



2014 Freshman Cohort Non-returning Students: What do we know?

Executive Summary

The following report provides an analysis of 549 first-time full-time degree seeking freshmen in the University of South Alabama (USA) 2014 freshman cohort who did not return to USA in Fall 2015. Of these non-returning students, 216 (39%) transferred to another institution prior to Fall 2015 and 333 (61%) “stopped out” or did not enroll in another college or university.

- Results indicated a large majority of transfer students transferred to another public institution located in Alabama.
- Findings showed a large percentage based differential between students who “stopped out” with a USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (29%) or students with less than six hours earned at USA (17%) and students who transferred and had a similar USA GPA or a similar number of USA hours earned.
- 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 (29%), living off campus (20%), and also male students (14%).

Overview

The following report provides an analysis of 549 first-time full-time degree seeking freshmen in the University of South Alabama (USA) 2014 freshman cohort who did not return to USA in Fall 2015. 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 2015. 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 3,600 colleges and universities in the United States participate in the NSC. With NSC participating institutions enrolling over 98% 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 216 non-returning students who transferred to another institution prior to Fall 2015 and 333 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 scholarship¹ (87%)
- Not on probation after Fall 2014 (76%)
- Did not attend a USA Day (74%)
- 18 years old (74%)
- USA GPA of 2.0 or lower at the end of Summer 2015 (70%)
- Took Freshman Seminar (65%)

¹ Military/ROTC, vocational rehab, employment funded, prepaid AL, MS, or FL tuition, etc.

- White (60%)
- No freshman scholarship² (56%)
- Male (56%)
- Lived off-campus (53%)
- Not in a learning community (52%)
- From Mobile or Baldwin County (51%)
- No Pell Grant (50%)
- Received a JagAlert in Fall 2014 in multiple courses (38%)
- Earned zero to six USA credit hours at the end of Summer 2015 (35%)
- High school GPA between 2.51-3.0 (33%)
- Student in College of Arts and Sciences (29%)
- ACT Composite score of 19 or lower (26%)
- Attended Freshman Session 11 new student orientation session (12%)

Profile of Non-returning Student Who Transferred

- No other scholarship (86%)
- Not on probation after Fall 2014 (82%)
- 18 years old (81%)
- Lived on-campus (77%)
- Did not attend a USA Day (75%)
- Took Freshman Seminar (64%)
- White (60%)
- No Pell Grant (58%)
- Female (58%)
- No freshman scholarship (56%)
- Participated in a learning community (55%)
- USA GPA of 2.0 or lower at the end of Summer 2015 (41%)
- Student in College of Arts and Sciences (40%)
- Received a JagAlert in Fall 2014 in multiple courses (38%)
- From rest of Alabama (38%)
- High school GPA between 3.01-3.5 (37%)
- ACT Composite score of 19 or lower (28%)
- Earned 12.5-18 USA credit hours at the end of Summer 2015 (22%)
- Attended Freshman Session 5 or Freshman Session 11 new student orientation session (12%)

Where Non-returning Students Transferred

Of the 216 non-returning students who transferred, a large majority transferred to an institution with one of the following characteristics (see Table 1 and Table 2). The transfer institution was likely public (95%) and/or located in Alabama (56%). Florida (15%) and Mississippi (12%) were also a likely transfer destination of the non-returning students. Non-returning students were equally split in terms of choosing the type of institution to attend (two year or four year).

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

Public or Private Institution	Count	%	2 or 4 Year Institution	Count	%
Public Institution	205	95%	2 Year Institution	109	50%
Private Institution	11	5%	4 Year Institution	107	50%

² Bay Area, Honors, Mitchell, Presidential, or Starnes merit based scholarships

Table 2: Top States Where USA Students Transferred

Rank	State	Count	%
1	Alabama	122	56%
2	Florida	33	15%
3	Mississippi	25	12%
4	Texas	5	2%
5	Georgia	4	2%

The most common two year transfer institutions of choice (see Table 3) were Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (20), Faulkner State Community College (15), and Bishop State Community College (14). Of the four year universities, Pensacola State College (16), University of Alabama (14), and University of West Florida (9) were the most common transfer destinations.

Table 3: Top Institutions Where USA Students Transferred

Rank	College	Count	%
1	Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College	20	9%
2	Pensacola State College	16	7%
3	Faulkner State Community College	15	7%
4	Bishop State Community College	14	6%
4	University of Alabama	14	6%
6	Jefferson State Community College	11	5%
7	Calhoun Community College	9	4%
7	University of West Florida	9	4%
9	Auburn University	7	3%
10	University of Alabama at Birmingham	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 a large percentage based differential between 333 non-returning students who “stopped out” compared to 216 non-returning students who transferred. The following table displays characteristics with a percentage based differential of 11% or greater between students who transferred and students who “stopped out” (see Table 4 or complete data tables found in the Appendix).

