

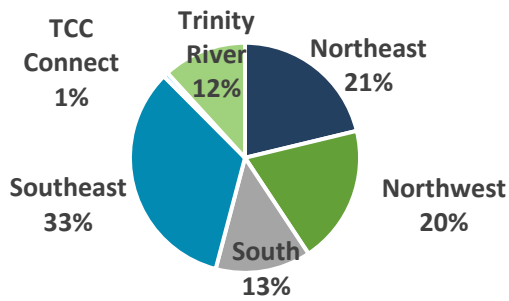
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: STUDENT EXPERIENCE

In an effort to obtain the voice and perspective of students, student activities staff encouraged students participating in various campus events to complete a survey to gather information about their experiences while attending TCC and their future goals. Each survey question was open-ended, which allowed respondents to provide in-depth, unguided, and unlimited responses with detailed descriptions and stories of their journeys at TCC. Summarized results of their words are presented in this report.

## Respondent Demographics

Students were urged to complete the survey while attending a campus event at the beginning of the 2022FL semester. The survey was accessed through a QR code or link. In total, **829 students** took part in the survey.\*

Respondent Campus Distribution (N = 730)



The respondent campus distribution was *fairly representative* of the 2022FL student population by home campus with some underrepresentation of TCC Connect campus (about **7%** of all 2022FL students) and some overrepresentation of Southeast campus (about **19%** of all 2022FL students).<sup>1</sup>

A majority of respondents were enrolled in an *Associate of Arts* degree plan. (N = 719)

- Associate of Arts: **57%**
- Associate of Science: **18%**
- I do not have one / I am not sure: **15%**
- Associate of Applied Science: **6%**
- Certificate: **5%**

## Why did you choose TCC?

When asked why they chose TCC, about **1 in 3** respondents cited *cost* as a reason. Additionally, about **1 in 4** respondents indicated the *location and convenience* of a campus as a reason for choosing TCC. (N = 794)

Other reasons for choosing TCC:

- **Quality & culture** of TCC – about **12%**
- **Early College High School** – about **11%**

- Enrolling in a **specific program** – about **9%**
- Preparing to **transfer** to university – about **5%**
- To earn a **degree** – about **4%**
- **Recommendation** – about **5%**

*“It fits my budget as well as being a great community college that offers an actual college experience.”*

*“It’s close to where I live, cheap, has a good quality education, and my mom went here.”*

## What are your goals at TCC?

Regarding goals while at TCC, about **1 in 2** respondents stated that one of their goals was to *graduate* with a degree or certificate. In addition, about **1 in 5** respondents indicated a reason related to *personal growth*. (N = 794)

Other goals while at TCC:

- Preparing to **transfer** to university – about **20%**
- To earn high or passing **grades** – about **15%**
- To earn credentials/skills for their **career** – about **10%**

*“Earn Associates of Science & development of professional skills.”*

*“Get as many credits as possible before I have to transfer to a four year University, and be able to experience as many college events as possible.”*

## What obstacles/challenges have you overcome?

The three most cited obstacles were *difficulty with coursework, studying, faculty’s teaching methodology, and exams* (about **28%**), *time management challenges* (about **25%**), and *mental and physical health struggles* (about **13%**). (N = 778)

*Not all respondents answered every question; the analysis of each question is based on the total number of students who responded to that question, represented by N.*

**Note:** Some percentages will not sum to 100% as respondents may have indicated multiple themes in their responses.

Additional obstacles/challenges mentioned related to *affordability* and *COVID-specific difficulties*.

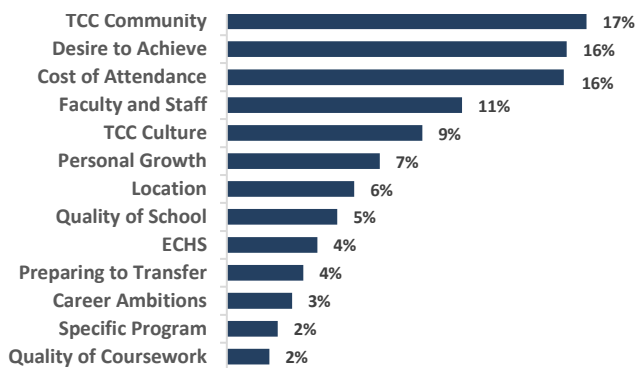
*“Financial problems as a TCC student in overcoming social anxiety.”*

*“So much! Trying to balance a job a family of 6 and still get decent grades.”*

## What keeps you at TCC?

When asked what keeps them at TCC, respondents cited reasons that centered around themes including *community, campus culture, affordability and location, and personal goals*.

What keeps you at TCC? (N = 734)



*“Location; Everyone, not only instructors, has been helpful. It is obvious the staff are passionate about my success.”*

*“The opportunities, because I want to have a better future for myself and those around me.”*

## Please share an example of your favorite experience at TCC and/or what makes you excited to come to campus/attend class.

