

A photograph of a university campus scene, viewed through a window with a black grid pattern. In the center, a tall, white, Gothic-style tower with a pointed roof and arched windows stands prominently. The tower is surrounded by lush green trees. In the foreground, a paved walkway leads towards the tower, with several people walking along it. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

University of North Dakota

**2003 ACT Survey of
Withdrawing and
Non-Returning Students**

**Jean Chen
Carmen Williams
Office of Institutional Research**

February 10, 2004

TOP SEVEN REASONS FOR FRESHMEN LEAVING UND

- 1 Decided to attend a different college
- 2 Wanted to move to (or was transferred to) a new location
- 3 Wanted to live nearer to my parents or loved ones
- 4 Experienced emotional problems
- 5 Dissatisfied with the social life at this college
- 6 Had conflicts with my roommate(s)
- 7 Dissatisfied with my grades

TOP SEVEN REASONS FOR SOPHOMORES LEAVING UND

- 1 Decided to attend a different college
- 2 Wanted to move to (or was transferred to) a new location
- 3 Desired major was not offered by this college
- 4 Dissatisfied with my grades
- 5 Wanted to travel
- 6 Disappointed with the quality of instruction at this college
- 7 Academic advising was inadequate

TOP SEVEN REASONS FOR MALES LEAVING UND

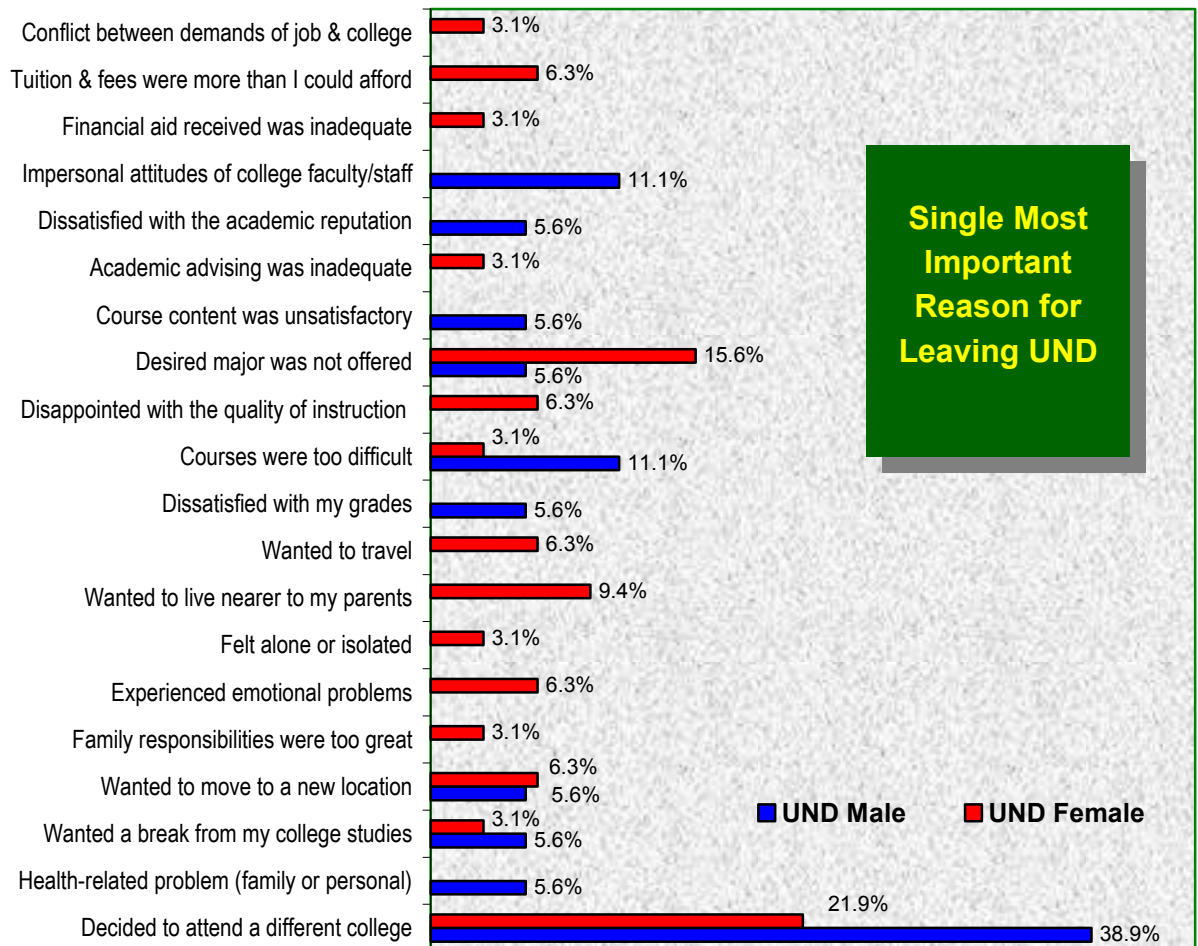
- 1 Decided to attend a different college
- 2 Wanted to move to (or was transferred to) a new location
- 3 Accepted a full time job
- 4 Dissatisfied with my grades
- 5 Wanted to live nearer to my parents or loved ones
- 6 Disappointed with the quality of instruction at this college
- 7 Desired major was offered, but course content was unsatisfactory

