

# **Non-Returning Student Survey 2012 Cohort**



**Southeastern Louisiana University  
Office of Institutional Research**

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	<b>Sample</b>	<b>Population</b>
<b>Honors</b>		
Yes	0.6%	1.4%
No	94.2%	98.6%
<b>Pell Grant</b>		
Total	\$318,424.00	\$1,716,999.00
Mean	\$3,980.30	\$3,902.27
Minimum	\$550.00	\$301.00
Maximum	\$5,550.00	\$5,550.00
Mode	\$5,550.00	\$5,550.00
% of total	46.0%	50.0%
<b>TOPS</b>		
Total	\$207,629.50	\$1,166,549.50
Mean	\$2,208.82	\$2,234.77
Minimum	\$200.00	\$200.00
Maximum	\$3,853.00	\$3,853.00
Mode	\$1,926.50	\$1,926.50
% of total	42.0%	48.0%
<b>Honors Scholarship</b>		
Total	\$27,164.50	\$165,943.00
Mean	\$1,293.55	\$1,211.26
Minimum	\$500.00	\$61.50
Maximum	\$2,314.50	\$6,510.00
Mode	\$1,800.00	\$500.00
% of total	12.0%	14.0%

## **Procedure**

The Office of Institutional Research worked with Admissions to identify orientation leaders to conduct the phone survey. These students were trained and supervised by Institutional Research staff. The survey was conducted from 6 pm - 9 pm Monday through Thursday.

## **Instrument**

The survey first asked a series of questions to determine if students planned on returning to Southeastern in the future, and if they had intended to obtain a degree when they began at Southeastern. Respondents who indicated they did not plan on returning to Southeastern were given a list of possible reasons why a student might leave college, and were asked to rate whether it was a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason at all in their decision to leave Southeastern. Students who indicated that they did plan to continue their education at Southeastern were first asked when they planned to return to Southeastern. They were then given a list of possible reasons why a student might stop attending Southeastern for a while, and were asked to rate whether each item was a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason at all in their decision to “stop-out.” The final section asked for demographic information that is not collected as a part of the application or registration process, such as the number of children a student has and how far they have to travel to campus. The entire survey can be found in Appendix A.



### Financial Analysis- Stop Outs

The following table shows financial aid amounts for students who indicated that financial reasons were a reason they stopped out.

<b>Pell Grant</b>		<b>Average</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of Pell Grant Recipients</b>
Needed to earn more money	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$4,454	\$600	\$5,550	10	10.1%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$3,580	\$1,800	\$5,550	5	5.0%
Encountered unexpected educational expenses	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$4,263	\$600	\$5,550	6	6.0%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$4,062	\$1,800	\$5,550	9	9.0%
Tuition & fees too high	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$3,283	\$600	\$5,550	3	3.0%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$3,804	\$1,800	\$5,550	6	6.0%
Did not receive enough financial	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$3,810	\$600	\$5,550	5	5.0%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$4,386	\$2,250	\$5,550	8	8.0%



<b>Honors Scholarships</b>		<b>Average</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of Honors Scholarship recipients</b>
Needed to earn more money	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$750	\$750	\$750	1	1.0%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$775	\$500	\$1,050	2	2.0%
Encountered unexpected educational expenses	<i>Major Reason</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$1,050	\$1,050	\$1,050	1	1.0%
Tuition & fees too high	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$750	\$750	\$750	1	1.0%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$1,050	\$1,050	\$1,050	1	1.0%
Did not receive enough financial aid	<i>Major Reason</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$625	\$500	\$750	2	2.0%

TOPS		Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count	% of TOPS recipients
Needed to earn more money	<i>Major Reason</i>					

## Drop Outs

Most of the Drop-outs (57%) intend to finish their education elsewhere. When asked what school they have or will enroll in, the most commonly cited school was Baton Rouge Community College. Of the students that decided to enroll in another school, 74% (n=52) have enrolled in at least one community college or university. A small number of students (14%, n=10) enrolled in at least two community colleges and/or universities after attending Southeastern. Table 3 provides the schools students identified as having enrolled in or planning to enroll in.

