



Fall 2011 Freshman Cohort Non-returning Students: What do we know?

Executive Summary

The following report provides an analysis of 624 first-time full-time degree seeking freshmen in the University of South Alabama (USA) Fall 2011 freshman cohort who did not return to USA in Fall 2012. Of these non-returning students, 238 (38%) transferred to another institution prior to Fall 2012 and 386 (62%) “stopped out” or did not enroll in another college or university.

- Results indicated a large majority of transfer students transferred to another institution with one or more of the following characteristics: public, a two year institution, and/or located in Alabama, with the majority (65%) transferring to a community college.
- Findings showed a large percentage based differential between students who “stopped out” with less than six hours earned at USA (27%) or students with a USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (23%) and students who transferred and had a similar number of USA earned hours or a similar USA GPA.
- Indicators for students at greater risk to “stop out” instead of transferring to another institution included students of local origin from Mobile or Baldwin County (28%), living off campus (25%), male (18%), attendance at the August session, an Adult, or a Transfer new student orientation session (14%), and attendance at the Freshman Session 6 orientation (12%).
- 50% of non-returning students who “stopped out” attended the Freshman Session 6, August session, or an Adult or Transfer¹ new student orientation session. Students attending one of these orientation sessions should be targeted early with interventions to help them persist and return to USA.

Overview

The following report provides an analysis of 624 first-time full-time degree seeking freshmen in the University of South Alabama (USA) Fall 2011 freshman cohort who did not return to USA in Fall 2012. The National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) was used to identify whether non-returning students transferred to another institution or “stopped out” and did not enroll in another higher education institution in Fall 2012. While the preference is for students to return and persist at USA, a student who transferred to another institution could be considered a secondary measure of student success.

More than 3,300 colleges and universities in the United States participate in the NSC. With NSC participating institutions enrolling over 96% of all students in public and private colleges and universities in the United States, students who were not identified as transfer students by the NSC were unlikely to be enrolled at another college or university and had “stopped out” of higher education. This report provides comparisons between 238 non-returning students who transferred

¹ Ten of the 1,826 students in the 2011 freshman cohort attended the Adult orientation session or one of three Transfer orientation sessions held in the evening to accommodate adult/working students. As with previous freshman cohort retention reports, the retention results for students who attended one of these orientation sessions were combined for this analysis.

to another institution prior to Fall 2012 and 386 non-returning students who “stopped out” and did not enroll at another college or university.

Profile of Non-returning Student Who “Stopped Out”

- No other scholarship² (88%)
- Not in a learning community (82%)
- USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (75%)
- 18 years old (74%)
- No freshman scholarship³ (72%)
- From Mobile or Baldwin County (61%)
- Male (60%)
- Took Freshman Seminar (60%)
- Lived off-campus (54%)
- White (54%)
- Earned zero to six USA credit hours (41%)
- High school GPA between 2.51-3.0 (34%)
- Attended Freshman Session 6 new student orientation session (28%)
- ACT Composite score of 19-20 (25%)

Profile of Non-returning Student Who Transferred

- No other scholarship (85%)
- 18 years old (81%)
- Not in a learning community (76%)
- Lived on-campus (71%)
- No freshman scholarship (66%)
- Female (58%)
- Took Freshman Seminar (54%)
- White (54%)
- USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (52%)
- From rest of Alabama (38%)
- High school GPA between 3.51-4.0 (35%)
- ACT Composite score of 21-23 (28%)
- Earned 6.5-12 USA credit hours (24%)
- Attended the Freshman Session 4 or Freshman Session 5 new student orientation sessions (18%)

Where Non-returning Students Transferred

Of the 238 non-returning students who transferred, a large majority transferred to an institution with one or more of three characteristics (see Table 1 and Table 2). The transfer institution was likely: 1) public (95%), 2) a two year institution (65%), and/or 3) located in Alabama (64%). Mississippi (16%) was also a likely transfer destination of the non-returning students.

Table 1: Control and Type of Institution Where USA Students Transferred

Public or Private Institution	Count	%	2 or 4 Year Institution	Count	%
Public Institution	226	95%	2 Year Institution	154	65%
Private Institution	12	5%	4 Year Institution	84	35%

² Military/ROTC, vocational rehab, employment funded, prepaid AL, MS, or FL tuition, etc.

