2013 Fall-to-Spring Non-Returning Student Survey

Preliminary Findings

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Methodology

The 2013 Fall-to-Spring Non-Returning Student Survey canvassed all students enrolled in Fall 2012 but not Spring 2013 between the ages of 18 and 21. IRI conducted telephone interviews with 790 of 2,223 students, and with an additional 495 adult relatives where the students themselves could not be contacted. The general margin of error for student interviews is ±2.9%

Among All Non-returning Students
$(N = 2,223)$
One-third of non-returning 18-21 year-old students left to serve a mission in the immediate future, 31% of whom have not yet applied to serve.

Nearly as many non-returning students are working as plan to serve a mission in the 2012-13 academic year, accounting for two-thirds of those without immediate mission plans.

Among All Respondents ($n = 1,269$)

- 35.9% AY 2012-13 Missionaries
- 35.0% Later Missionaries
- 11.1% Working
- 8.2% Attending another college
- 9.8% Other Non-Mission
Missionaries largely plan to enroll at UVU soon after returning.

Approximately six in seven plan to return to UVU. Most of those who do not plan to attend UVU plan to attend other institutions on their return.

Among Student Respondents Planning Missionary Service ($n = 318$)

- Enroll at UVU Immediately: 61.0%
- Enroll at UVU within 1 yr.: 21.1%
- Enroll at UVU after 1 yr.: 12.3%
- Enroll at Another School: 4.1%
- Not Enroll in School: 1.6%
Men are somewhat more likely than women to plan missionary service, but there are negligible differences in the post-mission plans of women and men.
Both missionary and non-mission planning students reflect the preponderance of lower class-standing among younger non-returning students.

Among All Respondents
\( n = 1,275 \)
Non-missionary students are generally older than missionary students, as would be expected from typical patterns of missionary service.

Among All Respondents
(n = 1,275)
Non-Missionary Activities

Those not planning missions overwhelmingly plan to work as their primary activity.

Those leaving to work were generally satisfied with scheduling options, found UVU’s cost of attendance reasonable, and believe college is important to their future success, suggesting that job opportunities in a recovering economy are an important factor in retention.

Among Student Respondents not Planning Missionary Service
\( n = 441 \)
Those not planning mission service also generally plan to enroll at UVU soon after returning, but are less likely to do so than missionaries.

Among Student Respondents not Planning Missionary Service
\( (n = 421) \)
The further educational plans of non-returning students suggests moderate medium-term effects on enrollment.

Because of the high rates at which non-returning students anticipate returning to UVU, IRI estimates that two-thirds of lost 18 to 21 year old students will have returned by Fall 2016.

Estimate for All Non-Returning 18-21 Year-Olds
(n = 2,223)
Leaves of Absence are underutilized, but awareness is widespread.

Fewer than half of non-returning students have submitted leaves of absence. Those planning for mission service, however, are substantially more likely to be aware of and somewhat more likely to have applied for a leave.

Among All Student Respondents

\( n = 421 \)