



***INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY***

WITHDRAWING STUDENTS

Summer 2014-Spring 2015

Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Office of Institutional Research

Summary

Student retention, though always important, has become increasingly so in recent years with the projected decline in the number of high school graduates across the state of Oklahoma. Efforts have been made to determine why students leave the university without completing their programs of study. If actionable reasons can be identified, resources could be focused on ameliorating conditions leading to some of these withdrawals; and, barring additional deterrents, retention of our student population should improve. The first step remains—to determine what forces impact students leading them to decide to withdraw from school.

Please note that the Student Withdrawal Request form has two parts: The front page is utilized by the Registrar's Office; on the back of the form is a withdrawal survey used by the Office of Institutional Research. Although some of the information from the Student Withdrawal Request form is useful for institutional research purposes, most of the information reported herein is based on responses to the survey on the back of the form (see Appendix A for a copy of the Student Withdrawal Request form).

The Institutional Research Office received 169 completed Student Withdrawal Requests for academic year 2014-2015. Four respondents noted receiving veterans' benefits. Forty-one percent (41%) entered OSUIT from high school, and 34% transferred from another college or university.

Although fifty-five percent (55%) of withdrawing students said they planned to return to OSUIT on the Student Withdrawal Request form, only 36 percent stated they would re-enroll at OSUIT in the future on the survey; 64% had enrolled initially with the intention to graduate. Reasons for withdrawal ran the gamut of survey options with financial reasons (20%) and family reasons (16%) leading the way. Only five of the 169 withdrawing students (3%) experienced academic problems leading to academic suspension and/or administrative withdrawal.

Reasons given for withdrawal, summarized

- 32 – Change: Majors, schools, careers, relocation
- 29 – Cost: Lack of financial aid, affordability issues
- 28 – Personal: Most were unspecified; others included family responsibilities, family loss, burn-out and taking time off
- 19 – Health: Pregnancy, family illness and caretaker responsibilities, personal health
- 16 – Inadequate Preparation: Not making grades, not passing required exams
- 9 – Scheduling: Primarily conflicts with work schedules
- 6 - Employment: Job opportunities

For students who accessed services, 18 (10.7%) of these respondents reported receiving tutoring services through the LASSO Center; ten (5.9%) accessed campus counseling services; thirty-five (20.7%) discussed withdrawal with their advisors; thirty-nine (23.1%) spoke with a financial aid counselor before withdrawal. However, most reported that they did not need the services offered.




When asked “How could we have helped you stay in school?” a small number reported that more scholarships (9%) and more flexible schedules (8%) would help; 54 (32%) provided open-ended “other” responses regarding housing issues, appeals processes, and a Bachelor of Science degree option. Additionally, 17 “other” responses revealed that the students’ issues were outside the control of OSUIT; 82 students (49%) did not answer. Most of the remaining comments were positive and express regret over needing to leave school.




More than half of these withdrawing students expressed their intentions to return to OSUIT once they had cleared up whatever issues they faced. However, many withdrawing students did not take advantage of services that might have helped them fend off these issues that interrupted their academic careers. Perhaps additional efforts could be made to encourage students to engage in these services, particularly through the Counseling Office and Student Financial Services, before they feel the need to withdraw.

Q3. Are you receiving veteran/military education benefits?				
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents	
Yes	4	2.37%		
No	130	76.92%		
(Did not answer)	35	20.71%		
Total Responses	169		20%	40% 60% 80% 100%








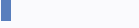
Q6. Semester				
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents	
Summer 2014	1	0.59%		
Fall 2014	106	62.72%		
Spring 2015	62	36.69%		
Summer 2015	0	0%		
Fall 2015	0	0%		
Spring 2016	0	0%		
Summer 2016	0	0%		
Fall 2016	0	0%		
Spring 2017	0	0%		
(Did not answer)	0	0%		
Total Responses	169		20%	40% 60% 80% 100%





Q11. Do you plan to return to OSUIT?				
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents	
Yes	93	55.03%		
No	56	33.14%		
(Did not answer)	20	11.83%		
Total Responses	169		20%	40% 60% 80% 100%































Q17. Have you contacted the above departments? (Academic Advisor, Bursar, SFS, Residential Life)					
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents		
Yes	33	19.53%			
No	86	50.89%			
(Did not answer)	50	29.59%			
Total Responses	169		20%	40%	60%
			80%	100%	

Q19. FOR OFFICE USE ONLY					
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents		
Withdrawal	99	58.58%			
Cancel	60	35.50%			
(Did not answer)	10	5.92%			
Total Responses	169		20%	40%	60%
			80%	100%	

Note: Multiple answers per participant possible. Percentages added may exceed 100 since a participant may select more than one answer for this question.

