



**BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY**

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

## **Follow-up on Fall 2012 Students Who Did Not Return to Boise State in Fall 2013**

Enrollment for the fall 2013 term was down over 900 students compared to the prior fall term. In an attempt to better understand the enrollment drop, this report follows the students who did not return in fall 2013.

Questions include:

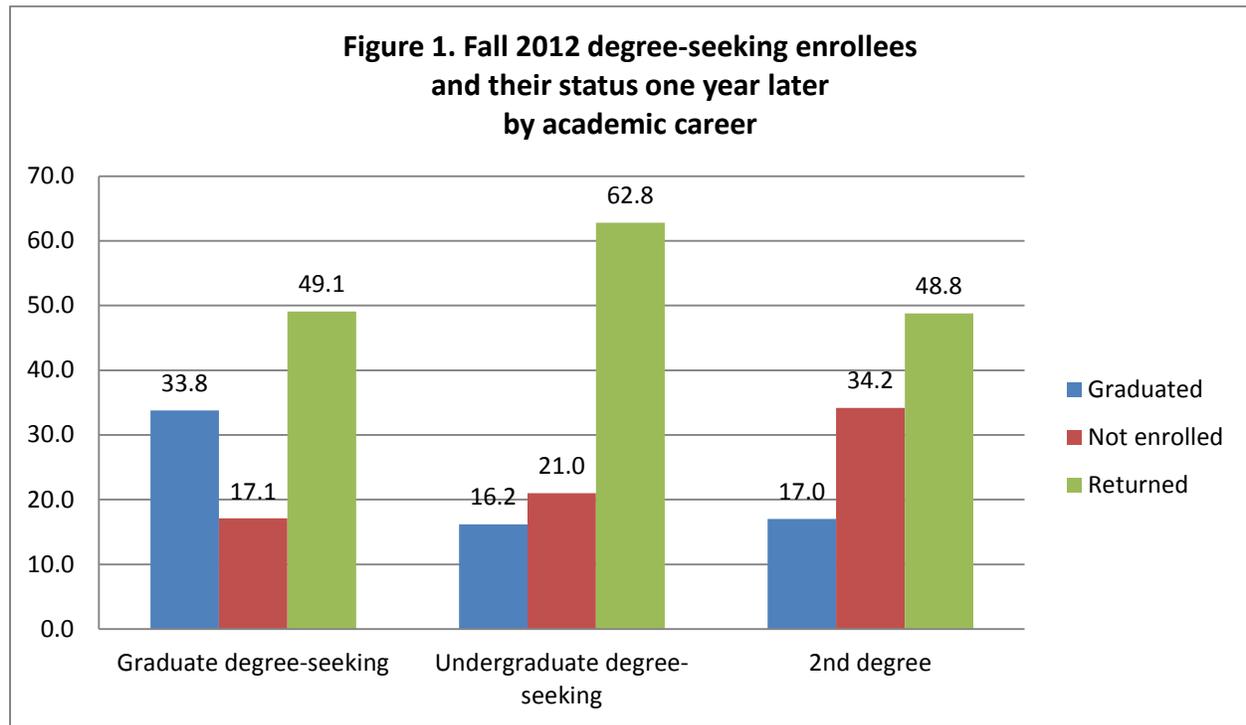
1. What was the status of fall 2012 students in fall 2013? How many returned? How many graduated? How many were not enrolled?
2. Of the students who had not graduated and were not enrolled in fall 2013, how many transferred to another institution? Where did they go?
3. Were there differences that characterized students who transferred vs. students who left and did not transfer?
4. Of the students who transferred, were there differences between students who transferred to the College of Western Idaho (CWI) and those who went elsewhere?

The analysis is based on 20,558 students who were degree-seeking by the end of fall 2012: 17,668 undergraduates, 778 students seeking another undergraduate degree, and 2,112 graduate students. The National Student Clearinghouse was used to track enrollment subsequent to Boise State. Enrollments at other institutions were limited to those reported by early October. It is assumed that this timeframe captured most fall enrollments, though a few late enrollments may have been missed for this analysis.

### **What was the status of fall 2012 students in fall 2013?**

Figure 1 below shows the status of the fall 2012 students in fall 2013. At the graduate level, a third graduated, and almost half returned to Boise State. At the undergraduate level, however, a different pattern is observed. In this case, 16% graduated and 63% returned, leaving 21% unaccounted for. While second degree students were just as likely to graduate as other undergraduates, they were also more likely to not return to Boise State the following fall semester (34% vs. 21%). In total, 4,341 students (361 graduate students, 266 second degree students, and 3,714 undergraduates) did not re-enroll one year later.

We assume that undergraduates early in their academic careers would be more likely to leave the institution and that is exactly what we see: 64% of freshmen (defined by credits) returned compared to 75% of sophomores and 80% of juniors. Therefore, the 1,374 freshmen and 982 sophomores who did not return in the fall of 2013 are the focus of the remainder of the analysis.



### Where did our non-enrolled freshmen and sophomores go?

About 26% of freshmen and sophomores transferred to another institution. About 50% were found at an Idaho institution. Overall, 46% transferred to four-year schools and 54% at two-year schools. The largest numbers of enrollments were found at the College of Western Idaho (171 or 28%). Idaho State University had the second largest number of enrollments with 52. A listing of the institutions with five or more transfer enrollments can be found in Table 1 below.

Overall, however, about 75% of lower-division students just left Boise State and did not enroll anywhere else. These students may be considered to be “stop-outs.”