Respondents shared experiences including *learning from their professors, attending campus events, participating in student clubs, and playing sports*. They commented on the *sense of community, receiving support, and making friends*. (N = 722)

*“The Trinity River Campus is beautiful. I love to eat lunch on one of the many outdoor spaces. The professors are kind and helpful, as well as making class fun! There are so many spaces to hang out with friends it makes it easy to hang out and study or meet for clubs.”*

## Faculty

- “My professors all care about what they teach and express everything to the students in an interesting way.”
- “My professors know my name and take interest in my life.”
- “Group project, intro to engineering had a group project for a bridge was very hands on and had fun talking to my fellow students. I like to attend classes to maintain my grades and be active in class.”
- “I am excited to come to class because I have so much to learn from my professor.”
- “I really liked my philosophy teacher who pushed us beyond the material and made us really think for ourselves.”



## Clubs and Events

- “A packed-out club meeting after class is always great.”
- “Both the Gamers club at Trinity Campus and the Welding department at South are responsible for some of my greatest memories while attending college thus far.”
- “My favorite experience so far doing the scavenger hunt that got me too the Trio office... I was so excited to see something familiar.”
- “Attending Deaf World at TCC.”
- “I was accepted into Phi Theta Kappa last year.”



## Sports

- “3v3 basketball tournament.”
- “Access to a full gym.”
- “Swimming.”
- “Dance company at TCCNE.”
- “The gym when I went for soccer.”

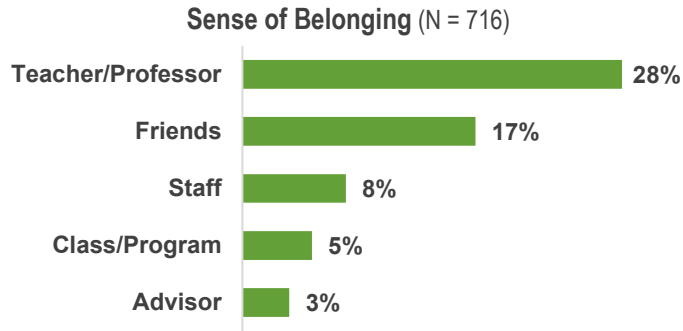


## Atmosphere & Culture

- “A sense of community.”
- “Because we have a lot of workshops and people ready to help that inspires me.”
- “Free food.”
- “I love coming to campus because the community here is a warm and inviting environment that facilitates my desire to learn and socialize.”
- “Making new friends.”
- “The idea store with my friends last year.”

## Who/what has helped you feel like you belong at TCC?

When asked who or what has helped respondents feel like they belong, respondents frequently included *instructors, friends, and staff*.



Some respondents also mentioned campus clubs (about 3%), TRIO (about 2%), Intercultural Network (about 1%), the library (about 1%), and tutoring (about 1%).

*“All of the resources and staff at TCC Trinity River give me reassurance that whenever I need academic help, I can get it.”*

*“The professors have been very helpful, and all the staff works really hard to make the campus a good environment.”*

## Has any program or person helped you achieve your goals at TCC?

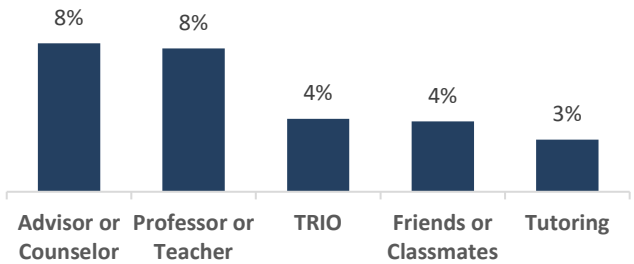
Most respondents (**about 2 in 3**) indicated that they had been helped by some program or person towards achieving their goals at TCC.

**Has any program or person helped you achieve your goals at TCC? (N = 689)**



Many respondents elaborated on who or what they believed most helped them towards achieving their goals.

**Has any program or person helped you achieve your goals at TCC? (N=689)**



*“TRIO has given me access to numerous tools including tutoring and assistance services to have the tools to succeed”*

*“The dual credit program as it has given me such a fantastic opportunity, I am so grateful for.”*

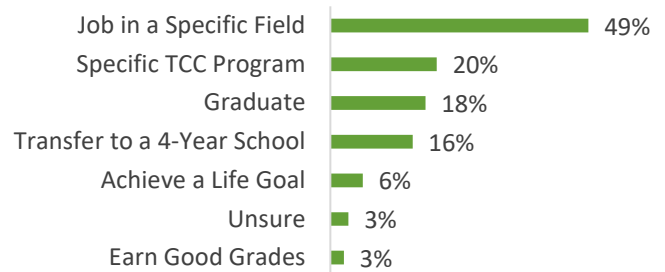
*“All the labs and tutoring are excellent resources and helped me so much”*

*“The Math and Writing Labs are so helpful. They help me be confident in what I am learning.”*

## What are your future academic or professional goals?

When asked about future academic or professional goals, about **1 in 2** respondents indicated being *employed in a specific career field*, and about **1 in 5** planned on *being accepted into a specific program* at TCC.

