

University of North Dakota

2008 Non-Returning Student Survey



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2008 ACT Withdrawing/Non-Returning Student Survey

<u>Demographic Information for UND Survey Respondents</u>	<u>UND 2008</u>	<u>UND 2007</u>	<u>UND 2006</u>	<u>UND 2005</u>
Response Rate	9%	14%	16%	15%
Number of respondents	40	113	55	95
Caucasian	92%	93%	98%	98%
Female	64%	65%	61%	60%
Unmarried	85%	94%	94%	95%
Age 25 or younger	90%	93%	98%	98%
Enrolled full-time	100%	98%	98%	100%
Freshmen	21%	37%	11%	36%
Sophomores	26%	31%	43%	39%
Juniors	33%	23%	31%	18%
Seniors	15%	8%	15%	7%
Attended high school prior to entering UND	72%	80%	77%	77%
Attended post-secondary schools or other colleges prior to entering UND	28%	18%	23%	21%
Lived on-campus	36%	53%	26%	38%
Paid in-state tuition	74%	79%	68%	73%
Declared the ND residence	67%	68%	66%	69%
Planned to enroll for the coming year	54%	87%	70%	80%
Did not plan to re-enroll at UND	67%	67%	69%	73%

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 offered, but course content was unsatisfactory

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

Employment Reason Category (4 reasons) – Accepted a full-time job

<u>Most Important Reasons for Leaving UND</u>	<u>2008</u>		<u>2007</u>		<u>2006</u>		<u>2005</u>	
(* Scale: 3=major reason, 2=minor reason, 1= not a reason)	<u>Avg*</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Avg*</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Avg*</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Avg*</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Decided to attend a different college	2.46	1	2.53	1	2.34	1	2.48	1
Wanted to move to (or was transferred to) a new location	1.97	2	1.85	2	1.75	2	1.92	2
Desired major was offered, but course content was unsatisfactory	1.49	3	1.31	9	1.17	17	1.24	14
Disappointed with the quality of instruction at this college	1.47	4	1.61	3	1.49	5	1.42	5
Desired major was not offered by this college	1.46	5	1.49	5	1.60	3	1.47	4
Wanted to live nearer to my parents or loved ones	1.41	6	1.41	7	1.39	7	1.49	3
Academic advising was inadequate	1.37	7	1.52	4	1.57	4	1.40	6
Impersonal attitudes of college faculty or staff	1.36	8	1.46	6	1.26	10	1.21	17
Health related problem	1.28	9	1.1	32	1.09	25	1.13	25
Felt alone or isolated	1.24	10	1.29	11	1.15	19	1.25	11
Tuition and fees were more than I could afford	1.23	11	1.25	13	1.40	6	1.25	12
Learned all I wanted to learn at this time	1.21	12	1.03	46	1.06	36	1.06	42
Influenced by parents or relatives	1.21	13	1.13	25	1.13	20	1.08	35
Experience emotional problems	1.18	14	1.34	8	1.21	12	1.24	13
Did not like the size of this college	1.18	15	1.23	14	1.28	9	1.31	7
Experience class scheduling problems	1.18	16	1.23	15	1.31	8	1.07	39
Dissatisfied with the academic reputation at this college	1.18	17	1.1	34	1.08	33	1.07	41
Commuting distance to this college was too great	1.16	18	1.12	28	1.1	24	1.22	16

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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 2008, the Office of Institutional Research surveyed the students who were enrolled for fall semester 2007 but did not return for spring semester 2008 or fall semester 2008. The 2008 ACT Withdrawing/Non-Returning Student Survey (short form) was mailed to 500 students. Overall, 40 students responded to the survey for a net response rate of 8.5%. 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 respondents (64%).
- Almost all respondents ranged from 19 years to 25 years of age (90%).
- Half of the respondents were freshmen and sophomores (46%).
- The majority of the respondents were Caucasian (92%).
- Most of the respondents were unmarried (85%).
- All respondents were enrolled full-time before leaving UND (100%).
- The major reason for attending UND was to obtain a bachelor's degree (77%).
- One out of three respondents lived on campus while attending UND (36%).
- Three-fourths of the respondents paid in-state tuition while attending UND (74%).
- Two-thirds of the respondents declared North Dakota as their state of residence (67%).
- More than half of the respondents planned to enroll in college for the coming year (54%).
- Two-thirds of the respondents did not plan to re-enroll at UND (67%).

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"* (83%) was the major **personal reason** for leaving UND.
- *"Disappointment with the quality of instruction"* (33%) was the major **academic reason** for leaving UND.
- *"Tuition and fees were more than I could afford"* (20%), *"Could not find part-time work at this college"* (7%) and *"Cost of living was too high in this community"* (8%) were the three major **financial reasons** for leaving UND.
- *"Accepted a full-time job"* (5%) was the major **employment reason** for leaving UND.