Q20. What type of school did you attend prior to entering OSUIT?					
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents		
None/GED	9	5.33%			
High School	64	37.87%			
Technical School	8	4.73%			
Two-year College	27	15.98%			
Four-year College	13	7.69%			
Graduate/Professional College	3	1.78%			
Other (please specify)	4	2.37%			
(Did not answer)	41	24.26%			
Total Responses	169		20%	40%	60%
			80%	100%	

Q22. When you first came to OSUIT, were you planning to graduate?					
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents		
Yes	108	63.91%			
No	6	3.55%			
Undecided	12	7.10%			
(Did not answer)	43	25.44%			
Total Responses	169		20%	40%	60%
			80%	100%	

Q23. Why did you leave? (Mark all that apply.)				
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents	
(Did not answer)	36	21.30%		
Financial reasons	34	20.12%		
Family reasons	27	15.98%		
Other (please specify)	24	14.20%		
Lack of financial aid	17	10.06%		
Work	16	9.47%		
Unhappy with grades	13	7.69%		
Moving/relocation	13	7.69%		
Conflict between job and school	12	7.10%		
Health reasons	12	7.10%		
Did not budget correctly	11	6.51%		
Taking a break from school	11	6.51%		
Accepted full-time job	10	5.92%		
Transfer to another college	10	5.92%		
Transportation issues	7	4.14%		
Scheduling issues	5	2.96%		
Financial suspension	5	2.96%		
Housing/roommate issues	5	2.96%		
Coursework was too difficult	4	2.37%		
Unsatisfied with course content	4	2.37%		
Academic suspension	3	1.78%		
Major not offered at OSUIT	3	1.78%		
Home sick	3	1.78%		
Uncertain about the value of an education	3	1.78%		
Coursework was not challenging	2	1.18%		
Lack of study skills needed	2	1.18%		
Too many requirements	2	1.18%		
Learned all I wanted to learn at this time	2	1.18%		
My job does not require more college	2	1.18%		
Unfriendly faculty and staff	1	0.59%		
Lack of quality of instruction	0	0%		
Could not find a job on campus	0	0%		
Total Responses	299		20%	40%
			60%	100%

Note: Multiple answers per participant possible. Percentages added may exceed 100 since a participant may select more than one answer for this question.

Q24. Did you use any of the Tutoring Services at the LASSO Center?					
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents		
Yes	18	10.65%			
No	102	60.36%			
(Did not answer)	49	28.99%			
Total Responses	169		20%	40%	60%
			80%	100%	

