

A photograph of a university campus scene, featuring a large brick building with a prominent arched window, surrounded by trees and a walkway with several people walking. The image is framed by a large, faint crosshair.

# **University of North Dakota**

## **2005 ACT Withdrawing/Non-Returning Students Survey**

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# 2005 ACT Withdrawing/Non-Returning Student Survey

## Demographic Information on UND Survey Respondents

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

## Single Most Important Reason for Leaving UND

	UND 2005	UND 2004	UND 2003
Decided to attend a different college	27%	19%	27%
Wanted to live nearer to my parents/loved ones	14%	14%	6%
Desired major was not offered	14%	10%	12%
Wanted to move to a new location	8%	10%	10%
Disappointed with the quality of instruction	4%	5%	8%
Experienced emotional problems	4%	3%	4%
Accepted a full-time job	4%	3%	0%
Was suspended or placed on probation	4%	0%	0%
Health-related problem	2%	3%	2%
Wanted a break from my college studies	2%	2%	4%
Tuition & fees were unaffordable	2%	2%	4%
Encountered unexpected expense	2%	2%	0%
Dissatisfied with the academic reputation	2%	0%	2%
Courses were too difficult	2%	0%	2%
Marital situation changed my educational plans	2%	0%	0%
Inadequate study habits	2%	0%	0%
Courses were not challenging	2%	0%	0%
Applied for financial aid, but did not receive it	2%	0%	0%

## 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 = 95)

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

### FOR FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE STUDENTS (n = 67)

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

### FOR JUNIOR & SENIOR STUDENTS (n = 22)

- ◆ Decided to attend a different college (\*P)
- ◆ Wanted to move to (or was transferred to) a new location (\*P)
- ◆ Dissatisfied with my grades (\*A)
- ◆ Wanted a break from my college studies (\*P)
- ◆ Experiencing emotional problems (\*P)
- ◆ Academic advising was inadequate (\*I)
- ◆ Disappointed with the quality of instructions at this college (\*A)

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

## Top Reason in Each Reason Category

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

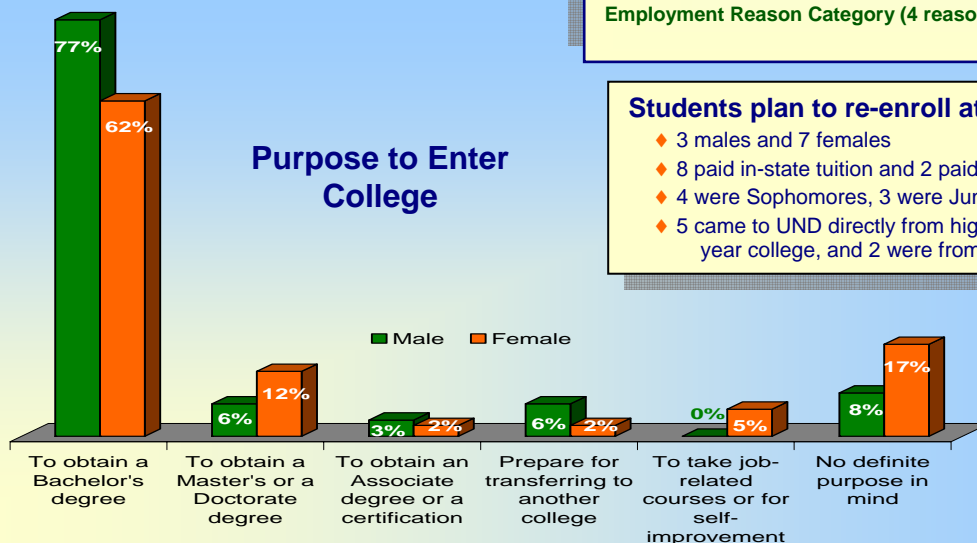
**Academic Reason Category (7 reasons)** - Disappointed with the quality of instruction

**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)** - Accepted a full-time job

## Purpose to Enter College



## Students plan to re-enroll at UND

- ◆ 3 males and 7 females
- ◆ 8 paid in-state tuition and 2 paid out-of-state tuition
- ◆ 4 were Sophomores, 3 were Juniors, and 3 were Seniors
- ◆ 5 came to UND directly from high school, 2 were from a 2-year college, and 2 were from a 4-year college

# University of North Dakota

## 2005 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 2005, the Office of Institutional Research surveyed the students who were enrolled for fall semester 2004 but did not return for spring semester 2005 or fall semester 2005. The 2005 ACT Withdrawing/Non-Returning Student Survey (short form) was mailed to 686 students. Overall, 95 students responded to the survey for a net response rate of 15.2%. 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 (60%).
- Almost all respondents ranged from 19 years to 25 years of age (98%).
- Three-fourths of the respondents were freshmen and sophomores (75%).
- The majority of the respondents were Caucasian (98%).
- Most of the respondents were unmarried (95%).
- All respondents were enrolled full-time before leaving UND (100%).
- The major reason for attending UND was to obtain a bachelor's degree (68%).
- Four out of ten respondents lived on campus while attending UND (38%).
- Three out of four respondents paid in-state tuition while attending UND (73%).
- Two-thirds of the respondents declared North Dakota as their state of residence (69%).
- Four-fifths of the respondents planned to enroll in college for the coming year (80%).
- Three-fourths of the respondents did not plan to re-enroll at UND (73%).

#### 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*" (66%) was the major **personal reason** for leaving UND. It was also chosen by 27% of the respondents as the **single most important reason** for leaving UND.
- "*Disappointment with the quality of instruction*" (15%), "*Courses were not challenging*" (8%), and "*Dissatisfied with my grades*" (7%) were the three major **academic reasons** for leaving UND.
- "*Desired major was not offered by this college*" (22%) and "Academic advising was inadequate" (15%) were two major **institutional reasons** for leaving UND.
- "*Financial aid received was inadequate*" (8%) and "*Tuition and fees were more than I could afford*" (7%) were two major **financial reasons** for leaving UND.
- "*Accepted a full-time job*" (6%) and "*Conflict between demands of job and college*" (5%) were the two major **employment reasons** for leaving UND.
- Male respondents were more likely to choose academic and institutional reasons while female respondents were more likely to choose personal, financial, and employment reasons for leaving.
- Seniors were less likely to choose personal reasons while freshmen, sophomores, and juniors were more likely to choose personal reasons and institutional reasons for leaving UND.
- Employment reasons have become important reasons among seniors for leaving UND.