³ Bay Area, Honors, Mitchell, Presidential, or Starnes merit based scholarships

Table 2: Top States Where USA Students Transferred

Rank	State	Count	%
1	Alabama	152	64%
2	Mississippi	37	16%
3	Florida	21	9%
4	Louisiana	5	2%
5	Texas	4	2%

The most common two year transfer institutions of choice were Faulkner State Community College (27), Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (27), and Bishop State Community College (22). Of the four year universities, Pensacola State College (12), Auburn University at Montgomery (10), and University of Alabama (9) were the most common transfer destination (see Table 3).

Table 3: Top Institutions Where USA Students Transferred

Rank	College	Count	%
1	Faulkner State Community College	27	11
1	Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College	27	11
3	Bishop State Community College	22	9
4	Pensacola State College	12	5
5	Auburn University at Montgomery	10	4
6	University of Alabama	9	4
7	Calhoun Community College	8	3
7	University of Alabama at Birmingham	8	3
9	Jefferson State Community College	6	3
9	University of West Alabama	6	3

Comparison of Non-returning Transfer Students to Students Who “Stopped Out”

Multiple characteristics of non-returning students were compared to determine what characteristics showed large percentage based differentials between 386 non-returning students who “stopped out” compared to 238 non-returning students who transferred. The following table displays characteristics with percentage based differentials of 10% or greater between students who transferred and students who “stopped out” (see Table 4 or complete data tables found in the Appendix).

Results showed region where the student originated from (first) and living off campus (third) were two of the four comparison groups with the greatest percentage based differential between non-returning students who “stopped out” and non-returning students who transferred. Students who originated from Mobile or Baldwin County or students who lived off campus were much more likely to “stop out” than to transfer to another institution.

- 61% of non-returning students who “stopped out” came from Mobile or Baldwin County (235) compared to 33% of non-returning students who transferred (79).
- 38% of non-returning students who transferred came from the rest of Alabama (90) compared to 25% of non-returning students who “stopped out” (95).
- 54% of non-returning students who “stopped out” lived off campus (207) compared to 29% of non-returning students who transferred (69).

Table 4: Greatest Differentials Between Non-Returner Transfers and Stop Outs

Top within Group Characteristics	Transferred (n=238)	% Transferred	Stopped Out (n=386)	% Stopped Out	% Difference Between Transferred & Stopped Out
<i>Region</i>					
Mobile/ Baldwin County	79	33%	235	61%	-28%
Rest of Alabama	90	38%	95	25%	+13%
<i># USA Earned Hours (Note: n=361 Stopped Out; 228 Transferred)</i>					
0-6 hours	31	14%	147	41%	-27%
<i>Housing</i>					
Off-Campus	69	29%	207	54%	-25%
<i>USA GPA (Note: n=361 Stopped Out; 228 Transferred)</i>					
2.0 or lower	118	52%	271	75%	-23%
<i>Gender</i>					
Male	100	42%	232	60%	-18%
<i>Orientation Session</i>					
August/ Adult/ Transfer	18	8%	83	22%	-14%
Freshman Session 6	38	16%	109	28%	-12%
<i>High School GPA (Note: n=362 Stopped Out; 235 Transferred)</i>					
3.51-4.0	83	35%	82	23%	+12%
Note: Cells are shaded in yellow where % transferred compared to % stopped out was positive and greater or equal to 10% while cells are shaded in red where % transferred compared to % stopped out was negative and greater than or equal to 10%.					

The number of USA earned hours (second) and USA GPA (fourth) were the other two of the four characteristics with subgroups that showed the greatest differential between non-returning students who “stopped out” and students who transferred.

- 41% of non-returning students who “stopped out” had zero to six USA earned hours (147) compared to 14% of non-returning students who transferred (31).
- 75% of the non-returning students who “stopped out” had a USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (271) compared to 52% of non-returning students who transferred (118).

Three other comparison groups showed percentage based differentials greater than or equal to 10% between students who “stopped out” and students who transferred. These other three comparison groups were: 1) gender, 2) orientation session, and 3) high school GPA.