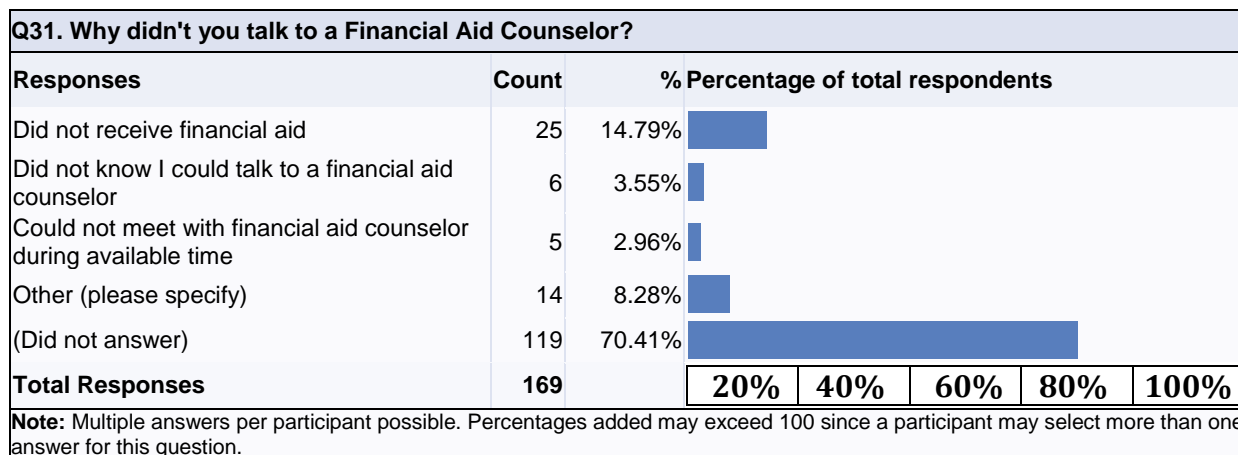
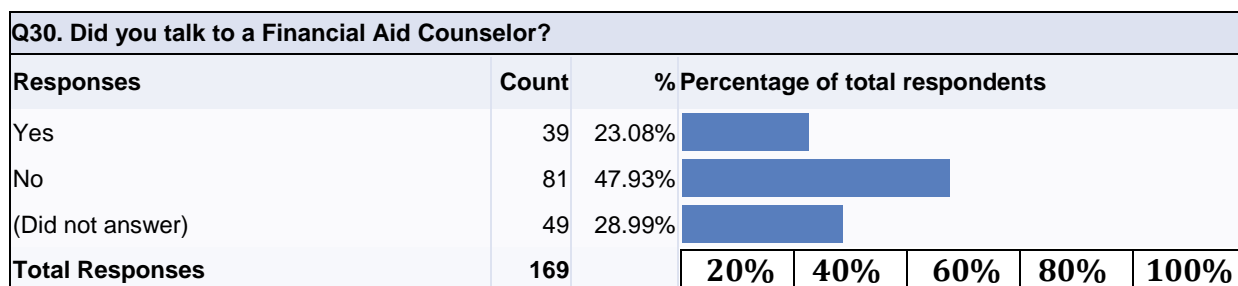
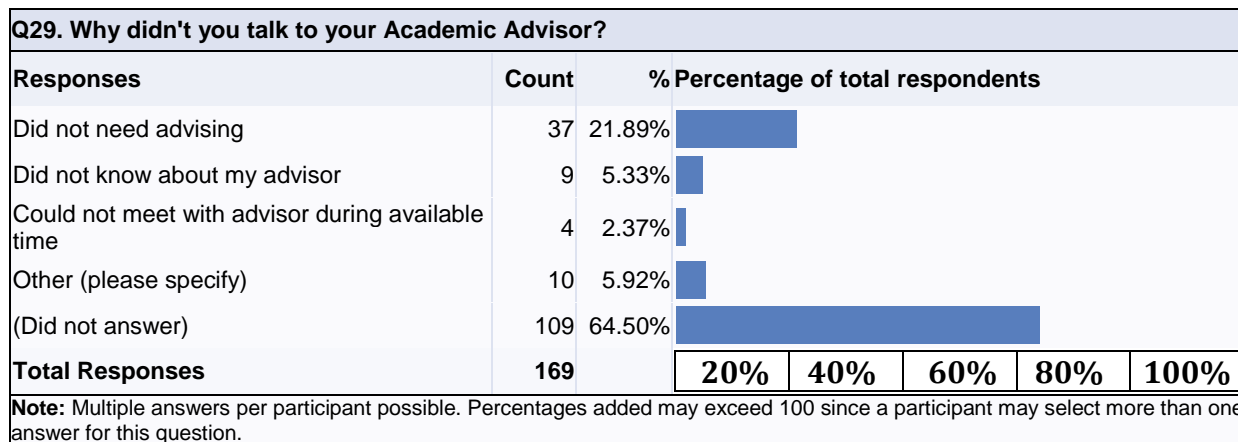
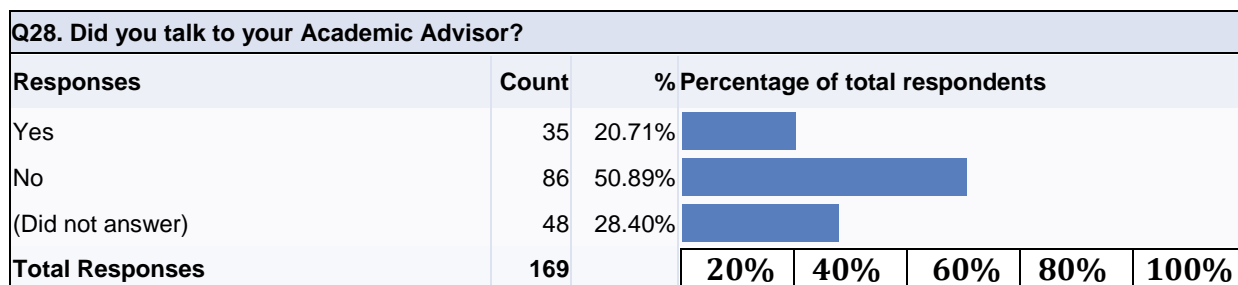
Q25. Why didn't you use the Tutoring Services?					
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents		
Did not need tutoring	44	26.04%			
Did not know about tutoring	3	1.78%			
Could not meet with tutor during available time	8	4.73%			
Other (please specify)	11	6.51%			
(Did not answer)	103	60.95%			
Total Responses	169		20%	40%	60%
			80%	100%	

