



University of North Dakota

Non-Returning Student Survey

Jean Chen

Carmen Williams

Office of Institutional Research

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2006 ACT Withdrawing/Non-Returning Student Survey

Demographic Information on UND Survey Respondents	UND 2006	UND 2005	UND 2004	UND 2003
Response Rate	16%	15%	14%	10%
Number of respondents	55	95	94	92
Caucasian	98%	98%	96%	95%
Female	61%	60%	63%	56%
Unmarried	94%	95%	85%	90%
Age 25 or younger	98%	98%	89%	91%
Enrolled full-time	98%	100%	94%	94%
Freshmen	11%	36%	38%	36%
Sophomores	43%	39%	35%	38%
Juniors	31%	18%	16%	9%
Seniors	15%	7%	10%	13%
Attended high school prior to entering UND	77%	77%	72%	71%
Attended post-secondary schools or other colleges prior to entering UND	23%	21%	27%	27%
Lived on-campus	26%	38%	42%	53%
Paid in-state tuition	68%	73%	76%	70%
Declared the ND residence	66%	69%	66%	67%
Planned to enroll for the coming year	70%	80%	74%	74%
Did not plan to re-enroll at UND	69%	73%	62%	65%

TOP 7 REASONS AMONG 48 POSSIBLE REASONS FOR STUDENTS LEAVING UND

(Reasons were ranked by mean scores.
Scores: 3=Major reason, 2=Minor reason, 1=Not a reason)

FOR ALL (n = 55)

- ◆ Decided to attend a different college (*P)
- ◆ Wanted to move to (or was transferred to) a new location (*P)
- ◆ Desired major was not offered by this college (*I)
- ◆ Academic advising was inadequate (*I)
- ◆ Disappointed with the quality of instructions at this college (*A)
- ◆ Tuition and fees were more than I could afford (*F)
- ◆ Wanted to live nearer to my parents or loved ones (*P)

FOR MALE STUDENTS (n = 21)

- ◆ Decided to attend a different college (*P)
- ◆ Disappointed with the quality of instructions at this college (*A)
- ◆ Academic advising was inadequate (*I)
- ◆ Desired major was not offered by this college (*I)
- ◆ Wanted to move to (or was transferred to) a new location (*P)
- ◆ Impersonal attitudes of college faculty or staff (*I)
- ◆ Tuition and fees were more than I could afford (*F)

FOR FEMALE STUDENTS (n = 33)

- ◆ Decided to attend a different college (*P)
- ◆ Wanted to move to (or was transferred to) a new location (*P)
- ◆ Desired major was not offered by this college (*I)
- ◆ Academic advising was inadequate (*I)
- ◆ Wanted to live nearer to my parents or loved ones (*P)
- ◆ Disappointed with the quality of instructions at this college (*A)
- ◆ Did not like the size of this college (*P)

*All 48 reasons are grouped into 5 Reason Categories:
Personal (P), Academic (A), Institutional (I), Financial (F),
and Employment (E)

Single Most Important Reason for Leaving UND	UND 2006	UND 2005	UND 2004	UND 2003
Decided to attend a different college	31%	27%	19%	27%
Desired major was not offered	19%	14%	10%	12%
Health-related problem	5%	2%	3%	2%
Tuition & fees were unaffordable	5%	2%	2%	4%
Academic advising was inadequate	5%	0%	0%	2%
Wanted to move to a new location	3%	8%	10%	10%
Disappointed with the quality of instruction	3%	4%	5%	8%
Dissatisfied with the academic reputation of UND	3%	2%	0%	2%
Impersonal attitudes of college faculty or staff	3%	0%	0%	4%
Dissatisfied with the social life at this college	3%	0%	2%	0%
Experienced emotional problems	3%	4%	3%	4%
Conflict between demands of job and college	3%	0%	3%	2%
Want a break from my college studies	3%	2%	2%	4%
Marital situation changed my educational plans	3%	2%	0%	0%
Family responsibilities were too great	3%	0%	2%	2%
Encountered unexpected expense	3%	2%	2%	0%
Courses were too difficult	0%	2%	0%	2%
Accepted a full-time job	0%	4%	3%	0%
Was suspended or placed on probation	0%	4%	0%	0%
Inadequate study habits	0%	2%	0%	0%
Courses were not challenging	0%	2%	0%	0%

