2013 Freshman Cohort Non-returning Students: What do we know?

Executive Summary

The following report provides an analysis of 528 first-time full-time degree seeking freshmen in the University of South Alabama (USA) 2013 freshman cohort who did not return to USA in Fall 2014. Of these non-returning students, 220 (42%) transferred to another institution prior to Fall 2014 and 308 (58%) "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 (55%) transferring to a community college.
- Findings showed a large percentage based differential between students who "stopped out" with a USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (36%) or students with less than six hours earned at USA (20%) and students who transferred and had a similar USA GPA or a similar number of USA earned hours.
- 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 (27%), placed on probation after Fall 2013 (23%), living off campus (21%), receiving a JagAlert in multiple courses in Fall 2013 (19%), and also male students (13%).

Overview

The following report provides an analysis of 528 first-time full-time degree seeking freshmen in the University of South Alabama (USA) 2013 freshman cohort who did not return to USA in Fall 2014. 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 2014. 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 220 non-returning students who transferred to another institution prior to Fall 2014 and 308 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 scholarship[1] (93%)
- 18 years old (79%)
- USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (72%)
- Took Freshman Seminar (69%)

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

- White (63%)
- No freshman scholarship[2] (62%)
- Not in a learning community (59%)
- Received a JagAlert in Fall 2013 in multiple courses (58%)
- On probation after Fall 2013 (57%)
- Lived off-campus (55%)
- From Mobile or Baldwin County (54%)
- Male (51%)
- No Pell Grant (50%)
- High school GPA between 3.01-3.5 (38%)
- Earned zero to six USA credit hours (36%)
- Student in College of Arts and Sciences (36%)
- ACT Composite score of 21-23 (25%)
- Attended Freshman Session 4 new student orientation session (17%)

Profile of Non-returning Student Who Transferred

- No other scholarship (91%)
- 18 years old (87%)
- Took Freshman Seminar (68%)
- Not on probation after Fall 2013 (66%)
- Lived on-campus (66%)
- White (65%)
- Female (62%)
- No Pell Grant (59%)
- Not in a learning community (58%)
- No freshman scholarship (57%)
- From rest of Alabama (44%)
- Received a JagAlert in Fall 2013 in multiple courses (39%)
- High school GPA between 3.51-4.0 (38%)
- Student in College of Arts and Sciences (38%)
- USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (36%)
- ACT Composite score of 19-20 or 21-23 (25%)
- Earned 12.5-18 USA credit hours (21%)
- Attended Freshman Session 2 new student orientation session (20%)

Where Non-returning Students Transferred

Of the 220 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 (93%), 2) a two year institution (55%), and/or 3) located in Alabama (61%). Mississippi (17%) and Florida (7%) were 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	204	93%	2 Year Institution	121	55%
Private Institution	16	7%	4 Year Institution	99	45%

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

Table 2: Top States Where USA Students Transferred

Rank	State	Count	%
1	Alabama	134	61%
2	Mississippi	38	17%
3	Florida	15	7%
4	Georgia	7	3%
5	Louisiana	5	2%

The most common two year transfer institutions of choice (see Table 3) were Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (25), Faulkner State Community College (18), and Shelton State Community College (11). Of the four year universities, University of Alabama (13), Pensacola State College (8), and Auburn University at Montgomery (7) were the most common transfer destination.

Table 3: Top Institutions Where USA Students Transferred

Rank	College	Count	%
1	Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College	25	11%
2	Faulkner State Community College	18	8%
3	University of Alabama	13	6%
4	Shelton State Community College	11	5%
5	Bishop State Community College	10	5%
6	Jefferson State Community College	9	4%
7	Lawson State Community College	8	4%
7	Pensacola State College	8	4%
9	Auburn University at Montgomery	7	3%
10	Auburn University	6	3%
10	Calhoun Community College	6	3%
10	University of Alabama at Birmingham	6	3%
10	University of Southern Mississippi	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 308 non-returning students who "stopped out" compared to 220 non-returning students who transferred. The following table displays characteristics with a percentage based differential of 12% 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 (first) and the number of USA earned hours (fifth) were two of the seven characteristics with subgroups that showed the greatest differential between non-returning students who "stopped out" and students who transferred.