Results showed the USA GPA after the end of Summer 2015 (tied for first) and the number of USA hours earned after the end of Summer 2015 (fourth) were two of the six characteristics with subgroups that showed the greatest differential between non-returning students who “stopped out” and students who transferred.

- 70% of the non-returning students who “stopped out” had a USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (227) compared to 41% of non-returning students who transferred (87) and 17% of the non-returning students who transferred had a USA GPA of 3.01 to 3.5 (36) compared to 6% of non-returning students who “stopped out” (20).
- 35% of non-returning students who “stopped out” completed zero to six USA hours earned (114) compared to 18% of non-returning students who transferred (37), 24% of non-returning students who “stopped out” had 6.5 to 12 USA hours earned (79) compared to 11% of non-returning students who transferred (24), and 18% of non-returning students who transferred had 24.5 to 30 USA hours earned (37) compared to 7% of non-returning students who “stopped out” (22).

Table 4: Characteristics with Greatest Differential between Non-Returning Transfers and Stop Outs

Top within Group Characteristics	Transferred (n=216)	% Transferred	Stopped Out (n=333)	% Stopped Out	% Difference Between Transferred & Stopped Out
<i>USA GPA (Note: n=324 Stopped Out; 210 Transferred)</i>					
2.0 or lower	87	41%	227	70%	-29%
3.01-3.5	36	17%	20	6%	+11%
<i>Region</i>					
Mobile or Baldwin County	48	22%	170	51%	-29%
<i>Housing</i>					
Off-Campus	49	23%	178	53%	-20%
<i>USA Hours Earned (Note: n=324 Stopped Out; 210 Transferred)</i>					
0-6 hours earned	37	18%	114	35%	-17%
6.5-12 hours earned	24	11%	79	24%	-13%
24.5-30 hours earned	37	18%	22	7%	+11%
<i>Gender</i>					
Male	91	42%	188	56%	-14%
<i>College</i>					
Arts & Sciences	86	40%	98	29%	+11%
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 region where the student originated from was another characteristic with a large percentage based differential between non-returning students who “stopped out” and non-returning students who transferred. Students who originated from Mobile or Baldwin County were much more likely to “stop out” than to transfer to another institution.

- 51% of non-returning students who “stopped out” came from Mobile or Baldwin County (170) compared to 22% of non-returning students who transferred (48).

Three additional characteristics showed a percentage based differential greater than or equal to 11% between students who “stopped out” and students who transferred. The additional characteristics were: 1) housing, 2) gender, and 3) the initial college the student selected.

- 53% of non-returning students who “stopped out” lived off campus (178) compared to 23% of non-returning students who transferred (49).
- 56% of non-returning students who “stopped out” were male (188) compared to 42% of non-returning students who transferred (91).
- 40% of non-returning students who transferred initially enrolled in the College of Arts & Sciences (86) compared to 29% of non-returning students who “stopped out” (98).

Implications

Results showed a large percentage based differential between students who “stopped out” with a USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (29%) and students who completed zero to six USA hours earned (17%) compared to non-returning 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 (29%), living off

campus (20%), and also male students (14%). Students with these characteristics were less likely to transfer to another institution and should be targeted early with interventions to help them persist and return to USA.