- 60% of non-returning students who “stopped out” were male (232) compared to 42% of non-returning students who transferred (100).
- 22% of non-returning students who “stopped out” attended the August or an Adult or Transfer new student orientation session (83) compared to 8% of non-returning students who transferred (18).
- 28% of non-returning students who “stopped out” attended the Freshman Session 6 new student orientation session (109) compared to 16% of non-returning students who transferred (38).
- 35% of non-returning students who transferred had a high school GPA between 3.51-4.0 (83) compared to 23% of non-returning students who “stopped out” (82).

Implications

Results showed a large percentage based differential between students who “stopped out” with less than six USA earned hours (27%) and students with a USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (23%) compared to students who transferred. These students may have benefited from programs such as intrusive advising and peer mentoring to improve their odds of persistence at USA or to prepare them to transfer to another institution. While the preference is to encourage USA freshmen

students to continue and persist at USA, a student who successfully transfers to another institution could also be considered a secondary measure of success compared to a complete “stop out” from higher education.

Early indicators for students at greater risk to “stop out” instead of transferring to another institution included students of local origin from Mobile or Baldwin County (28%), living off campus (25%), male (18%), attendance at the August or an Adult or Transfer new student orientation session (14%), and attendance at the Freshman Session 6 new student orientation session (12%). Students with these characteristics were less likely to transfer to another institution.

Of non-returning students who “stopped out”, 50 percent attended the Freshman Session 6, August session, or an Adult or Transfer new student orientation session. Students attending one of these new student orientation sessions should be targeted early with interventions to help them persist and return to USA, assuming they are capable of college work.

APPENDIX

Crosstabs of Fall 2011 Freshman Cohort Non-returning Students

Gender * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Gender	Female	Count	154	138	292
		% within Transferred from USA	40%	58%	47%
	Male	Count	232	100	332
		% within Transferred from USA	60%	42%	53%
Total		Count	386	238	624
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%

Race * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Race	White	Count	209	129	338
		% within Transferred from USA	54%	54%	54%
	African-American	Count	119	78	197
		% within Transferred from USA	31%	33%	32%
	Asian	Count	6	5	11
		% within Transferred from USA	2%	2%	2%
	Hispanic	Count	7	8	15
		% within Transferred from USA	2%	3%	2%
	Non-Resident Alien	Count	10	0	10
		% within Transferred from USA	3%	0%	2%
	Other	Count	35	18	53
		% within Transferred from USA	9%	8%	8%
Total		Count	386	238	624
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%

Age * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Age	20 years or older	Count	37	3	40
		% within Transferred from USA	10%	1%	6%
	17 years or younger	Count	16	17	33
		% within Transferred from USA	4%	7%	5%
	18 years old	Count	284	193	477
		% within Transferred from USA	74%	81%	76%
	19 years old	Count	49	25	74
		% within Transferred from USA	13%	11%	12%
Total		Count	386	238	624
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%

Region * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Region	Mobile or Baldwin County	Count	235	79	314
		% within Transferred from USA	61%	33%	50%
	Rest of Alabama	Count	95	90	185
		% within Transferred from USA	25%	38%	30%
	Mississippi Service Area	Count	18	30	48
		% within Transferred from USA	5%	13%	8%
	Florida Service Area	Count	15	21	36
		% within Transferred from USA	4%	9%	6%
	Rest of United States	Count	13	18	31
		% within Transferred from USA	3%	8%	5%
	International	Count	10	0	10
		% within Transferred from USA	3%	0%	2%
Total	Count		386	238	624
	% within Transferred from USA		100%	100%	100%

HS GPA * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
HS GPA	2.5 or lower	Count	42	14	56
		% within Transferred from USA	12%	6%	9%
	2.51-3.0	Count	123	68	191
		% within Transferred from USA	34%	29%	32%
	3.01-3.5	Count	115	70	185
		% within Transferred from USA	32%	30%	31%
	3.51-4.0	Count	82	83	165
		% within Transferred from USA	23%	35%	28%
Total	Count		362	235	597
	% within Transferred from USA		100%	100%	100%

ACT Composite * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
ACT	18 or lower	Count	78	46	124
		% within Transferred from USA	23%	21%	22%
	19-20	Count	85	50	135
		% within Transferred from USA	25%	23%	24%
	21-23	Count	80	62	142
		% within Transferred from USA	24%	28%	25%
	24-26	Count	56	47	103
		% within Transferred from USA	17%	21%	18%
	27-29	Count	33	11	44
		% within Transferred from USA	10%	5%	8%
	30 or higher	Count	5	6	11
		% within Transferred from USA	1%	3%	2%
Total		Count	337	222	559
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%