- 72% of the non-returning students who "stopped out" had a USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (205) compared to 36% of non-returning students who transferred (76) and 18% of the non-returning students who transferred had a USA GPA of 3.01 to 3.5 (37) compared to 5% of non-returning students who "stopped out" (14).
- 36% of non-returning students who "stopped out" completed zero to six USA earned hours (104) compared to 16% of non-returning students who transferred (33) and 20% of non-returning students who transferred had 24.5 to 30 USA earned hours (43) compared to 7% of non-returning students who "stopped out" (19).

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

Top within Group Characteristics	Transferred (n=220)	% Transferred	Stopped Out (n=308)	% Stopped Out	% Difference Between Transferred & Stopped Out
USA GPA (Note: n=285 Stopped Out; 212 Transferred)					
2.0 or lower	76	36%	205	72%	-36%
3.01-3.5	37	18%	14	5%	+13%
Region					
Mobile/ Baldwin County	59	27%	166	54%	-27%
Rest of Alabama	97	44%	85	28%	+16%
Probation Status after Fall 2013					
On probation after Fall 2013	74	34%	177	57%	-23%
Housing					
Off-Campus	74	34%	168	55%	-21%
USA Earned Hours (Note: n=285 Stopped Out; 212 Transferred)					
0-6 hours	33	16%	104	36%	-20%
24.5-30 hours	43	20%	19	7%	+13%
Number of JagAlerts Received in Fall 2013					
Received a JagAlert in multiple courses	86	39%	179	58%	-19%
Did not receive a JagAlert	72	33%	64	21%	12%
Gender					
Male	84	38%	157	51%	-13%

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 the characteristic with the second 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 were much more likely to "stop out" than to transfer to another institution.

- 54% of non-returning students who "stopped out" came from Mobile or Baldwin County (166) compared to 27% of non-returning students who transferred (59).
- 44% of non-returning students who transferred came from the rest of Alabama (97) compared to 28% of non-returning students who "stopped out" (85).

Four other characteristics showed a percentage based differential greater than or equal to 12% between students who "stopped out" and students who transferred. These other four characteristics were: 1) probation status after Fall 2013, 2) housing, 3) number of JagAlerts received in Fall 2013), and 4) gender.

- 57% of non-returning students who "stopped out" were placed on probation after Fall 2013 (177) compared to 34% of non-returning students who transferred (74).
- 55% of non-returning students who "stopped out" lived off campus (168) compared to 34% of non-returning students who transferred (74).
- 58% of non-returning students who "stopped out" received a JagAlert in Fall 2013 in multiple courses (179) compared to 39% of non-returning students who transferred (86) and 33% of the non-returning students who transferred did not receive a JagAlert in Fall 2013 (72) compared to 21% of non-returning students who "stopped out" (64).
- 51% of non-returning students who "stopped out" were male (157) compared to 38% of non-returning students who transferred (84).

Implications

Results showed a large percentage based differential between students who "stopped out" with a USA GPA of 2.0 or lower (36%) and students who completed zero to six USA earned hours (20%) 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 (27%), living off campus (21%), receiving a JagAlert in multiple courses during their first fall semester (19%), and also male students (13%). 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 Fall 2013 Freshman Cohort Non-returning Students