**Future academic or professional goals (N = 703)**



When naming specific career fields, *nursing* was the most often cited, along with *engineering, business, art, and general medical fields*.





*“I want to transfer to a 4-year university to get my Bachelor degree in Mechanical and Aerospace engineering”*

*“I hope to go into the medical field and help people”*

## How can TCC support your future goals and prepare you for your future career?

Regarding how TCC can support their future goals and careers, respondent comments were generally grouped into four themes: *assistance related to their coursework or specific program, additional resources, help with graduating and/or transferring to a four-year school, and tuition support.*

### Support towards future goals and career (N = 677)

 <b>Coursework (~60%)</b> Scheduling, teaching strategies, & advising/tutoring	 <b>Resources (~50%)</b> Student activities & events, childcare, & staff/faculty being generally supportive
 <b>Graduation (~20%)</b> Program & credit tracking towards graduation, & transferring credits	 <b>Cost (~10%)</b> Tuition assistance, scholarship and financial aid, & ensuring low tuition

*“Just continue offering academic and emotional support.”*

*“Further offering ways to build my network and providing opportunities for me to connect with more four-year institutions.”*

*“By providing me with low-cost classes and putting out scholarship opportunities”*

## Would you recommend TCC to a friend or prospective student? Why or why not?

Overwhelmingly, respondents stated that they *would recommend* TCC to a friend or prospective student with the two main reasons being TCC’s *affordability* and TCC’s *environment*. (N = 685)



Approximately 98% of respondents recommended TCC\*

**Affordability:** Almost **1 in 4** recommended because of TCC’s low tuition cost.

**Environment:** Roughly **40%** recommended because they viewed TCC campuses, faculty, or staff as welcoming and supportive and appreciated the opportunities provided.

A small percentage (~3%) of respondents recommended TCC because they felt it was a *good transition school to help them get to a four-year university* (i.e., complete “basic courses”).

## In one word, how would you describe TCC?

About **1 in 4** respondents described TCC as *amazing, awesome, good, or great*. (N = 679)



## "Success Within Reach" – What does success within reach mean to you and how does it describe your experience at TCC?

**Attainability** → Roughly 30% of respondents felt the statement related to *attainability*. Through their efforts and determination alongside support and resources from TCC, success is possible.

*“Your goals and dreams are attainable at TCC if you keep focused and take advantage of all the services and support [...]”*

*“Attending TCC has taught me that my goals are not impossible to reach and that I am not alone. If I need help I can find it at TCC.”*

**Proximity** → Roughly 10% of respondents focused on “*within reach*”. Some viewed it as a physical distance while others interpreted it metaphorically as being close or a few steps away from success.

\*Excludes about 5% that could not be classified

*"TCC campuses are within reach in the literal sense and TCC is bringing success to my near future."*

*"You are just one step away from reaching your goals."*

### Affordability

Roughly 10% commented on affordability.

*"It means that your educational goals can be accessed at a reasonable cost."*

*"To me it means success that is affordable and close by."*

In sum from a student, *"It means accessibility in all forms, cost, location, and ease of access. This holds true to my experience, as TCC has provided me a path to education that is affordable, close to home, and provides an incredibly simple admissions process."* (N = 658)

## Conclusion

Results from this survey provide insights into the student perspective and experience at TCC. **Students were urged to complete the survey while attending a campus event; thus, the responses in this survey are not a representative sample of the TCC student population, since attendees to the events may have had a higher level of engagement with TCC.** In addition, the survey was incentivized as participants could opt-in to a drawing for a prize.

Throughout the survey, respondents often cited *affordability* and *convenient location* as reasons they initially chose TCC and subsequently continue to choose TCC for their educational experiences. Over half of the respondents stated their main goal while at TCC was to *graduate*.

Common obstacles respondents cited included *difficulty with coursework, time management, and mental and physical health*. Despite these challenges, respondents indicated that TCC's *community* and *culture* were what encouraged them to stay at TCC.

Over 25% of respondents cited their *teachers/instructors* as people who made them feel welcome at TCC. About two-thirds of respondents *agreed* that they had received assistance towards achieving their goals at TCC with mentions including *advisors, faculty, tutoring, TRIO, and their friends* as providing help when needed.

Regarding future goals, about half of the respondents had hopes of a going into *specific career field* with *nursing* being the most frequently specified career. When asked how they could be supported in achieving these goals, respondents requested assistance related to their *coursework or progress towards graduation* and *access to additional resources including financial aid*.

Lastly, when asked what "Success Within Reach" meant to them, about 1 in 3 respondents felt the statement related to *attainability* or achieving their goals with the support and campus resources.

### Considerations:

- Continue providing quality and diverse student activities and events on campus, as community and culture were often referenced as reasons for continuing at TCC.
- Ensure adequate time for and resources towards student advising and tutoring.
- Consider additional programming towards career and four-year transfer goals (alumni speakers, field trips, scholarship opportunities).

### Source:

1: 2022FL ODR (Home Campus)