APPENDIX

Crosstabs of 2014 Freshman Cohort Non-returning Students

Gender * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Gender	Female	Count	145	125	270
		% within Transferred from USA	43.54%	57.9%	49.2%
	Male	Count	188	91	279
		% within Transferred from USA	56.46%	42.1%	50.8%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Race * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Race	White	Count	201	129	330
		% within Transferred from USA	60.4%	59.7%	60.1%
	African-American	Count	88	65	153
		% within Transferred from USA	26.4%	30.1%	27.9%
	Asian	Count	4	5	9
		% within Transferred from USA	1.2%	2.3%	1.6%
	Hispanic	Count	10	7	17
		% within Transferred from USA	3.0%	3.2%	3.1%
	Multiracial	Count	8	6	14
		% within Transferred from USA	2.4%	2.8%	2.6%
	Non-Resident Alien	Count	12	3	15
		% within Transferred from USA	3.6%	1.4%	2.7%
	Other	Count	10	1	11
		% within Transferred from USA	3.0%	.5%	2.0%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Age * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Age	20 years or older	Count	25	5	30
		% within Transferred from USA	7.51%	2.3%	5.5%
	17 years or younger	Count	16	16	32
		% within Transferred from USA	4.8%	7.4%	5.8%
	18 years old	Count	248	176	424
		% within Transferred from USA	74.47%	81.48%	77.2%
	19 years old	Count	44	19	63
		% within Transferred from USA	13.2%	8.8%	11.5%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Region * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Region	Mobile or Baldwin County	Count	170	48	218
		% within Transferred from USA	51.1%	22.2%	39.7%
	Rest of Alabama	Count	97	82	179
		% within Transferred from USA	29.1%	38.0%	32.6%
	Mississippi Service Area	Count	20	23	43
		% within Transferred from USA	6.0%	10.6%	7.8%
	Florida Service Area	Count	17	28	45
		% within Transferred from USA	5.1%	13.0%	8.2%
	Rest of United States	Count	17	32	49
		% within Transferred from USA	5.1%	14.8%	8.9%
	International	Count	12	3	15
		% within Transferred from USA	3.6%	1.4%	2.7%
Total	Count		333	216	549
	% within Transferred from USA		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

HS GPA * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
HS GPA	2.5 or lower	Count	26	12	38
		% within Transferred from USA	8.3%	5.7%	7.2%
	2.51-3.0	Count	105	52	157
		% within Transferred from USA	33.3%	24.8%	29.9%
	3.01-3.5	Count	94	78	172
		% within Transferred from USA	29.8%	37.1%	32.8%
	3.51-4.0	Count	90	68	158
		% within Transferred from USA	28.6%	32.4%	30.1%
Total	Count		315	210	525
	% within Transferred from USA		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

ACT * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
ACT	19 or lower	Count	77	55	132
		% within Transferred from USA	26.46%	27.50%	26.9%
	20-21	Count	67	43	110
		% within Transferred from USA	23.0%	21.50%	22.4%
	22-23	Count	53	39	92
		% within Transferred from USA	18.2%	19.50%	18.7%
	24-25	Count	42	34	76
		% within Transferred from USA	14.4%	17.0%	15.5%
	26-27	Count	24	15	39
		% within Transferred from USA	8.2%	7.50%	7.9%
	28-29	Count	14	5	19
		% within Transferred from USA	4.8%	2.50%	3.9%
	30 or higher	Count	14	9	23
		% within Transferred from USA	4.8%	4.50%	4.7%
Total		Count	291	200	491
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Freshman Scholarship * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Freshman Scholarship	No	Count	186	122	308
		% within Transferred from USA	55.9%	56.48%	56.1%
	Yes	Count	147	94	241
		% within Transferred from USA	44.1%	43.52%	43.9%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Other Scholarship * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Other Scholarship	No	Count	291	186	477
		% within Transferred from USA	87.4%	86.1%	86.9%
	Yes	Count	42	30	72
		% within Transferred from USA	12.6%	13.9%	13.1%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Pell Grant * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Pell Grant	No	Count	166	126	292
		% within Transferred from USA	49.8%	58.3%	53.2%
	Yes	Count	167	90	257
		% within Transferred from USA	50.2%	41.7%	46.8%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Housing * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Housing	Off Campus	Count	178	49	227
		% within Transferred from USA	53.45%	22.7%	41.3%
	On Campus	Count	155	167	322
		% within Transferred from USA	46.55%	77.3%	58.7%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Learning Community * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Learning Community	No	Count	172	97	269
		% within Transferred from USA	51.7%	44.9%	49.0%
	Yes	Count	161	119	280
		% within Transferred from USA	48.3%	55.1%	51.0%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Took Freshman Seminar * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Took Freshman Seminar	No	Count	117	78	195
		% within Transferred from USA	35.1%	36.1%	35.52%
	Yes	Count	216	138	354
		% within Transferred from USA	64.9%	63.9%	64.5%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

College * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
College	AH	Count	66	47	113
		% within Transferred from USA	19.8%	21.8%	20.6%
	AS	Count	98	86	184
		% within Transferred from USA	29.4%	39.8%	33.52%
	BU	Count	24	15	39
		% within Transferred from USA	7.2%	6.9%	7.1%
	CS	Count	21	7	28
		% within Transferred from USA	6.3%	3.2%	5.1%
	ED	Count	26	5	31
		% within Transferred from USA	7.8%	2.3%	5.6%
	EG	Count	58	26	84
		% within Transferred from USA	17.4%	12.0%	15.3%
	NU	Count	40	30	70
		% within Transferred from USA	12.0%	13.9%	12.8%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Number USA Days Attended * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Number USA Days Attended	Did Not Attend	Count	246	162	408
		% within Transferred from USA	73.9%	75.0%	74.3%
	Attended 1 USA Day	Count	83	52	135
		% within Transferred from USA	24.9%	24.1%	24.6%
	Attended 2 USA Days	Count	4	2	6
		% within Transferred from USA	1.2%	.9%	1.1%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Orientation * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Orientation	August/Transfer/Unkn own Orientation	Count	38	11	49
		% within Transferred from USA	11.4%	5.1%	8.9%
May Orientation		Count	5	3	8
		% within Transferred from USA	1.50%	1.4%	1.5%
Freshman Session 1		Count	15	20	35
		% within Transferred from USA	4.50%	9.3%	6.4%
Freshman Session 2		Count	18	7	25
		% within Transferred from USA	5.4%	3.2%	4.6%
Freshman Session 3		Count	14	17	31
		% within Transferred from USA	4.2%	7.9%	5.6%
Freshman Session 4		Count	21	11	32
		% within Transferred from USA	6.3%	5.1%	5.8%
Freshman Session 5		Count	15	25	40
		% within Transferred from USA	4.50%	11.6%	7.3%
Freshman Session 6		Count	24	17	41
		% within Transferred from USA	7.2%	7.9%	7.5%
Freshman Session 7		Count	26	13	39
		% within Transferred from USA	7.8%	6.0%	7.1%
Freshman Session 8		Count	17	19	36
		% within Transferred from USA	5.1%	8.8%	6.6%
Freshman Session 9		Count	33	18	51
		% within Transferred from USA	9.9%	8.3%	9.3%
Freshman Session 10		Count	20	8	28
		% within Transferred from USA	6.0%	3.7%	5.1%
Freshman Session 11		Count	39	25	64
		% within Transferred from USA	11.7%	11.6%	11.7%
Freshman Session 12		Count	35	19	54
		% within Transferred from USA	10.51%	8.8%	9.8%
International Orientation		Count	13	3	16
		% within Transferred from USA	3.9%	1.4%	2.9%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Received JagAlert - Fall 2014 * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Received JagAlert - Fall 2014	No JagAlert in Fall 2014	Count	112	81	193
		% within Transferred from USA	33.6%	37.50%	35.2%
	1 Course w/ JagAlert in Fall 2014	Count	94	58	152
		% within Transferred from USA	28.2%	26.9%	27.7%
	Multiple Courses w/ JagAlert in Fall 2014	Count	127	77	204
		% within Transferred from USA	38.1%	35.6%	37.2%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Probation After Fall 2014 * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
Probation After Fall 2014	No	Count	253	178	431
		% within Transferred from USA	76.0%	82.4%	78.51%
	Yes	Count	80	38	118
		% within Transferred from USA	24.0%	17.6%	21.5%
Total		Count	333	216	549
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

USA Hours Earned * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
USA Hours Earned	0-6 hours	Count	114	37	151
		% within Transferred from USA	35.2%	17.6%	28.3%
	6.5-12 hours	Count	79	24	103
		% within Transferred from USA	24.4%	11.4%	19.3%
	12.5-18 hours	Count	48	47	95
		% within Transferred from USA	14.8%	22.4%	17.8%
	18.5-24 hours	Count	46	37	83
		% within Transferred from USA	14.2%	17.6%	15.54%
	24.5-30 hours	Count	22	37	59
		% within Transferred from USA	6.8%	17.6%	11.0%
	30.5 or more hours	Count	15	28	43
		% within Transferred from USA	4.6%	13.3%	8.1%
Total		Count	324	210	534
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

USA GPA * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		Total
			Stopped Out	Transferred	
USA GPA	2.0 or lower	Count	227	87	314
		% within Transferred from USA	70.1%	41.4%	58.8%
	2.01-2.5	Count	34	29	63
		% within Transferred from USA	10.49%	13.8%	11.8%
	2.51-3.0	Count	30	38	68
		% within Transferred from USA	9.3%	18.1%	12.7%
	3.01-3.5	Count	20	36	56
		% within Transferred from USA	6.2%	17.1%	10.49%
	3.51-4.0	Count	13	20	33
		% within Transferred from USA	4.0%	9.52%	6.2%
Total		Count	324	210	534
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%