TOP SEVEN REASONS FOR FEMALES LEAVING UND

- 1 Decided to attend a different college
- 2 Wanted to move to (or was transferred to) a new location
- 3 Desired major was not offered by this college
- 4 Academic advising was inadequate
- 5 Disappointed with the quality of instruction at this college
- 6 Wanted to live nearer to my parents or loved ones
- 7 Experienced emotional problems

Students who responded to the survey:

- Caucasian (95%)
- under 25 (91%)
- female (56%)
- unmarried (90%)
- enrolled full-time (94%)
- enrolled in freshman (36%) or sophomore (38%)
- lived on-campus (53%)
- paid in-state tuition (70%)
- declared the ND residence (67%)
- obtained a bachelor's degree was the main reason for attending UND (69%)
- planed to enroll in college for the coming year (74%)
- did not plan to re-enroll at UND (65%)



Single Most Important Reason for Leaving UND

■ UND Male ■ UND Female

University of North Dakota

2003 ACT Withdrawing/Non-Returning Student Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this study is to assess why students leave the university before completing graduation. During the early fall semester of 2003, the Office of Institutional Research surveyed the students who were enrolled for fall semester 2002 but did not return for spring semester 2003 or fall semester 2003. The 2003 ACT Withdraw/Non-Returning Student Survey (short form) was mailed to 982 students. Ninety-two students responded to the survey for a net response rate of 10.2%. This study provides background information on the non-returning respondents and their reasons for leaving this college.

Background Information (percentage of respondents shown in parenthesis)

- Female composed the larger percentage of non-returning respondents (56%).
- Nine-tenths of the respondents were ranged from 19 years to 25 years of age (91%).
- Three-fourths of the respondents were freshmen and sophomores (74%).
- The majority of the respondents were Caucasian (95%).
- Most of the respondents were unmarried (89%).
- Most of the respondents were enrolled full-time before leaving UND (94%).
- The major reason for attending UND was to obtain a bachelor's degree (69%).
- More than one half of the respondents lived on campus while attending at UND (53%).
- Seven-tenths of the respondents paid in-state tuition while attending at UND (70%).
- Two-third of the respondents declared the North Dakota residence (67%).
- Three-fourths of the respondents planned to enroll in college for the coming year (74%).
- Two-thirds of the respondents did not plan to re-enroll at UND (65%).

Highest Ranked Reasons for Leaving UND

- A total of 48 reasons are grouped into 5 reason categories: personal (19 reasons), academic (7 reasons), institutional (10 reasons), financial (8 reasons), and employment (4 reasons).
- "*Decided to attend a different college*" was the major personal reason for leaving (70%). This reason was also chosen by 27% of the respondent as the **single most important reason for leaving**.
- "*Disappointment with the quality of instruction*" (14%) and "*Dissatisfied with my grades*" (13%) were the two major academic reasons for leaving.
- "*Tuition and fees were more than I could afford*" (7%) was the major financial reason for leaving.
- "*Conflict between demands of job and college*" (11%) and "*Accepted a full-time job*" (10%) were the two major employment reasons for leaving.
- Male respondents were more likely in choosing institutional reasons and employment reasons for not returning to UND while female respondents were more likely in choosing personal reasons and financial reasons for leaving.
- Freshmen were more likely in choosing personal reasons while sophomores were more likely in choosing institutional reasons for leaving.
- Employment reasons have become important reasons among juniors and seniors for leaving.