



The Spirit of San Antonio Andrea Bennett, Statistics and Data Science, 2023

Skill
Development

SUMMARY

Last semester I was part of SOSA, the Spirit of San Antonio. I played tenor saxophone and went to football games and a few volleyball and basketball games. We performed a new halftime show every couple of weeks, which meant we had two and a half hour rehearsal's three days a week to learn brand new drill and music in time for these upcoming performances. On game days we would get to the Alamodome early in the morning to rehearse and then stay late after almost everyone has left. Since that was my first semester in college one of my main goals was to make new friends in a fun environment. I also wanted the challenge of constantly learning new music on an instrument that was not my primary to make me a better musician. The targeted community was UTSA students, faculty, and alumni as we worked to spread school spirit throughout the semester.



SPICES

Being in SOSA allowed me to continue to develop my musical and marching abilities. This activity is unrelated to my major but I still dedicated around 15 hours a week to it, which was fun, but also improved my sight-reading, motor skills, and muscle memory.

HERBS

Support- SOSA is a community of support for our school, athletics, and for one another.
Honorable-I gained respect for UTSA because SOSA taught me to have school pride and how to spread that to others as well.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

*I learned about adaptability and resilience as I received constructive criticism throughout the semester on my marching and playing.
I discovered agency through accomplishment at the A&M game where A&M fans came up to me to compliment me on our performance. This meant a lot because they are known for their high standards and amazing shows.
I gained a lot of experience in team learning and decision making. Being in a marching band means not only performing well as an individual but also trying to match hundreds of other people musically and visually at the same time.*

IMPACT

Being part of this organization reshaped my outlook on the future of this University. I knew when I signed up for SOSA that I was looking for friends, but what I got was so much more. I am excited for my coming years at UTSA because now I have a stronger sense of school pride and I know that the student body will learn the same thing as SOSA works towards the promotion of school spirit. We may not have the greatest athletic teams or most supportive student section, but that doesn't mean that can't change. My perspective has been completely transformed and I know that this organization is inspiring that same transformation in others as well.

ADVICE

My advice would be to make sure you manage your time well. Experiences like this are definitely worth doing to create memories with new friends, but the time commitment can be overbearing if you don't plan your studies and work accordingly.