

How the Texas A&M University System Addressed Student Stopout

A FOCUS ON COLLECTIVE ACTION



COURSE SHARING CHAMPION

Dr. Shonda Gibson

Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

The Texas A&M University System is one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation. Through its universities, state agencies, and health science center, the Texas A&M University System provides students with the education, research, and training necessary for improving the lives of people in Texas and beyond. “We often come together as a community to think about common problems and common solutions,” said Dr. Shonda Gibson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, “and course sharing was one of them.”

“When it comes to course sharing, we had a need for a system that prioritized student success. We actually found that when students weren’t able to make progress in a course, stopping out was the next option,” Dr. Gibson elaborated. Over the last 10 years, patterns within student data indicate that hundreds of thousands of students are stopping their studies across the Texas A&M universities.

Texas A&M University System Fast Facts

- Public university system
- 11 institutions
- 153,000+ FTE
- Started course sharing in 2022

180,000

stopout students across
11 institutions

130

courses
needed to
better support
students

“We know the course availability is not the only issue that causes students to stop or pause their studies. But we also know that it is one of the contributing factors that we can and need to address.”

- Dr. Shonda Gibson

How Course Sharing Supports Students & Drives Change

The core mission of higher education has long highlighted research, teaching, and service. As our current cultural and historical moment demands the expansion of innovation and knowledge dissemination, institutions like the Texas A&M University System are answering that call. As Dr. Gibson notes, "What we really have to help people to see in higher ed right now is that we are not going to be able to continue to do what we've always done. We need to think critically about what opportunities solutions like Acadeum can offer for our students and our institutions."



Through partnership with Acadeum, Dr. Gibson and other university leaders remain committed to collectively identifying major challenges across the Texas A&M University System and sourcing solutions that ease the workload of faculty and that facilitate degree completion for students.

"Having a system like Acadeum that is providing the infrastructure to already have a solution in place affords us the opportunity to build relevance for our programs, academic fields, and institutions."

- Dr. Shonda Gibson

How the Texas A&M University System is using course sharing to meet student needs and combat student stopout:

- + Allocating resources and career pathways to FTICs (first-time in college students)
- + Expanding course catalogs to include hundreds of new engaging courses
- + Retaining students facing course conflicts and classes not offered that semester
- + Empowering students to explore additional courses in service and outreach programs