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Factors Affecting persistence of Non-Traditional Students in a Non-Traditional Baccalaureate Degree Program

Dixie Lee Lund
Portland State University

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FACTORS AFFECTING PERSISTENCE OF NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS
IN A NON-TRADITIONAL BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM

by

DIXIE LEE LUND

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION
in
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Portland State University
1989

TO THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES;

The members of the Committee approve the dissertation
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I also thank my employer, Eastern Oregon State College and many of my colleagues there, for having the vision which created the External Degree in response to the unmet educational needs of so many adult learners throughout Oregon and beyond. Thanks especially to my supervisor, Dr. Lee Insko, and the entire staff of the Eastern Oregon State College Division of Continuing Education for their support of my own "continuing education" and especially of this project which required that they assume an additional workload during my absence.

I thank the members of my dissertation committee, Drs. Jack Lind, Carol Burden, Alice Jacobson, Milton Bennett all of Portland State University, and Dr. Jens Robinson of Eastern Oregon State College, and especially the Chair of the committee from Portland State, Dr. Mary Kinnick, for her steadfast support during my entire doctoral program.

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Dixie L. Lund

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AN ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION OF Dixie Lee Lund for the
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership presented
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Title: Factors Affecting Persistence of Non-Traditional
Students in a Non-Traditional Baccalaureate
Degree Program

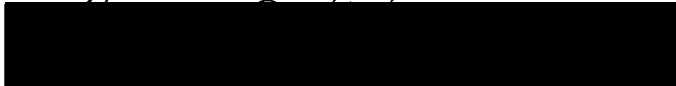
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Carol A. Burden


Alice Jacobson


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Jens J. Robinson

Limited theoretical research exists regarding attri-
tion of nontraditional (older, part-time, commuter) students
on American college and university campuses today. Thus,

when colleges or universities seek to improve programs specifically designed for such students, there is no broad research base on which to rely. The present study sought to determine if there were differences, especially ones the institution could do something about, between non-traditional students who left such a program and those who completed it.

A conceptual model of non-traditional student attrition, developed by adult educators/researchers, Drs. John Bean and Barbara Metzner, provided the theoretical base for the study. Data were obtained from 80 questions on a survey mailed to 469 leavers and finishers in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program. The questions represented four variable categories of the Bean/Metzner model: (1) background, (2) defining, (3) academic, and (4) environmental, and psychological (satisfaction) and academic outcomes. Of the 402 deliverable surveys, 82% were returned from 112 leavers and 204 finishers.

Chi-square and t-tests of significance provided little differentiation between leavers and finishers on background and defining variables. For example, leavers and finishers were similar in age (most were 44-46 years); the majority were Caucasian, married, and had children; lived in Oregon communities of less than 50,000 population within 60 miles of a post-secondary institution (not necessarily Eastern Oregon State College); had performed well (3.00-3.49 GPA) in

high school; and were employed outside the home at least 30 hours a week.

Differences in the leavers and finishers' educational goals (a background variable) and the grade level at which they entered the Program (a defining variable) were statistically significant at $p < .05$. A significant number of leavers had either no degree aspirations or sought only an associate, rather than the baccalaureate provided by the External Degree Program. And, though a majority of leavers and finishers entered the Program as juniors, a significant number of leavers began as either freshmen or sophomores. Gender alone did not account for differences in attrition. However, female participants, whether leavers or finishers, had significantly fewer (if any) children than did either leaving or finishing male participants. And, married women finished the Program significantly more often than did single women.

Numerous academic and environmental variables accounted for significant differences between leavers and finishers. For example, the majority of leavers left early; over half indicated they left "before they ever really got started." Conversely, most finishers indicated that by using several non-traditional credit options (especially assessment-of-prior-learning, correspondence, and weekend college), they were able to average at least 12 credits each term of their participation. Though most of the leavers and

finishers participated in the Program's prior learning workshop, only a majority of finishers received credit for essays developed after workshop instruction.

The greatest barrier confronting leavers and finishers was lack of time. Finishers cited, however, more often than did leavers, a reduction in the amount of time they normally spent with spouses, friends, and in civic responsibilities while participating in the Program. Neither finances nor distance posed significant problems for leavers or finishers, whether rural or urban. Personal motivation, rather than career expectation, was the primary reason for participating in the Program for leavers and finishers. And, other than the emotionally supportive spouses of leavers and finishers, an encouraging environment of significant others (friends, employer, parents, children) was either absent or significantly less evident in the lives of the leavers than in the finishers.