**Table 3: Schools Where Respondents Have or Plan to Enroll**

School	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Aveda Institute	1	1.4%
Baton Rouge Community College	10	14.3%
California	1	1.4%
College of Coastal Georgia	1	1.4%
Compass Career College	1	1.4%
Delgado Community College	8	11.4%
Eastern College in New Orleans	1	1.4%
Grantham University	1	1.4%
Holy Cross	2	2.9%
LSU	6	8.6%
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary	2	2.9%
Nicholls	3	4.3%
Northern Michigan University	1	1.4%
Northshore Technical Community College	3	4.3%
Northwestern State	1	1.4%
Our Lady of the Lake	6	8.6%
Paul Mitchell Cosmetology school	1	1.4%
Remington	1	1.4%
River Parishes Community College	1	1.4%
South Central Louisiana Technical College	5	7.1%
Southern University	2	2.9%
Thomas Nelson Community College	1	1.4%
University of Louisiana Lafayette	5	7.1%

University of Alabama	1	1.4%
UNO	5	7.1%

Respondents were then asked what was the main reason they decided to attend another school. Fourteen percent (n=24) of the respondents indicated Southeastern did not have the major in which they were interested. Eight percent (n=14) said they decided to attend another school because it is closer to home. Financial reason and grades/gpa both yielded two percent. All the responses can be found in Appendix B.

Next, Drop-outs were asked to indicate whether each of forty-five possible reasons was a Major Reason, a Minor Reason, or Not a Reason for their decision to leave Southeastern. “Decided to attend a different college” was the item with the largest endorsement, with 25% of respondents indicating it was a major reason they left Southeastern. This was followed by “The major you wanted was not available at Southeastern” (15%) and “Moved to a new location” (14%).

Table 4 provides the percentage of endorsement for Major Reason, Minor Reason, and Not a Reason for each item.

**Table 4**  
**Percentage of Endorsement for Major Reason, Minor Reason, and Not a Reason**

	<b>Major Reason</b>	<b>Minor Reason</b>	<b>Not a Reason</b>
Decided to attend a different college	40.4%	25.3%	18.2%
The major you wanted was not available at Southeastern	24.2%	11.1%	48.5%
Dissatisfied with your grades	16.2%	16.2%	51.5%
Moved to a new location	21.0%	12.1%	51.5%
Too much stress	15.2%	16.2%	53.5%
Wanted a break from your college studies	4.0%	24.2%	55.6%
Dissatisfied with your major	12.1%	16.2%	57.6%
Tired of commuting to Southeastern	12.1%	15.2%	57.6%
Too much conflict between the responsibilities of family and school	9.1%	14.1%	59.6%
Wanted to get work experience	7.1%	16.2%	60.6%
Family or personal health-related problem	13.1%	10.1%	60.6%
Did not have the study skills required to succeed in college	6.1%	14.1%	62.6%
Too much conflict between the responsibilities of work and school	6.1%	15.2%	62.6%
Dissatisfied with the social life at Southeastern	4.0%	16.2%	62.6%
Accepted a full-time job	10.1%	10.1%	63.6%