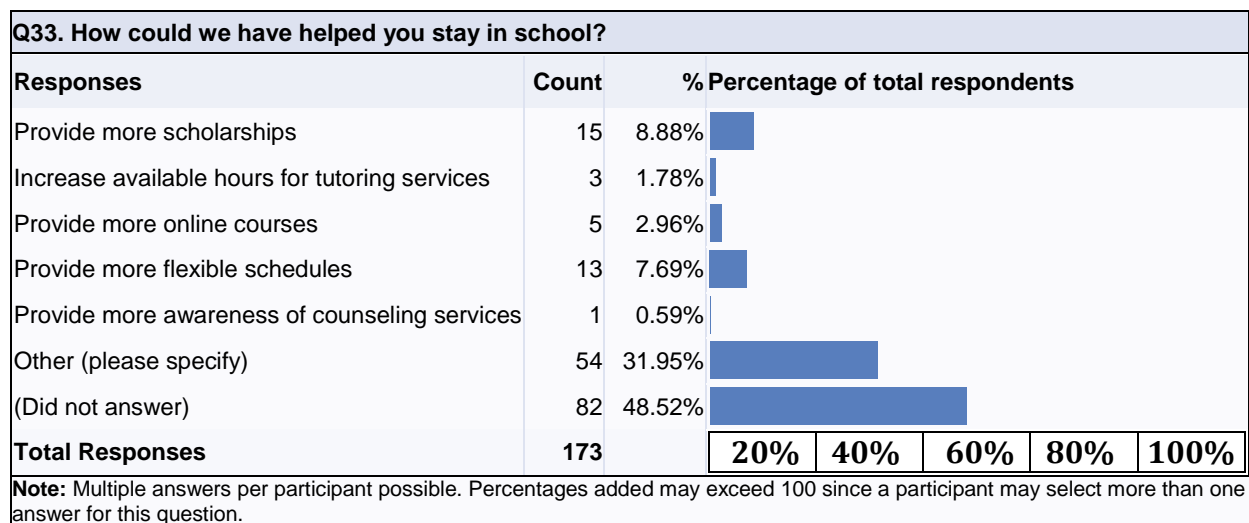
Note: Multiple answers per participant possible. Percentages added may exceed 100 since a participant may select more than one answer for this question.

Q26. Did you use any of the Counseling Services?					
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents		
Yes	10	5.92%			
No	112	66.27%			
(Did not answer)	47	27.81%			
Total Responses	169		20%	40%	60%
			80%	100%	

Q27. Why didn't you use the Counseling Services?					
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents		
Did not need counseling	59	34.91%			
Did not know about counseling	7	4.14%			
Could not meet with counselor during available time	2	1.18%			
Other (please specify)	6	3.55%			
(Did not answer)	95	56.21%			
Total Responses	169		20%	40%	60%
			80%	100%	

Note: Multiple answers per participant possible. Percentages added may exceed 100 since a participant may select more than one answer for this question.





Appendix A:
Student Withdrawal Request form



Institute of Technology

Student Withdrawal Request

Print or Type All Information

The official date of withdrawal is the last date of class attendance.

Refunds and grades will be determined by this date in accordance with OSUIT withdrawal policy.

NOTE: A withdrawal may require returning Financial Aid, thus creating a student account bill.