Gender * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
Gender	Female	Count	151	136	287
		% within Transferred from USA	49.0%	61.8%	54.4%
	Male	Count	157	84	241
		% within Transferred from USA	51.0%	38.2%	45.6%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Race * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
Race	White	Count	193	142	335
		% within Transferred from USA	62.7%	64.55%	63.4%
	African-American	Count	87	56	143
		% within Transferred from USA	28.2%	25.45%	27.1%
	Asian	Count	3	6	9
		% within Transferred from USA	1.0%	2.7%	1.7%
	Hispanic	Count	10	4	14
		% within Transferred from USA	3.2%	1.8%	2.7%
	Multiracial	Count	8	9	17
		% within Transferred from USA	2.6%	4.1%	3.2%
	Non-Resident Alien	Count	1	0	1
		% within Transferred from USA	.3%	0.0%	.2%
	Other	Count	6	3	9
		% within Transferred from USA	1.9%	1.4%	1.7%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Age * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
Age	20 years or older	Count	17	3	20
		% within Transferred from USA	5.52%	1.4%	3.8%
	17 years or younger	Count	17	16	33
		% within Transferred from USA	5.52%	7.3%	6.3%
	18 years old	Count	243	191	434
		% within Transferred from USA	78.9%	86.8%	82.2%
	19 years old	Count	31	10	41
		% within Transferred from USA	10.1%	4.55%	7.8%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Region * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
Region	Mobile or Baldwin County	Count	166	59	225
		% within Transferred from USA	53.9%	26.8%	42.6%
	Rest of Alabama	Count	85	97	182
		% within Transferred from USA	27.6%	44.1%	34.47%
	Mississippi Service Area	Count	23	26	49
		% within Transferred from USA	7.47%	11.8%	9.3%
	Florida Service Area	Count	17	12	29
		% within Transferred from USA	5.52%	5.45%	5.49%
	Rest of United States	Count	16	26	42
		% within Transferred from USA	5.2%	11.8%	8.0%
	International	Count	1	0	1
		% within Transferred from USA	.3%	0.0%	.2%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

HS GPA * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
HS GPA	2.5 or lower	Count	26	11	37
		% within Transferred from USA	8.8%	5.1%	7.2%
	2.51-3.0	Count	82	53	135
		% within Transferred from USA	27.7%	24.4%	26.3%
	3.01-3.5	Count	112	71	183
		% within Transferred from USA	37.8%	32.7%	35.7%
	3.51-4.0	Count	76	82	158
		% within Transferred from USA	25.7%	37.8%	30.8%
Total		Count	296	217	513
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

ACT * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
ACT	18 or lower	Count	39	30	69
		% within Transferred from USA	14.1%	14.6%	14.3%
	19-20	Count	64	51	115
		% within Transferred from USA	23.2%	24.9%	23.9%
	21-23	Count	69	51	120
		% within Transferred from USA	25.0%	24.9%	24.9%
	24-26	Count	62	42	104
		% within Transferred from USA	22.46%	20.49%	21.6%
	27-29	Count	26	26	52
		% within Transferred from USA	9.4%	12.7%	10.8%
	30 or higher	Count	16	5	21
		% within Transferred from USA	5.8%	2.4%	4.4%
Total		Count	276	205	481
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Freshman Scholarship * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
Freshman Scholarship	No	Count	190	126	316
		% within Transferred from USA	61.7%	57.3%	59.8%
	Yes	Count	118	94	212
		% within Transferred from USA	38.3%	42.7%	40.2%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Other Scholarship * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
Other Scholarship	No	Count	286	200	486
		% within Transferred from USA	92.9%	90.9%	92.0%
	Yes	Count	22	20	42
		% within Transferred from USA	7.1%	9.1%	8.0%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Pell Grant * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
Pell Grant	No	Count	154	130	284
		% within Transferred from USA	50.0%	59.1%	53.8%
	Yes	Count	154	90	244
		% within Transferred from USA	50.0%	40.9%	46.2%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Housing * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
Housing	Off Campus	Count	168	74	242
		% within Transferred from USA	54.55%	33.6%	45.8%
	On Campus	Count	140	146	286
		% within Transferred from USA	45.45%	66.4%	54.2%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Learning Community * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
Learning Community	No	Count	182	127	309
		% within Transferred from USA	59.1%	57.7%	58.52%
	Yes	Count	126	93	219
		% within Transferred from USA	40.9%	42.3%	41.48%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Took Freshman Seminar * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
Took Freshman Seminar	No	Count	96	70	166
		% within Transferred from USA	31.2%	31.8%	31.4%
	Yes	Count	212	150	362
		% within Transferred from USA	68.8%	68.2%	68.6%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

College * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
College	AH	Count	57	47	104
		% within Transferred from USA	18.51%	21.4%	19.7%
	AS	Count	111	83	194
		% within Transferred from USA	36.0%	37.7%	36.7%
	BU	Count	18	13	31
		% within Transferred from USA	5.8%	5.9%	5.9%
	CE	Count	2	0	2
		% within Transferred from USA	.6%	0.0%	.4%
	CS	Count	8	9	17
		% within Transferred from USA	2.6%	4.1%	3.2%
	ED	Count	15	11	26
		% within Transferred from USA	4.9%	5.0%	4.9%
	EG	Count	54	28	82
		% within Transferred from USA	17.53%	12.7%	15.53%
	NU	Count	43	29	72
		% within Transferred from USA	14.0%	13.2%	13.6%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Orientation * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
Orientation	August/Adult/Transfer/ Unknown Orientation	Count	41	21	62
		% within Transferred from USA	13.3%	9.55%	11.7%
	May Orientation	Count	5	2	7
		% within Transferred from USA	1.6%	.9%	1.3%
	Freshman Session 1	Count	34	32	66
		% within Transferred from USA	11.0%	14.55%	12.50%
	Freshman Session 2	Count	34	44	78
		% within Transferred from USA	11.0%	20.0%	14.8%
	Freshman Session 3	Count	45	39	84
		% within Transferred from USA	14.6%	17.7%	15.9%
	Freshman Session 4	Count	53	34	87
		% within Transferred from USA	17.2%	15.45%	16.48%
	Freshman Session 5	Count	49	26	75
		% within Transferred from USA	15.9%	11.8%	14.2%
	Freshman Session 6	Count	47	22	69
		% within Transferred from USA	15.3%	10.0%	13.1%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

JagAlert Fall 2013 * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
JagAlert Fall 2013	No JagAlert Fall 2013	Count	64	72	136
		% within Transferred from USA	20.8%	32.7%	25.8%
	1 Course w/ JagAlert Fall 2013	Count	65	62	127
		% within Transferred from USA	21.1%	28.2%	24.1%
	Multiple Courses w/ JagAlert Fall 2013	Count	179	86	265
		% within Transferred from USA	58.1%	39.1%	50.2%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Probation After Fall 2013 * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
Probation After Fall 2013	No	Count	131	146	277
		% within Transferred from USA	42.53%	66.4%	52.46%
	Yes	Count	177	74	251
		% within Transferred from USA	57.47%	33.6%	47.54%
Total		Count	308	220	528
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

USA Hours Earned * Transferred from USA Crosstabulation

			Transferred from USA		
			Stopped Out	Transferred	Total
USA Hours Earned	0-6 hours	Count	104	33	137
		% within Transferred from USA	36.49%	15.6%	27.6%
	6.5-12 hours	Count	75	37	112
		% within Transferred from USA	26.3%	17.45%	22.54%
	12.5-18 hours	Count	50	44	94
		% within Transferred from USA	17.54%	20.8%	18.9%
	18.5-24 hours	Count	29	37	66
		% within Transferred from USA	10.2%	17.45%	13.3%
	24.5-30 hours	Count	19	43	62
		% within Transferred from USA	6.7%	20.3%	12.47%
	30.5 or more hours	Count	8	18	26
		% within Transferred from USA	2.8%	8.49%	5.2%
Total		Count	285	212	497
		% 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	205	76	281
		% within Transferred from USA	71.9%	35.8%	56.54%
	2.01-2.5	Count	34	39	73
		% within Transferred from USA	11.9%	18.4%	14.7%
	2.51-3.0	Count	25	32	57
		% within Transferred from USA	8.8%	15.1%	11.47%
	3.01-3.5	Count	14	37	51
		% within Transferred from USA	4.9%	17.5%	10.3%
	3.51-4.0	Count	7	28	35
		% within Transferred from USA	2.46%	13.2%	7.0%
Total		Count	285	212	497
		% within Transferred from USA	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%