	<b>Major Reason</b>	<b>Minor Reason</b>	<b>Not a Reason</b>
Family responsibilities were too great	8.1%	11.1%	63.6%
The cost of gas was too high to commute	7.1%	12.1%	63.6%
Suspended or placed on probation	9.1%	13.1%	63.6%
Lost your TOPS scholarship	9.1%	9.1%	64.6%
There were too many required courses	5.1%	13.1%	65.7%
Could not get into the program you wanted	11.1%	6.1%	65.7%
Courses were too difficult	4.0%	14.1%	66.7%
Tuition & fees too high	3.0%	16.2%	66.7%
Could not find part-time work	7.1%	8.1%	66.7%
You were disappointed with the quality of instruction at Southeastern	6.1%	10.1%	67.7%
Did not receive enough financial aid	6.1%	9.1%	67.7%
Did not feel like you fit in	2.0%	14.1%	68.7%
Problems with residence hall	3.0%	10.1%	68.7%
Had problems scheduling classes	5.1%	9.1%	70.7%
Academic advising was inadequate	4.0%	9.1%	71.7%
Your parents and/or other relatives influenced you to quit	2.0%	7.1%	71.7%
Courses were not challenging	0.0%	11.1%	71.7%
Southeastern did not promote an atmosphere conducive to learning	3.0%	9.1%	71.7%
Unhappy with Southeastern's rules and regulations	1.0%	9.1%	71.7%
Could not find affordable housing you liked	4.0%	9.1%	71.7%
Dissatisfaction with residence hall	4.0%	7.1%	72.7%
Southeastern was too large for you	4.0%	9.1%	72.7%
Did not intend to get a degree when you started at Southeastern	5.1%	6.1%	72.7%
Experienced racism, prejudice or sexism	5.1%	6.1%	72.7%
Impersonal attitudes of college faculty and /or staff	3.0%	7.1%	73.7%
Southeastern was too small for you	1.0%	10.1%	73.7%
Could not find and /or afford child care	2.0%	7.1%	74.7%
Dealing with hurricane related problems	2.0%	6.1%	75.8%
Inadequate facilities for physically handicapped students	2.0%	4.0%	75.8%
Credit car debt was too much	3.0%	4.0%	76.8%

**Financial Analysis- Drop Outs**

The following table shows financial aid amounts for students who indicated that financial reasons were a reason they dropped out.

<b>Pell Grant</b>		<b>Average</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of Pell Grant recipients</b>
Tuition & fees too high	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$3,767	\$950	\$5,550	3	6.1%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$4,359	\$1,671	\$5,550	8	16.3%
Did not receive enough financial aid	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$5,550	\$5,550	\$5,550	3	6.1%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$4,395	\$1,671	\$5,550	6	12.2%
Could not receive part-time work	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$4,300	\$950	\$5,550	6	12.2%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$3,944	\$694	\$5,550	4	8.2%
Credit card debt was too much	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$5,550	\$5,550	\$5,550	2	4.1%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$5,200	1	2.0%





<b>TOPS</b>		<b>Average</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of TOPS recipients</b>
Tuition & fees too high	<i>Major Reason</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$2,054	\$200	\$3,853	8	16.3%
Did not receive enough financial aid	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$1,063	\$200	\$1,927	1	2.0%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$3,023	\$800	\$3,853	5	10.2%
Could not receive part-time work	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$2,569	\$1,927	\$3,853	3	6.1%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$2,348	\$200	\$3,853	4	8.2%
Credit card debt was too much	<i>Major Reason</i>	\$3,853	\$3,853	\$3,853	1	2.0%
	<i>Minor Reason</i>	\$2,890	\$1,927	\$3,853	2	4.1%

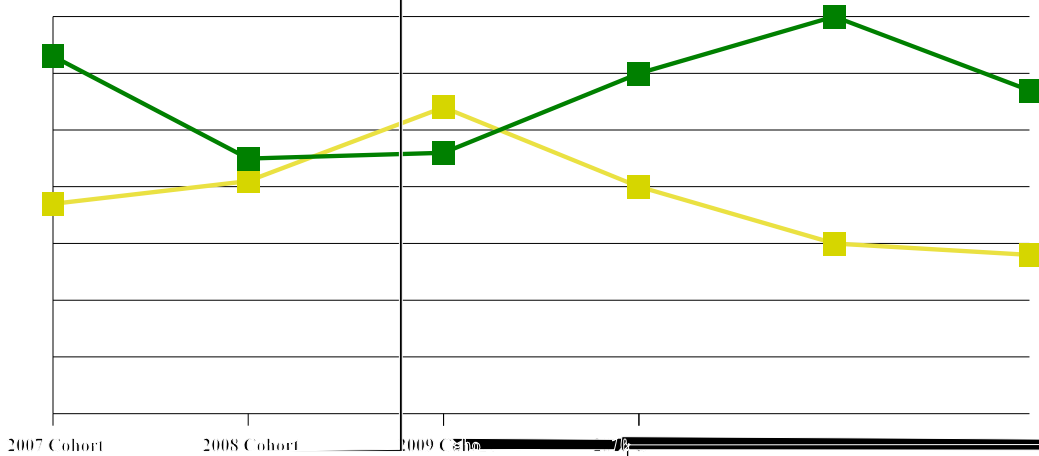
## **Difficult Course(s)**

Students were asked if they had problems with any particular course. Forty-seven respondents