Study findings indicated areas within the External Degree that were perceived and/or interacted with differently by leavers than by finishers. There is, therefore, an opportunity for Eastern Oregon State College to intervene with changes that should improve the retention of the non-traditional students who participate. Recommendations included revising the assessment-of-prior-learning workshop and developing a peer mentoring system and a two-year degree Program.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

More adults are attending American colleges and universities today than ever before. According to the Carnegie Council and the U.S. Department of Education (cited in Bean & Metzner, 1985), this trend is expected to continue. Coupled with a decrease in the number of traditional-age college students (18-22 years), this non-traditional student population is composing an increasingly larger proportion of the undergraduate college student body. As Flaherty (1978) recognizes:

Faced with the prospect of steadily declining numbers of students in the 18-22 year-old age group, administrators of institutions of higher education recognized the necessity of finding a new source of students. Not only have adult part-time learners been encouraged to attend college classes, they have been actively recruited by admissions officers. (p. 375)

Of the 12 million college students enrolled today, over half of the undergraduates are women, two of five are over 25 years old, and more than 40% attend college part-time (National Institute of Education, cited in Bean and Metzner, 1985).

What has caused this influx of adult students? The following summary, extracted from Bean and Metzner (1985, p. 486-487), may explain some of the causes.

1. Institutional: The birth of the community college movement in the 1960s drew many adult, part-time students not only to two-year institutions, but also into the four-year colleges and universities.
2. Curricular: Faced with dwindling numbers of traditional-age college students, institutions revamped their curricula and scheduling to recruit adult students and respond to their particular demands. The result? Even more adults entered the college environment in response to expanded course offerings and availability.
3. Political: The Allied victory in World War II and the resulting support for "democratic" institutions enhanced by former President Truman's 1947 report, Higher Education for American Democracy, popularized the college movement. Coupled with financial incentives from the federal government (the GI Bill, Basic Educational Opportunity and Pell Grants, for example), and a U.S. sense of threatening competition from the Soviet Union's successful launch of Sputnik, the political atmosphere fostered a belief in the value of higher education.
4. Economic: A decrease in the number of blue-collar jobs and a corresponding increase in the number of higher-paying positions requiring specialized training have sent large numbers of non-traditional students to educational institutions for vocational purposes.
5. Social: The changing perception of women's roles into expanded job positions; the perception/reality of the need for a two-income family; the decrease in the number of children that couples are choosing to have; and general sociological support for life-long learning, have all had the effect of sending more adults into college and university settings.

Even though the number of adult students continues to rise, such a rise:

Has not been enough to counter the decline in the size of the high school graduates. In 1984,

total enrollment in higher education shrank from a 1981 high of 12.37 million students to 12.2 million. It is predicted to further decline to an estimated low of 10.5 million in 1995 before increasing again in the latter part of the decade. (Tinto, 1987, p. 2)

Declining enrollments and the prospects of a continued shrinkage of the pool of traditional-age potential college students have resulted in attention to two goals:

- (1) retaining a higher percentage of students who enroll, and
- (2) attracting a large number of older students. (Greer, 1980, p. 1)

Retaining students through completion of the baccalaureate is a challenge for many colleges and universities. As Tinto (1987) notes, "more students leave their college or university prior to degree completion than stay" (p. 1). To illustrate the breadth of the attrition issue, he states:

The typical four-year college can expect a total rate of institutional departure to be roughly 56% of the entering cohort; system departure of 39% who do not complete degrees. (p. 15)

In other words:

Of the nearly 2.8 million students who, in 1986 entered higher education for the first time, over 1.6 million will leave their first institution without receiving a degree. Of those, approximately 1.2 million will leave higher education altogether without ever completing a two- or four-year degree program. (Tinto, 1987, p. 1)

When the college or university enrolls in its programs a number of older, commuting, part-time learners who have numerous responsibilities in addition to those associated

with being a student, the retention challenge increases. Nevertheless, a number of colleges and universities across the nation and throughout the world have established baccalaureate degree programs that provide access to and flexibility for adult learners (Moore, 1987).

As numerous comparative studies have pointed out (Astin, 1975; Fetters, 1977; and Tinto, 1988), non-traditional students show a higher rate of attrition from college than their traditional peers. "Part-time students," says Tinto (1987, p. 10), "are less likely than other students to complete degree programs." An even greater challenge may be added when the format of the college/university degree program requires, by its non-traditional nature, (i.e., correspondence, weekend/evening classes), that students participate and progress on a relatively independent basis without the traditional support obtained from frequent, regular, face-to-face student-faculty and/or student-student interaction. But as Terenzini (1982) writes:

The issue before administrators is not really how to retain students but, rather, how to retain those who can meet the academic requirements, would like to continue, and would benefit from an education at the institution. What aspects of students' experiences over which the institution has some control tend to promote retention or attrition? (p. 55)