Freshman Scholarship * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Freshman Scholarship	No	Count	276	157	433
		% within Transferred from USA	72%	66%	69%
	Yes	Count	110	81	191
		% within Transferred from USA	28%	34%	31%
Total		Count	386	238	624
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%

Other Scholarship * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Other Scholarship	No	Count	339	203	542
		% within Transferred from USA	88%	85%	87%
	Yes	Count	47	35	82
		% within Transferred from USA	12%	15%	13%
Total		Count	386	238	624
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%

Housing * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Housing	Off Campus	Count	207	69	276
		% within Transferred from USA	54%	29%	44%
	On Campus	Count	179	169	348
		% within Transferred from USA	46%	71%	56%
Total		Count	386	238	624
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%

Learning Community * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Learning Community	No	Count	315	182	497
		% within Transferred from USA	82%	76%	80%
	Yes	Count	71	56	127
		% within Transferred from USA	18%	24%	20%
Total		Count	386	238	624
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%

Took Freshman Seminar * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Took Freshman Seminar	No	Count	156	110	266
		% within Transferred from USA	40%	46%	43%
	Yes	Count	230	128	358
		% within Transferred from USA	60%	54%	57%
Total		Count	386	238	624
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%

College * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
College	AH	Count	59	46	105
		% within Transferred from USA	15%	19%	17%
	AS	Count	161	81	242
		% within Transferred from USA	42%	34%	39%
	BU	Count	29	27	56
		% within Transferred from USA	8%	11%	9%
	CS	Count	22	3	25
		% within Transferred from USA	6%	1%	4%
	ED	Count	23	17	40
		% within Transferred from USA	6%	7%	6%
	EG	Count	48	22	70
		% within Transferred from USA	12%	9%	11%
	NU	Count	44	42	86
		% within Transferred from USA	11%	18%	14%
Total		Count	386	238	624
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%

Orientation * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Orientation	August/Adult/Transfer Orientation	Count	83	18	101
		% within Transferred from USA	22%	8%	16%
	May Orientation	Count	14	10	24
		% within Transferred from USA	4%	4%	4%
	Freshman Session 1	Count	27	22	49
		% within Transferred from USA	7%	9%	8%
	Freshman Session 2	Count	27	29	56
		% within Transferred from USA	7%	12%	9%
	Freshman Session 3	Count	31	36	67
		% within Transferred from USA	8%	15%	11%
	Freshman Session 4	Count	37	43	80
		% within Transferred from USA	10%	18%	13%
	Freshman Session 5	Count	58	42	100
		% within Transferred from USA	15%	18%	16%
	Freshman Session 6	Count	109	38	147
		% within Transferred from USA	28%	16%	24%
Total		Count	386	238	624
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%

USA Hours Earned * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
USA Hours Earned	0-6 hours	Count	147	31	178
		% within Transferred from USA	41%	14%	30%
	6.5-12 hours	Count	79	54	133
		% within Transferred from USA	22%	24%	23%
	12.5-18 hours	Count	69	53	122
		% within Transferred from USA	19%	23%	21%
	18.5-24 hours	Count	30	31	61
		% within Transferred from USA	8%	14%	10%
	24.5-30 hours	Count	21	34	55
		% within Transferred from USA	6%	15%	9%
	30.5 or more hours	Count	15	25	40
		% within Transferred from USA	4%	11%	7%
Total		Count	361	228	589
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%

USA GPA * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
USA GPA	2.0 or lower	Count	271	118	389
		% within Transferred from USA	75%	52%	66%
	2.01-2.5	Count	37	33	70
		% within Transferred from USA	10%	14%	12%
	2.51-3.0	Count	23	26	49
		% within Transferred from USA	6%	11%	8%
	3.01-3.5	Count	18	25	43
		% within Transferred from USA	5%	11%	7%
	3.51-4.0	Count	12	26	38
		% within Transferred from USA	3%	11%	6%
Total		Count	361	228	589
		% within Transferred from USA	100%	100%	100%