**Comparison to Previous Years**

The percentage of students who are stop-outs (plan to return to Southeastern) vs. drop-outs continues to decrease. Stop-outs yielded a two percent decrease between the 2011 Cohort and the 2012 Cohort. The graph below shows the change over the past five years. This year, "Needed to earn more money" was the first ranked reason for student stopping out. The second reason was "Had family responsibilities to take care of." Both "Needed a break from school" and "Academic problems" hold the third ranking.

As in the past, the main reason students dropped out was due to "Decided to attend a different college." The second reason was "the major you wanted was not available at Southeastern."



## References

Terenzini, P.T., Springer, L. Yaeger, P.M., Pascarella, E.T., & Nora, A. (1996). First-generation college students: Characteristics, experiences, and cognitive development. Research in Higher Education, 37(1), 1-22.

**Appendix A**  
**Non-Returning Student Survey**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling from the Southeastern Louisiana University.

12. Dissatisfied with your grades
13. Suspended or placed on probation
14. Courses were too difficult
15. Courses were not challenging
16. Southeastern did not promote an atmosphere conducive to learning
17. There were too many required courses
18. You were disappointed with the quality of instruction at Southeastern
19. The major you wanted was not available at Southeastern
20. Could not get into the program you wanted
21. Dissatisfied with your major
22. Academic advising was inadequate
23. Had problems scheduling classes
24. Lost your TOPS Scholarship
25. Did not have the study skills required to succeed in college
26. Could not find affordable housing you liked
27. Unhappy with Southeastern's rules and regulations
28. Impersonal attitudes of college faculty and/or staff
29. Dissatisfied with the social life at Southeastern
30. Experienced racism, prejudice or sexism
31. Inadequate facilities for physically handicapped students
32. Encountered unexpected expenses
33. Did not receive enough financial aid
34. Decided to attend a different college
35. Could not find part-time work
36. Wanted to get work experience
37. Accepted a full-time job
38. Too much conflict between the responsibilities of work and school
39. Too much conflict between the responsibilities of family and school
40. Too much stress
41. Dealing with hurricane related problems
42. The cost of gas was too high to commute
43. Credit card debt was too much
44. Tuition & Fees too high

### **Stop-Out questions**

1. When do you plan to return to Southeastern
  - 1 - Next semester
  - 2 - Within the next year
  - 3 - Within the next two years
  - 4 - Within the next five years
  - 5 - Not sure at this time

For the following reasons I read, please tell me if they were a minor reason, a major reason, or no reason at all for why you decided to stop attending Southeastern for a while.

*(1=Major Reason, 2=Minor Reason, 3=Not a Reason)*

2. Needed to earn more money
3. Had family responsibilities to take care of
4. Needed a break from school
5. Military obligation
6. Religious obligation
7. Work interfered with school
8. Academic problems
9. Health reasons
10. Could not schedule the classes you needed

**Demographics:**

Southeastern is looking for ways to help students remain in school. The following information may help us better meet the needs of students like yourself.

1. Did you have problems with any particular course?  
**If yes, which course(s)?**
2. What is your marital status?
  - 1-Never Married
  - 2-Married
  - 3-Divorced
  - 4-Separated
  - 5-Widowed
  - 6-Refused
3. u1 Tw(2.)-2248.9(W)9.ha6-Wgl875-W6-Wgl873paratedTwowed



4. The last time you attended Southeastern, how many miles did you have to travel (one way) to reach Southeastern's main campus, or did you live on campus?
  - 1-Lived on campus
  - 2-Less than 5 miles
  - 3-Between 5 and 10 miles
  - 4-Between 11 and 20 miles
  - 5-Between 21 and 30 miles
  - 6-More than 30 miles
  
5. Did you work on or off campus?
  - 1-Did not work **(Skip to Question 6)**
  - 2-Worked on campus
  - 3-Worked off campus
  - 4-Worked both on and off campus
  
