

Where Do They Go from Here?

Using National Student Clearinghouse Data to Track Students Who Leave UNLV

Office of Institutional Analysis and Planning – February 2008

Overview

This study employs National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data to look at students who matriculated at UNLV as first-time freshmen, and then subsequently left the institution and enrolled elsewhere.

The first part of this report presents six-year educational outcomes of all new, full-time freshmen across three cohort years, which is followed by an analysis of those students who did not graduate from UNLV and who were no longer enrolled here after six years. In cases for which NSC records were available, the study tracks students who enrolled at and/or graduated from other institutions.

The second part of the report looks at new freshmen from more recent cohorts, fall 2005 and fall 2006, who were not retained at UNLV after their first and second years.

Six-year Educational Outcomes of New, Full-time Freshmen

Since 2003, the Office of Institutional Analysis and Planning (IAP) has used NSC data to report on new freshmen who did not graduate and were no longer enrolled at UNLV within six years. Table 1 on the following page presents six-year educational outcomes for the three most recent cohorts of first-time, full-time freshmen.

For each of the cohorts presented in Table 1, about 6% graduated from another institution within six years, and an additional 18 to 22% enrolled elsewhere after leaving UNLV. For about 20% of each cohort, NSC did not return any data, and so the status of these students remains unknown.

Data from the two most recent cohort terms (fall 2000 and fall 2001) suggest the following:

- Of students who graduate elsewhere within six years, about 70% earn degrees at four-year institutions, while about 30% earn degrees at two-year institutions.
- While students who graduate elsewhere earn degrees from a wide range of institutions, 33% graduate from CSN, UNR or Nevada State. CSN tops the list with 14%, followed by UNR at 13% and Nevada State at 6%.

Table 1. Six-year Educational Outcomes of First-time, Full-time Freshmen
Fall 1999 - Fall 2001 Cohorts

	Fall 1999 Cohort		Fall 2000 Cohort		Fall 2001 Cohort		Combined 3-yr Cohort (Fall 1999 - Fall 2001)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Graduated	693	46.6%	959	45.1%	1,121	46.3%	2,773	45.9%
Graduated from UNLV	602	40.5%	832	39.1%	977	40.3%	2,411	40.0%
Graduated from another institution	91	6.1%	127	6.0%	144	5.9%	362	6.0%
Total Persisting	448	30.1%	727	34.2%	805	33.2%	1,980	32.8%
Still enrolled at UNLV	176	11.8%	256	12.0%	271	11.2%	703	11.6%
Enrolled elsewhere	272	18.3%	471	22.2%	534	22.0%	1277	21.2%
Total Graduated or Persisting	1,141	76.8%	1,686	79.3%	1,926	79.5%	4,753	78.8%
Total Status Unknown	345	23.2%	440	20.7%	497	20.5%	1,282	21.2%
No NSC record found/Reporting blocked	345	23.2%	440	20.7%	497	20.5%	1,282	21.2%
Total Cohort	1,486	100.0%	2,126	100.0%	2,423	100.0%	6,035	100.0%

Notes: 1) 'Graduated from another institution' includes students who, according to National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data, graduated from another institution within six years of their first term at UNLV. Inclusion in this category does not necessarily reflect the attainment of a baccalaureate degree.

2) 'Enrolled elsewhere' includes students who: A) enrolled at another institution after their last term of enrollment at UNLV (and within the six years following their first term at UNLV); and B) according to National Student Clearinghouse data, did not graduate within the six-year timeframe.

Source: Student Information System, Registrar's Preliminary Reports, IAP Databases; National Student Clearinghouse
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- Of students who enroll elsewhere after leaving UNLV and do not graduate, about 75% attend a single institution and about 25% attend multiple institutions within the six-year timeframe.
- Of these non-graduates who enroll elsewhere, about 60% attend CSN after leaving UNLV.
- The table below shows, for those non-graduates who enroll elsewhere, the top states of the first institution attended after leaving UNLV.

State of Institution	Percent of Non-grads Enrolling Elsewhere	
Nevada	68%	<i>(about 350 students/cohort)</i>
California	10%	<i>(about 50 students/cohort)</i>
Hawai'i	5%	<i>(about 25 students/cohort)</i>
Arizona	3%	
Utah	2%	
Colorado	2%	

- For those non-graduates who leave UNLV and attend another Nevada institution, the clear majority attend CSN.

Nevada Institution	Percent of Non-grads Enrolling	
CSN	89%	<i>(about 300 students/cohort)</i>
Nevada State	4%	<i>(about 15 students/cohort)</i>
UNR	3%	<i>(about 12 students/cohort)</i>
GBC	1%	
ITT Tech	1%	
TMCC	1%	
WNC	1%	

New Freshmen Not Retained/Enrolled Elsewhere in the Second and Third Years

This section looks at new freshmen (full- and part-time) from more recent cohort years, fall 2005 and fall 2006, who were not retained at UNLV during their second and third fall terms. Below, Table 2 shows how many of our new freshmen were still enrolled at UNLV after one and two years and how many did not persist at UNLV and were enrolled at other institutions.

Table 2. First- and Second-year Retention of New Freshmen

Fall 2005 and Fall 2006 Cohorts

	Fall 2005 Cohort		Fall 2006 Cohort	
	#	%	#	%
Second Fall Term				
Enrolled at UNLV	2,174	68.4%	2,011	72.7%
Enrolled Elsewhere	483	15.2%	364	13.2%
Status Unknown	520	16.4%	393	14.2%
Cohort Total	3,177	100.0%	2,768	100.0%
Third Fall Term				
Enrolled at UNLV	1,877	59.1%		
Enrolled Elsewhere	608	19.1%		
Status Unknown	692	21.8%		
Cohort Total	3,177	100.0%		

Source: SIS, Registrar's Preliminary Reports, IAP Databases; National Student Clearinghouse

In Table 2, students are counted as 'Enrolled Elsewhere' if they met the following conditions: 1) they were not enrolled at UNLV during the fall term indicated; and 2) NSC data indicate they were enrolled at another institution at some time during the calendar year of that fall term. For example, the 483 students in the fall 2005 cohort who enrolled elsewhere were: 1) not retained at UNLV in fall 2006, and 2) enrolled at another institution during 2006—that is, spring 2006, summer 2006 and/or fall 2006.

This approach allowed us to better examine not only where these students enrolled, but also when they did so.

- Of those who were not retained at UNLV in the second fall term and attended another institution that year, 28% enrolled elsewhere during the spring, while 65% did not enroll elsewhere until the fall. This pattern was consistent across both cohorts.

In looking at where these students enrolled as of the second fall term, the patterns are comparable to the earlier cohorts discussed above.

- Again, most students enrolled in Nevada, followed by California and Hawai'i, with the remaining students fairly dispersed. The following table shows the top states among these students in the fall 2005 and fall 2006 cohorts (n=847).

State of Institution	Percent of Students Enrolling Elsewhere
Nevada	59%
California	11%
Hawai'i	4%
Arizona	3%
Oregon	2%
Colorado	2%

The above rates were similar for students who enrolled elsewhere as of the third fall term.

- Of those who enrolled at other Nevada institutions, again the majority attended CSN.

Nevada Institution	Percent of Students Enrolling
CSN	86%
UNR	10%
Nevada State	2%
ITT Tech	1%
WNC	1%
TMCC	0.4%

- As of the second fall term, 71% of the students enrolled at two-year institutions, and 28% at four-year institutions. As of the third fall term, 65% were enrolled at two-year institution, and 34% at four-year institutions.

Summary

Of new freshmen who leave UNLV and enroll at another institution, most attend CSN.