Finding the Right Fit
An Analysis of Freshmen Who Dropped Out of ISU and Graduated Elsewhere

Of the full-time students who began at Indiana State University between 2009 and 2012, on average 62% of the freshmen returned for their sophomore year. Approximately 22% graduated in four years. Of the students who left ISU after one year, 616 students (17%) went on to earn an associate or bachelors degree from another institution. This analysis is about those students who left and graduated elsewhere.

Had all of these students stayed at ISU, the retention rate could have increased as much as 8%, and the 4-Yr graduation rate could have increased by 3%. Most of those students (80%) left in good standing.

As one would assume, the vast majority (87%) of the students return to their home state to earn a degree. Nationally, students at public 4-yr institutions are on average 82 miles away from home. (Hillman and Weichman, 2016). Similarly, 62% of the students from the Wabash Valley earned a degree from Ivy Tech and 12% earned a degree from Vincennes.

Of the students who went on to earn a bachelors degree elsewhere, 49% earned that degree within four years. The top three institutions where they earned that degree were Ball State, IU-Bloomington, and IUPUI.

Ninety-three students who were a Nursing Non-Designated major earned a degree elsewhere; 13 of them graduated with a Registered Nursing degree. A little less than half (42%) earned their degree at Ivy Tech. A majority of them (n=45 or 48%) earned a degree in Health Professions and Related Programs, primarily as a Medical/Clinical Assistant.

**Top Graduating Institutions of Students From:**
- Vigo County IN
  - Ivy Tech
  - IU Bloomington
  - IUPUI
- Marion County IN
  - IUPUI
  - Ivy Tech
  - IU Bloomington
- Cook County IL
  - Eastern Illinois
  - Chicago State

**Top Ten Degrees of Students Who Left and Graduated Elsewhere**
- Health Professions and Related Programs
- Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services
- Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities
- Homeland Security, Law Enforce, Firefighting & Related Protective Serv
- Education
- Social Sciences
- Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs
- Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies
- Public Administration and Social Service Professions
- Psychology

**Had They Stayed at ISU**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort Yr</th>
<th>Return Rate</th>
<th>4yr Grad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>71.8%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>66.4%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>67.0%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Time to Associate or Bachelor Degree Earned Elsewhere**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Yr</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Yrs</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Yrs</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Yrs</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Yrs</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Yrs</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tbody>
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**Sources:**
- National Student Clearinghouse data; 2009 N=650  2010 N=1,075  2011 N=990  2012 N=969
- Indiana State University Blue Reports, Success Rates
- American Council on Education