6. How many hours did you work a week?
  - 1-No more than ten hours
  - 2-Eleven to twenty hours
  - 3-Twenty-one to thirty hours
  - 4-More than thirty hours
  
7. What was your Mother's highest level of education?
  - 1-No high school diploma
  - 2-High School diploma/GED
  - 3-Some college
  - 4-Associate Degree
  - 5-Bachelor's Degree
  - 6-Graduate or Professional Degree
  - 7-Unknown or refused
  
8. What was your Father's highest level of education?
  - 1-No high school diploma
  - 2-High School diploma/GED
  - 3-Some college
  - 4-Associate Degree
  - 5-Bachelor's Degree
  - 6-Graduate or Professional Degree
  - 7-Unknown or refused

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact:  
Dr. Michelle Hall  
in the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment  
(985) 549-2077

**Appendix B**  
**What is the main reason you decided to attend \_\_\_\_\_?**

.Wasn't happy in hammond  
Because he failed Southeastern  
Because I can get a job faster  
because i switched majors  
Because I wanted to do high end fashion  
because of the math department was not cooperating with my schedule and traveling plans.  
Better for my major- Theatre.  
biology major the department was horrible bad instruction no help  
Changed major  
cheaper, smaller  
closer to home  
Closer to home  
commute  
Conflict of interest. He wanted to go into the ministry  
degree from LSU looks better  
Didn't have major  
Different program/major.  
expenses  
Felt overwhelmed at Southeastern, very new atmosphere, everything seemed much harder and alot  
more work.  
Finacial Reason  
for the nursing program. felt closer to nursing  
Got tired of commuting  
I wanted to do hair.  
INterior design and southeastern didnt have it  
It is closer to where she is living currently.  
IT Tech Program  
It's closer to her house  
Just better  
Liked the campus a little bit better. It's smaller.  
Location. just closer to home.  
Major changed and it wasn't offered at Southeastern.  
more hands on doing work with hands  
My daughter was born and the changes to the nursing curriculum was too much. I am doing radiation  
tech.  
My feet cannot handle the size of campus..  
My major  
needed an engineering major  
no place to stay in louisiana  
Petroleum Engineering Program  
problems with southeastern closer to home  
pursue opportunities that weren't offered at southeastern

Quicker Program for operator off shore.

remedial

Second semester of freshman year she was pregnant, it was more financially responsible for my family.

i would come back if i could. i love southeastern.

smaller

social life

Southeastern didn't have your major, industrial technology.

southeastern no longer had major

Sports scholarship

suited more to what i wanted to do.

Suspended from southeastern and couldn't get back in to southeastern because of the math

Switched major and didn't offer it here

Tech school. She likes more hands on education

The sonography program

They have better online courses

To be back at home

to move back to nola

To pull up my GPA to attend a different nursing school

Travel- i commuted everyday

Ultrasound program

Wanted to be closer to home, really liked Southeastern .

Wanted to go to a better nursing school

Was unsure if she would get into SLU nursing school

**Appendix C**  
**Did you have problems with any particular course?**

Art History 101- professor needed to have more appreciation for the students, be happy for the students, it was very boring and non-engaging, no variety of curriculum, same thing everyday, just read powerpoints.

Calculus

Chem 122- The professor was not good at teaching, got a high B at LSU, all he did was read a powerpoint, he did not do problems, had Professor Parkinsons.

chemistry

Chemistry Biology

computer program. code writing. more than he thought it was. it was more difficult then he originally imagined.

English 101

english 102

math

Math

Math Dr. Lisa Kuhn He was told that tutoring would get back to him, but they never did. He feels he would have passed math if he had received tutoring.

Math Reading

Math - College Algebra

Math & English

Math 155

MATH 155

Math 155 had too much homework and lots of papers in english 101. felt as if he was teaching himself in Math.

Math 155 was a huge issue. Main issue. Pretty difficult.

Math 155- very difficult

Math 155-class was not difficult but the online work was not achievable

Math 155, he was not comprehending what the math teacher was saying, the math lab helped

math 161

Math 161

MATH 161

math 161 and biology 153

Math 161.

Math 1e

