

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Historical Perspective

On March 3, 1947 the Fiftieth Texas Legislature established Texas Southern University (TSU) as Houston's first state supported university. As such it was designated as a "university of the first class which shall be equivalent to other institutions of this type supported by the State of Texas... [offering] classes ... in pharmacy, dentistry, journalism, education, arts and sciences, literature, law, medicine, and other professional courses."

The University was originally founded as the Texas State University for Negroes. In 1951, through legislative enactment, the University was renamed Texas Southern University. As the role and scope of Texas Southern University evolved, programs and services began to focus significantly on the needs and requirements of people in urban areas. Accordingly, in 1973 the University's designation was changed by the legislature to a special purpose institution for urban programming.

The original legislative enactment established the University for the specific purpose of serving a predominately African-American population. However, from the outset, TSU emerged from an institution mandated to serve a single segment of the population to an institution prepared to enroll students of all religious, cultural, and ethnic groups from Texas, the nation, and the world. Nevertheless, throughout TSU's history it has remained a special attraction for African Americans, and it now serves as the leading producer of African-American college and professional school graduates in the State.

In fact, a recent University survey (Table 1) has indicated that over 80 percent of TSU alumni reported that TSU was either their first or second choice as the institution in

which they would like to continue their post-secondary education, with over 52 percent indicating the University as their first choice.

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
First Choice	250	52.3
Second Choice	135	28.2
Third Choice	58	12.1
Fourth Choice	35	7.3
Total	478	100.0

Not only were students originally attracted to the University, many also indicated that if they had to begin their college education again, they would enroll at TSU. As Table 2 indicates just under 60 percent gave a “yes” response when asked if they would enroll in the University again.

<u>Would Choose</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	281	58.7
Uncertain	96	20.0
No	102	21.3
Total	479	100.0

Also as an indication of the special attraction of Texas Southern University, over two-thirds of the alumni surveyed indicated that the quality of education at TSU was either better or about the same as the education at other Colleges and Universities (Table 3). Only 11 percent were of the opinion that the quality of education at the University

was less than that found at other institutions, while 23 percent indicated that they were unable to judge the quality of TSU relative to other institutions.

Table 3
Perceived Quality of
Education at TSU

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Better	87	18.2
About the Same	230	48.0
Worse	52	10.9
Unable to Judge	110	23.0
Total	479	100.0

Many alumni cited several reasons for the University's attractiveness. Among those most often cited as indicated in Table 4 were the location of the University, its academic reputation, the types of programs offered, as well as the reasonableness of its costs.

Table 4
Reasons Cited for Attending
Texas Southern University

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Location	106	22.4
Academic Reputation	52	11.0
Type of Programs	47	9.9
Cost	46	9.7
Admission Standards	42	8.9
Availability of Financial Aid	37	7.8
Social Atmosphere	36	7.6
Advice of Parents/Relatives	30	6.3
Other	78	16.5
Total	474	100.0

Since TSU’s establishment in 1947 (Table 5) it has awarded well over 37,000 degrees through its seven schools and colleges. Presently, the University offers seventy-eight baccalaureate degree programs, forty-one master's degree programs, the doctor of education degree in three program areas, a doctor of philosophy in environmental toxicology and two graduate professional degrees in law and pharmacy. In addition to the seven-degree granting schools and colleges listed in Table 6, the University also operates and maintains a College of Continuing Education. This academic unit specializes in “life-long learning” by providing training and certification opportunities for students through traditional continuing educational programs while also engaging in outreach initiatives for non-traditional students.

Table 5

Degrees Conferred by Texas Southern University 1947 - 1997	
Bachelor	22,845
Masters	11,157
Law*	2,901
Phar. D.*	79
Doctorate***	337
Total	37,319
*	First J.D. degree awarded May 1950
**	First Phar. D. degree awarded May 1986
***	First Doctor of Ed. degree awarded May 1978

Texas Southern University maintains academic standards of high quality for its programs by adhering to the criteria of various accrediting associations, the academic guidelines of federal/state agencies, as well as the standards established by professional organizations and learned societies. The University is also committed to the use of outcome assessments for the purpose of determining the extent to which its goals are

achieved and the degree to which its students have acquired professional competencies and career accessibility.

Table 6

Major Academic Units
College of Arts and Sciences College of Education College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences School of Business School of Technology School of Law Graduate School College of Continuing Education