Name _____ CWID _____ Date _____

Are you receiving veteran/military education benefits? Yes No IF YES, Veteran Coordinator Initials _____

Program of Study _____ Sem _____ Last Day of Class Attendance _____

Reason for Withdrawal: _____

Forwarding Information:

Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

County _____ Phone Number _____ Alt Phone Number _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ Email Address _____

Do you plan to return to OSUIT? Yes No When? _____

It is advised that all students contact the following department(s) prior to withdrawal from school.

Comments / Signatures from Advisors:

Academic Department / Advisor
Bursar's Office / Cashier's Office
Student Financial Services
Residential Life (on-campus students only)

Have you contacted the above departments? Yes No, I accept all responsibilities for my withdrawal.

I accept any and all academic and financial consequences of my withdrawal from OSUIT.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Withdrawal (student has attended)

Cancel (Student has never attended)

University Appeals Committee:

Processed _____

Date _____



Student Withdrawal Request, Continued

Please complete this survey regarding why you are leaving OSUIT. Your response is important and always kept private and confidential. Your responses, combined with other responses, help us improve student services. Contact Michelle Canan, Director of Institutional Research, with questions on survey at michelle.canan@okstate.edu.

What type of school did you attend prior to entering OSUIT? (Select one option)

- None/GED Technical School 4-Year College Other (please specify):
 High School 2-Year College Graduate/Professional College

Do you plan to re-enroll at OSUIT? (Select one option)

- Yes No Undecided

When you first came to OSUIT, were you planning to graduate? (Select one option)

- Yes No Undecided

Why are you leaving? (Select ALL that apply)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Lack of quality instruction | <input type="radio"/> Coursework was not challenging | <input type="radio"/> Academic suspension |
| <input type="radio"/> Lack of study skills needed | <input type="radio"/> Coursework was too difficult | <input type="radio"/> Scheduling issues |
| <input type="radio"/> Major not offered at OSUIT | <input type="radio"/> Unsatisfied with course content | <input type="radio"/> Too many requirements |
| <input type="radio"/> Unfriendly faculty and staff | <input type="radio"/> Could not find a job on campus | <input type="radio"/> Financial reasons |
| <input type="radio"/> Did not budget correctly | <input type="radio"/> My job does not require more college | <input type="radio"/> Financial suspension |
| <input type="radio"/> Housing/roommate issues | <input type="radio"/> Conflict between job and school | <input type="radio"/> Family reasons |
| <input type="radio"/> Transfer to another college | <input type="radio"/> Taking a break from school | <input type="radio"/> Health reasons |
| <input type="radio"/> Lack of financial aid | <input type="radio"/> Unhappy with grades | <input type="radio"/> Moving/relocation |
| <input type="radio"/> Accepted full-time job | <input type="radio"/> Transportation issues | <input type="radio"/> Home sick |
| <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ | <input type="radio"/> Learned all I wanted to learn at this time | <input type="radio"/> Work |
| <i>(please specify)</i> | <input type="radio"/> Uncertain about the value of an education | |

Did you use any of the Tutoring Services at the LASSO Center? (Select one)

- Yes No IF No, why didn't you use Tutoring Services? (Select All that apply)
 Did not need tutoring Could not meet with tutor during available time
 Did not know about tutoring Other: (Specify) _____

Did you use any of the Counseling Services? (Select one)

- Yes No IF No, why didn't you use the Counseling Services: (Select All that apply)
 Did not need counseling Could not meet counselor during available time
 Did not know about counselor Other: (Specify) _____

Did you talk to your Academic Advisor about withdrawing? (Select one)

- Yes No IF No, why didn't you talk to your Academic Advisor? (Select All that apply)
 Did not need advising Could not meet advisor during available hours
 Did not know about advisor Other: (Specify) _____

Did you talk to a Financial Aid Counselor? (Select one)

- Yes No IF No, why didn't you talk to a Financial Aid Counselor? (Select All that apply)
 Did not receive Financial Aid Could not meet with Fin. Aid during available hours
 Did not know about Fin. Aid Other: (Specify) _____

How could we have helped you stay in school?

- More scholarships Increase tutoring hours Additional flexible schedules
 More online courses More counseling services Other: _____

Any comments about the services offered at OSUIT?

Do you have any other comments/suggestions to help OSUIT improve services to students? Any suggestions about additional services beneficial to OSUIT students?
