



Academic & Institutional Projects

A RESEARCH BRIEF FOR FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS PREPARED BY THE
ACADEMIC & INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS (AIP) OFFICE.

2008 Withdrawal Non-Returning Student Survey

ACT developed the Withdrawing Non-Returning Student Survey to identify students' reasons for leaving college before completing a degree or certificate program. The ACT Withdrawing survey is administered on an ongoing basis from November through October and includes two sections: background information and reasons for leaving. Students are identified by both the financial aid office and the registrar's office at MSU upon withdrawing from courses. The AIP office receives a list of those students, and each student is mailed a survey. The total number of surveys mailed for 2007-2008 period is unknown, due to staffing changes in the AIP office during this time. Surveys returned totaled 156. Analysis of the respondent surveys was conducted through the Statistical Package for Social Sciences, the frequencies are provided below.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS:

A majority of the students were Caucasian (114; 86.4%), 39 (29.5%) of the respondents were juniors, with the purpose for entering college to obtain a bachelors degree (85; 63.4%). Over half of the respondents (82; 61.2%) were full-time students at Minot State University (MSU) and were female (92; 68.7%). Previous school attended prior to entering college was high school (54; 40.9%), two-year college (32; 24.2%) or four-year college (30; 22.7%).

A majority of respondents were unmarried (87; 64.9%) at the time of withdrawing from college. The type of tuition paid by most respondents was in-state tuition (111; 84.1%); similarly, the classification of residence was also in-state student (119; 87.5%). Over 80 percent, (80.8%) lived off campus or at home. When respondents were asked whether they intended on enrolling at MSU in the future, (73) 54.5% indicated yes. When Students indicated future plans for the upcoming year, 35.1 % intended on working full or part time, while 27.5% intended on enrolling in college and 26.0% planned on working and enrolling in college.

REASONS FOR LEAVING COLLEGE:

The reasons students withdrew from Minot State University were varied; the top ten reasons indicated by the participants as "*major reasons*" for leaving were primarily related to move, work, and family issues. The number one *major reason* students withdrew was they had decided to attend a different college (24; 19%). The second reason student withdrew as a conflict between demands of a job and college (24; 19%). Family responsibilities were the third reason for withdrawing (20; 16.3%). Students who wanted to move (had to move) and students who wanted a break from college studies consisted of 18 (14.8%) respectively of students withdrawing from MSU.

Overall, a majority of students (111; 89.8%) of withdrawing students indicated personal reasons for withdrawing, while 31% (39) students indicated conflict between employment and college as a reason. Other categories identified by the respondents indicated financial reasons (17; 13.6%) and academic (17; 13.6%) for withdrawal.

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC & INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS

The Office of Academic & Institutional Projects (AIP) serves as a resource to MSU by evaluating and disseminating a wide range of data and conducting institutional research to support and foster efficient campus planning and administration. The use of this information will help improve the quality of education at MSU.

AIP has the responsibility for coordinating and integrating data and planning analytical support for the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the university as a whole.

AIP develops and maintains a campus data warehouse that serves as the source of official MSU data. It is responsible for developing systems to ensure that campus-analytical and planning-data requirements are met, as well as providing the necessary information to support executive level decision-making.

Institutional data such as the annual Factbook and College Portrait data derived from the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) is available on the AIP Web site.

ACADEMIC & INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS (AIP)

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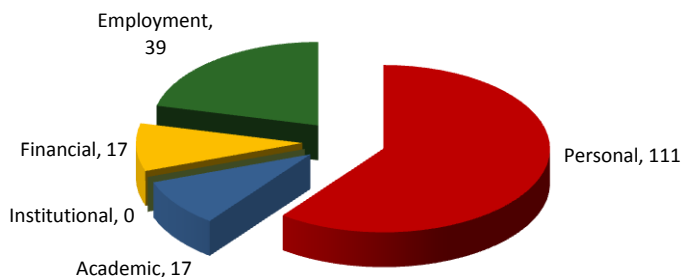
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Congratulations 2009 Graduates!

Reasons for Withdrawal



REASONS FOR LEAVING	N	%
Decided to Attend a Different College	24	19%
Conflict Between Demands of Job and College	24	19%
Family Responsibilities	20	16.3%
Wanted to Move (or had to move) To A New Location	18	14.8%
Wanted a Break From College Studies	18	14.5%
Encountered Unexpected Expenses	17	13.6%
Dissatisfied with Grades	17	13.6%
Experienced Emotional Problems	16	12.8%
Health-Related Problems	15	12.4%
Accepted a Full-Time Job	15	12.0%

When students were asked to reexamine their major reasons and indicate the single most important reason the results were once again dispersed. Only 41 (26.3%) of the respondents participated in the final question. Of the 41, 5 (12.2%) indicated wanting a break from college studies, while 5 (12.2%) indicated that the major desired was not offered at Minot State University. Others indicated accepting a full-time job (5; 12.2%) as the single most important reason for leaving.

SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT REASON	N	%
Wanted a Break From My College Studies	5	12.2%
Desired Major Was Not Offered at This College	5	12.2%
Accepted a Full-Time Job	5	12.2%
Decided to Attend a Different College	3	7.3%
Family Responsibilities Too Great	3	7.3%
Courses Were Too Difficult	3	7.3%



Minot State University and the Office of Academic & Institutional Projects require the submission of a Data Request form for **ALL** data requests. Data requested may be readily available on the AIP website, please verify **PRIOR** to submitting the Data Request Form. The link for the Data Request form is below.
<http://www.minotstateu.edu/instplan/forms.shtml>

ACADEMIC & INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS WEBSITE

The Office of Academic & Institutional Projects (AIP) serves as a resource to Minot State University by evaluating and disseminating a wide range of data, as well as conducting institutional support to foster efficient campus planning and administration. Access to the specific data collected by the AIP office is found at <http://www.minotstateu.edu/instplan/>.

Research Briefs

A two page statistical report that highlights important findings in data collected by the AIP office.

Research Reports

Full reports including statistical data and findings collected by the AIP office.

Common Data Set

A collaborative effort between publishers of various institutional data and the educational community. This collaboration aims to improve the quality and consistency of information reported by college and university officials.

Voluntary System of Accountability

The VSA communicates information on the undergraduate student. Specific information includes: student characteristics, retention rates, graduation rates, admissions rates, degrees/ areas of study, student housing data, campus safety data, Carnegie classifications and student satisfaction outcomes.

MSU Factbook

Provides trends and comparisons of student enrollments for MSU. Data is provided in visual charts and tables to categorize cross sections of enrollment and student data. Data includes: administration organizational charts, student demographic data, student enrollment data, major/ degree data, faculty and staff data, MSU financial data, student fees and financial aid data.

Peer Institutions

Provides a list of MSU's Great Plains aspirational peer institutions. Data utilized to determine peers is available in the Great Plains Premier indicators report. Methodology and detailed descriptions are included in the institutional report.

North Dakota University System Reports

The NDUS provides annual accountability measure reports to each of the 11 institutions in North Dakota. The data provided is a valuable tool in demonstrating the university system's achievements while meeting expectations set forth by the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE)

Enrollment Reports

The official enrollment reports for fall and spring 4th week are provided with aggregate student data.

Department Annual Reports

Provides data by college on major and minor enrollments by semester.

Surveys

The AIP office conducts a number of surveys designed to assess different subgroups at MSU. A detailed list of the surveys conducted each academic year, as well as links to example surveys are provided.