**Table 1. Top ten institutions to receive Boise State lower division transfers**

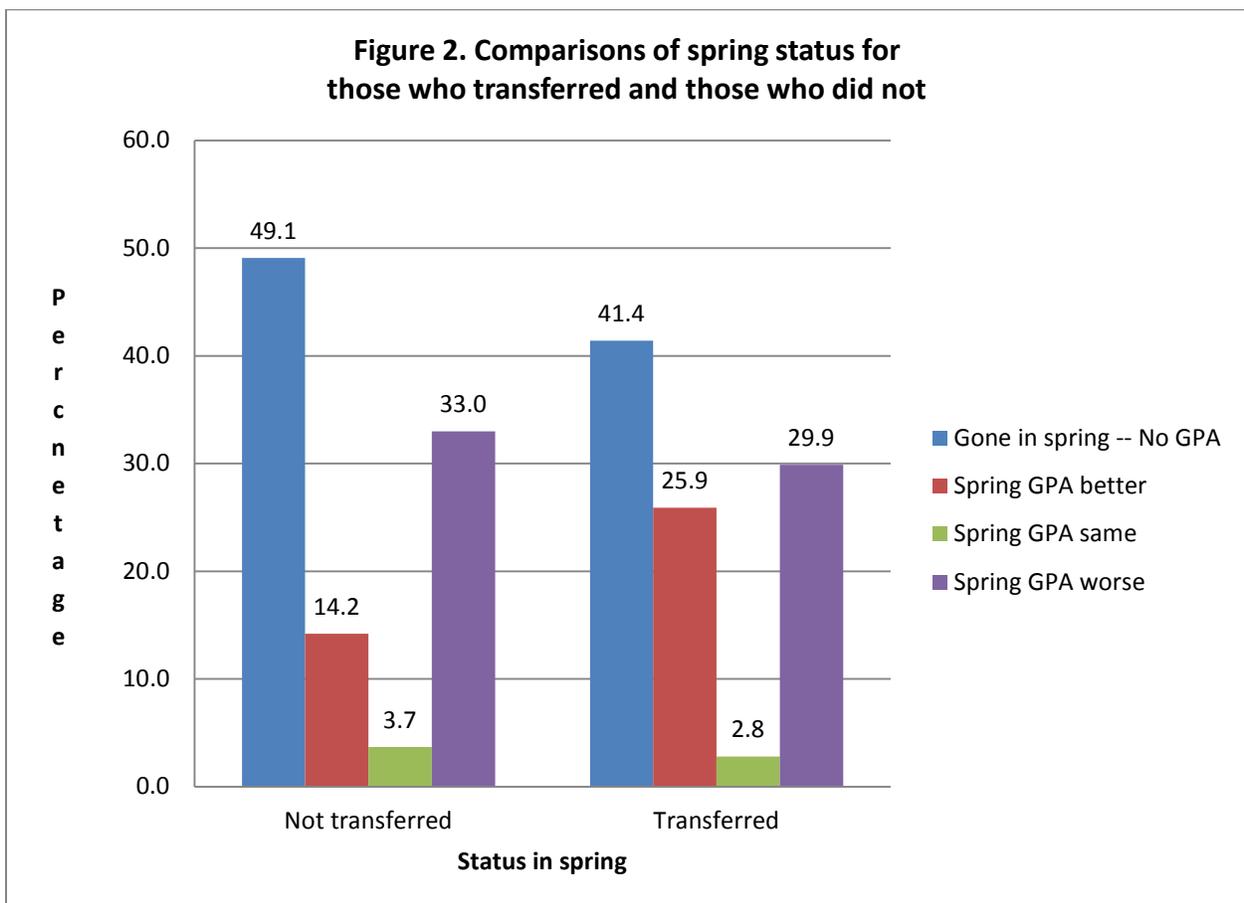
Institution name:	Number of enrollments
College of Western Idaho	171
Idaho State University	52
University of Idaho	25
College of Southern Idaho	23
Treasure Valley Community College	15
Carrington College	11
Washington State University	10
University of Alaska – Fairbanks	9
North Idaho College	8
University of Nevada – Reno	7
BYU – Idaho	7
Lewis-Clark State College	6

## Were there differences between students who transferred to another institution and those who stopped out?

Compared to students who left, students who transferred took more credits their first semester (12.7 vs. 11.6), had a higher first semester GPA (2.14 vs. 1.61), and were somewhat younger (21.3 vs. 23.4).

To see if the progress that students were making at Boise State was related to whether they transferred or dropped out, checks were made to see if the spring GPA increased or decreased compared to fall. By spring, almost half (49%) of the students who would be missing in the following fall (not transferred) were already gone in the spring compared to 41% of the students who would be found as transfers the following fall. It appears, therefore, that many students make up their minds early about their plans to continue or not at Boise State. Students who transfer are more likely to be enrolled in the spring compared to those who stop out.

Of those who were still enrolled in the spring, their spring GPAs were related to whether or not they would ultimately transfer. For the students who transferred out, 26% had an improved spring GPA compared to 14% for those who stopped out. Full details can be found in Figure 2 below.



**Were there differences between those who chose CWI and those who went elsewhere?**

Students who chose the College of Western Idaho (CWI) over another institution tended to be older (23.5 years vs. 20.5 years for non-CWI transfers), to have taken fewer credits (11.6 vs. 13.1), and to have a much lower fall 2012 GPA (1.39 vs. 2.43). Not surprisingly, almost everyone who transferred to CWI was an Idaho resident. In addition, it appears that more transferred immediately after the fall semester since fewer spring GPAs were available for the CWI transfers.

**Conclusions:**

Many students who were not enrolled in fall 2013 signaled their intent to leave Boise State by not enrolling in the subsequent spring semester. Students who transferred tended to be younger and to have had greater academic success prior to their transfer. Students who specifically chose CWI, however, were non-traditional Idaho residents who generally had not experienced academic success at Boise State.

January 2014  
Prepared by: Marcia Belcheir, Ph.D.  
Office of Institutional Research