and global education interests.</p>
Senior	Not full-time	Female	<p>The adviser for my major (music education) was very helpful - however, the adviser for my minor gave me a very poor track to follow which caused problems later on. For housing and student engagement in activities to improve, there needs to be better parking and a better sense of security on campus.</p>
Senior	Not full-time	Female	<p>I learned many new things by attending the University Of Houston and I have the grade point average to prove it!!!</p>
Senior	Not full-time	Female	<p>There needs to be more emphasis on what students learn in class and how they can apply it to the real world.</p>
Senior	Not full-time	Female	<p>As far as technology goes I have learned more from my fellow students/friends than I have from faculty. My experience has been a lot to grapple but also rewarding and I learned a lot about myself.</p>
Senior	Not full-time	Female	<p>I wish advisors were better equipped on understanding how to get a job after college. I wish financial aid worked smoothly, and I wish there were more grants and scholarships for disabled people.</p>

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Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Not full-time	Female	The University of Houston has enhanced my ability to be a professional in and out of the classroom. My academic adviser (Landis Odoms) has been outstanding throughout my four years at this institution. I have struggled with a learning disability and a physical disability for the entire time and I have always been able to easily obtain any assistance I have needed academically and/or physically. I feel as though I am better prepared and a more well rounded individual now that I am completing my career at the University of Houston! I look forward to using the tools I have learned here to help create a better world in which to live.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	Please provide more courses for non-traditional students.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I feel I could have received a much better education at just about any other school. I'm ashamed to be a student at my school. My school doesn't care for the student body OR the faculty, whatsoever.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	If the professors were more helpful and taught the material that was tested on rather than only using the book and saying you must read all chapters and that is what the exam is on.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I don't feel that the mathematics department is very helpful or beneficial to the learning of students. I have taken two classes from the University; dropped one and failed the other, not because I wasn't dedicated outside of school but no lessons are taught, lessons are run through. There are worksheets that are blown up on the projector screen and the Professor works out problems without explaining why he or she is doing that or how they came to those conclusions. No real teaching seems to be taking place and it is very frustrating to get so far into school to only still be held back by classes you struggle with because Professors/Departments are not doing the job that we spend our tuition dollars on.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I would recommend the university of houston to anyone of which UH has a major for. It is a great school and I am very happy with my choice and the quality of learning and cohesiveness I am exposed to.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	The University of Houston, main campus, has excellent humanities and business departments. Some of their other departments, however, suffer from a rather high rate of turnaround as the professors of quality are siphoned off to the private sector or other institutions. I've taken courses with professors who haven't been published in decades, another refused to even look at the students directly, and still another spent an entire lecture on the correct pronunciation of the Greek letter, "mu" (and that was a course in probability, by the way.)
<p>For those interested in technical degrees, I'd recommend trying to find an institution that stresses the importance of quality teaching from its professors rather than the amount of research dollars they bring in. Also, most of my classes have relied heavily on the self-teaching element - which makes me wonder: why is it, exactly, that I'm shelling out thousands of dollars? My GPA for the last two years has been a 3.7 and I estimate that I actually attend class about 25% of the time. When you have - for example - a professor who simply READS THEIR NOTES TO THE CLASS VERBATIM, there's just not much point in wasting the gas or the time to be present.</p> <p>For students who choose to attend regardless of my warning: buy your books early, outline them, do as many problems as you can, and be able to reproduce the outline and problems from memory. Do these things and you'll ace just about every class. Now do this while working three jobs and you'll be a super-hero like me; complete with the ability to close your eyes as you're driving and magically wake up at your destination (yes, it is as scary as it sounds.)</p>			
Senior	Not full-time	Male	good school
Senior	Not full-time	Male	So much time is dedicated to theory and very little given to practical application. The university seems more geared to turning out research students rather than engineers. The instructors were very knowledgeable, but most, although there were some exceptions, were more interested in finding out what you didn't know as opposed to teaching as much as possible, presenting examples, and then testing on that. Most instructors especially in Freshman and Sophomore instructors were interested in presenting information with little to no examples and then making tests impossibly difficult. Weeding out students. Maybe this is a necessary evil. Things got slightly better as a junior and much better as a Senior. I am a non traditional student. I have a son at Texas A&M. I see his course materials and we discuss his work. A&M is interested in turning out competent engineers. Their instructors teach, teach, teach. UH covers the same materials, leaves you to your own devices, and then often tests over information not covered. UH does not teach with the same purpose it seems... I have learned much at UH and for that I am very grateful, but WE could be so much more. What you get out of UH is only what you put in. I guess that applies everywhere.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	Need more scholarships for those of us who work and attend school. I work 2 part time jobs and do full time research while attending school. It is hard to focus on school when you are worried about bills/debt.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	Thank you for all your time. I've been here far too long for my own good, and I am glad things are proceeding smoothly enough.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	The University of Houston needs to hire professors who can speak and communicate in English. The engineering department is full of teachers who can't speak a paragraph's worth of English to save their lives.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	I don't have any comments.



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### University of Houston

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Not full-time	Male	College has been a wonderful and life changing experience!
Senior	Not full-time	Male	Belief that individuals learn by themselves and not together as well as the social problems found in communicating thoughts to others may have lowered the quality of my educational experience. Also, there is little work in teaching about developing academic attitudes to students.
			A large diversity of courses are taught and the instructors are good lecturers. There are a lot of organizations on campus as well as extracurricular outreach.