Top Reason in Each Reason Category

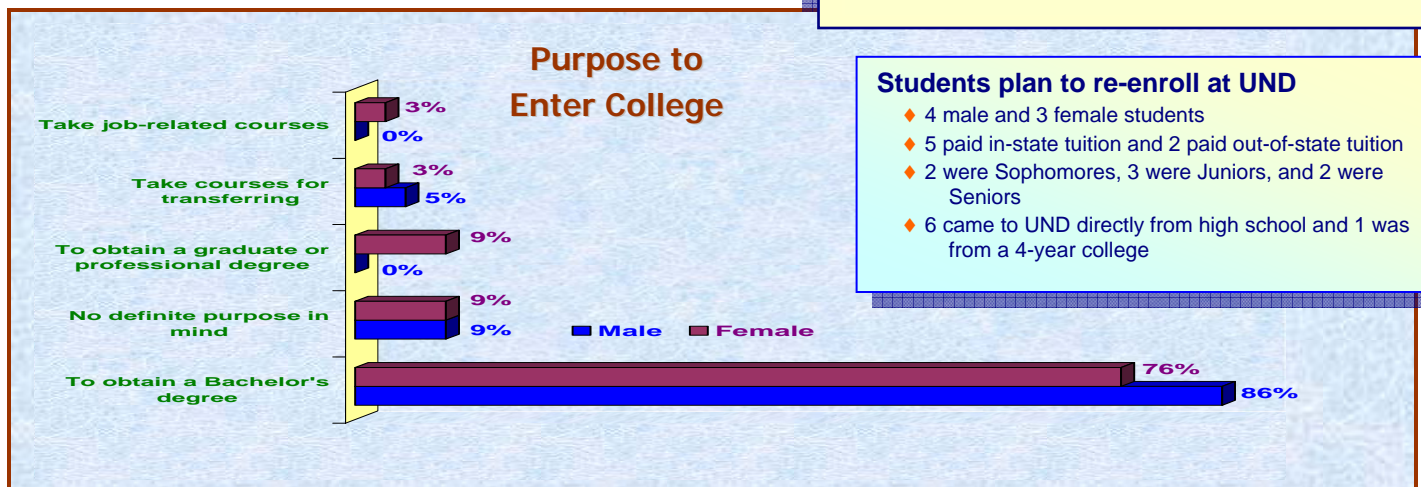
Personal Reason Category (19 reasons) - Decided to attend a different College

Academic Reason Category (7 reasons) – Disappointed with the quality of instruction

Institutional Reason Category (10 reasons) – Desired major was not offered

Financial Reason Category (8 reasons) – Tuition and fees were more than I could afford

Employment Reason Category (4 reasons) – Conflict between demands of job and college



Students plan to re-enroll at UND

- ◆ 4 male and 3 female students
- ◆ 5 paid in-state tuition and 2 paid out-of-state tuition
- ◆ 2 were Sophomores, 3 were Juniors, and 2 were Seniors
- ◆ 6 came to UND directly from high school and 1 was from a 4-year college

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this study is to assess why students leave the university before completing graduation. During the early fall semester of 2006, the Office of Institutional Research surveyed the students who were enrolled for fall semester 2005 but did not return for spring semester 2006 or fall semester 2006. The 2006 ACT Withdrawing/Non-Returning Student Survey (short form) was mailed to 400 students. Overall, 55 students responded to the survey for a net response rate of 16.3%. This survey that was administered consisted of demographic and background questions along with a total of 48 reasons why students did not continue at UND.

Background Information (percentage of respondents shown in parenthesis)

- Female composed the larger percentage of non-returning respondents (61%).
- Almost all respondents ranged from 19 years to 25 years of age (98%).
- More than one-half of the respondents were freshmen and sophomores (54%).
- The majority of the respondents were Caucasian (98%).
- Most of the respondents were unmarried (94%).
- Most of all respondents were enrolled full-time before leaving UND (98%).
- The major reason for attending UND was to obtain a bachelor's degree (80%).
- One out of four respondents lived on campus while attending UND (26%).
- Two-thirds of the respondents paid in-state tuition while attending UND (68%).
- Two-thirds of the respondents declared North Dakota as their state of residence (66%).
- Two-thirds of the respondents planned to enroll in college for the coming year (70%).
- Two-thirds of the respondents did not plan to re-enroll at UND (69%).

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*" (72%) was the major **personal reason** for leaving UND. It was also chosen by 31% of the respondents as the **single most important reason** for leaving UND.
- "*Disappointment with the quality of instruction*" (32%) and "*Dissatisfied with my grades*" (15%) were the two major **academic reasons** for leaving UND.
- "*Academic advising was inadequate*" (38%) and "*Desired major was not offered by this college*" (32%) were the two major **institutional reasons** for leaving UND.
- "*Tuition and fees were more than I could afford*" (30%) and "*Financial aid received was inadequate*" (13%) were the two major **financial reasons** for leaving UND.
- "*Conflict between demands of job and college*" (13%) and "*Accepted a full-time job*" (10%) were the two major **employment reasons** for leaving UND.
- Male respondents were more likely to choose academic, financial, and academic reasons while female respondents were more likely to choose personal and institutional reasons for leaving.
- Female and Junior respondents were more likely to indicate that the marital situation has changed their educational plans while male and Sophomore respondents were more likely to indicate that their receiving the inadequate financial aid was the reason for leaving.