In light of research which finds that non-traditional students have higher attrition rates, college and university administrators must ask if the two goals of retaining a higher percentage of students who enroll and attracting a

larger number of older students are compatible (Greer, 1980). Consequently, it is important for all institutions (and for the present study, especially for a small, public, rurally-isolated, four-year liberal arts college in Eastern Oregon), to decide on the specific nature of their educational missions. For what purpose and by what means, for example, are students being admitted; their needs responded to; and their numbers retained within the institution? The findings from this study will shed light on one group of students that Eastern Oregon State College in La Grande, Oregon, serves--the non-traditional, geographically dispersed student body within the External Degree Program.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In his recent publication, Leaving College, Tinto (1987) warns educational administrators and researchers of attrition against "underestimating the tenacity of some individuals" (p. 23) when it comes to completing a college program. He emphasizes that "decisions to withdraw are more a function of what occurs after entry than of what precedes it" (p. 6). He concludes:

Educators should not unnecessarily limit the options individuals have in completing their degrees. If anything, these should be increased. (p. 23)

Many options for completing a degree are found in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program. Created in 1979, this Program leads to a baccalaureate in

General Studies and provides access to and accommodation for the variety of schedules and interests of the adults who enter. Speaking of such a degree, Tinto (1987) writes:

General Studies degree programs are likely to attract students who place more value on the intrinsic rewards of college than on the extrinsic. Extrinsic seekers are more likely to transfer to other institutions. (p. 111)

With no La Grande campus residency requirement and numerous at-home or weekend-only course options, the External Degree Program has admitted over 1,000 adult learners in its 10-year history. Tinto (1987) reminds planners of non-traditional educational programs, however, that "intentions are linked to the likelihood of degree completion" (p. 40), and:

(Only) highly motivated and committed persons who commit themselves to the attainment of their goals within a specific instructional context are likely to complete their degrees within that school. (p. 110)

Accurate External Degree Program admissions records began in 1982. In a six-year recordkeeping history through Summer 1988, 241 students had graduated; other "persisters," numbering 500+, were still progressing toward the degree; and the remainder, 228, had either temporarily or permanently dropped out.

The costs involved in interviewing, admitting, advising, and mentoring non-traditional students through the External Degree Program, only to result in an extremely long completion period or, even worse, a high dropout rate, are substantial. Since this program continues to be funded on a

self-support basis (i.e., student tuition only), the mutual goal for participants and program administrators to achieve a cost-effective model, while increasing the completion rate of students, is of paramount importance.

Though high attrition rates are recognized in programs that attract non-traditional learners, the reasons why these students drop out of school are not well understood (Bean & Metzner, 1985). Rather than clearly identifying variables that could predict attrition of non-traditional students, many studies have merely described the statistically different tabulations regarding attrition of residential vs. commuting students (Astin, Iffert, & Newcombe, cited in Bean & Metzner, 1985), younger vs. older students (Von der Embse & Childs, 1979; Greer, 1980), and full-time vs. part-time learners (Lenning, as cited in Bean & Metzner, 1985). Little information is available that discusses differences in persistence among non-traditional students themselves.

Bean and Metzner credit the works of Spady (1970), Tinto (1975), and Pascarella (1980) with producing the most influential theoretical contributions to understanding the student attrition process. Their studies, however, rely heavily on the effect of traditional college socialization experiences to explain attrition. Since non-traditional students, say Bean and Metzner, already lack or are disinterested in such social integration into the institution, a different theory explaining their attrition pattern must be used in order to link the variables studied.

Thus, the problem which prompted this study was twofold:

1. The high cost, in time and dollars, for both participants and Program administrators associated with a correspondingly high incompleteness rate in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program.
2. The lack of any extensive research base regarding non-traditional student attrition that External Degree Program administrators could draw upon when implementing changes designed to improve retention.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Approval was recently given to Eastern Oregon State College to go statewide with its External Degree Program via consortial arrangements with community colleges and other four-year colleges and universities in Oregon. Prior to developing more consortia, however, the college needed to identify and remedy, where possible, those parts of the screening process and degree-delivery system that were weak. In uncovering a profile of External Degree students who finished the program by obtaining their baccalaureate and comparing this profile with those who did not, this study provided information that could significantly improve the educational practices already in place. Appropriate modifications in the program should result, therefore, in a higher completion rate for students who are admitted and a more cost-effective model for serving non-traditional learners.

The purpose of this study, then, was to determine if there were themes around which finishers gravitated. In other words, "Who was 'making it' and how?" Specifically, the following questions, adopted from Bean and Metzner's (1985) Conceptual Model of Non-Traditional Student Attrition, provided the theoretical framework for studying the differences between the finishers and the leavers:

1. Were there significant differences in background and other defining variables between the two groups of students?
2. Were there significant differences in academic variables between the two groups of students?
3. Were there significant differences in environmental variables between the two groups of students?

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Of the 1000+ students admitted to the External Degree Program between 1982 and Spring 1988, three groups were identified: (1) finishers, (2) leavers, and (3) actives. Two of these groups, the finishers, numbering 241, and the leavers, numbering 228, constituted the 469 subjects targeted for this study. A geographic breakdown of these students follows on the next three pages.

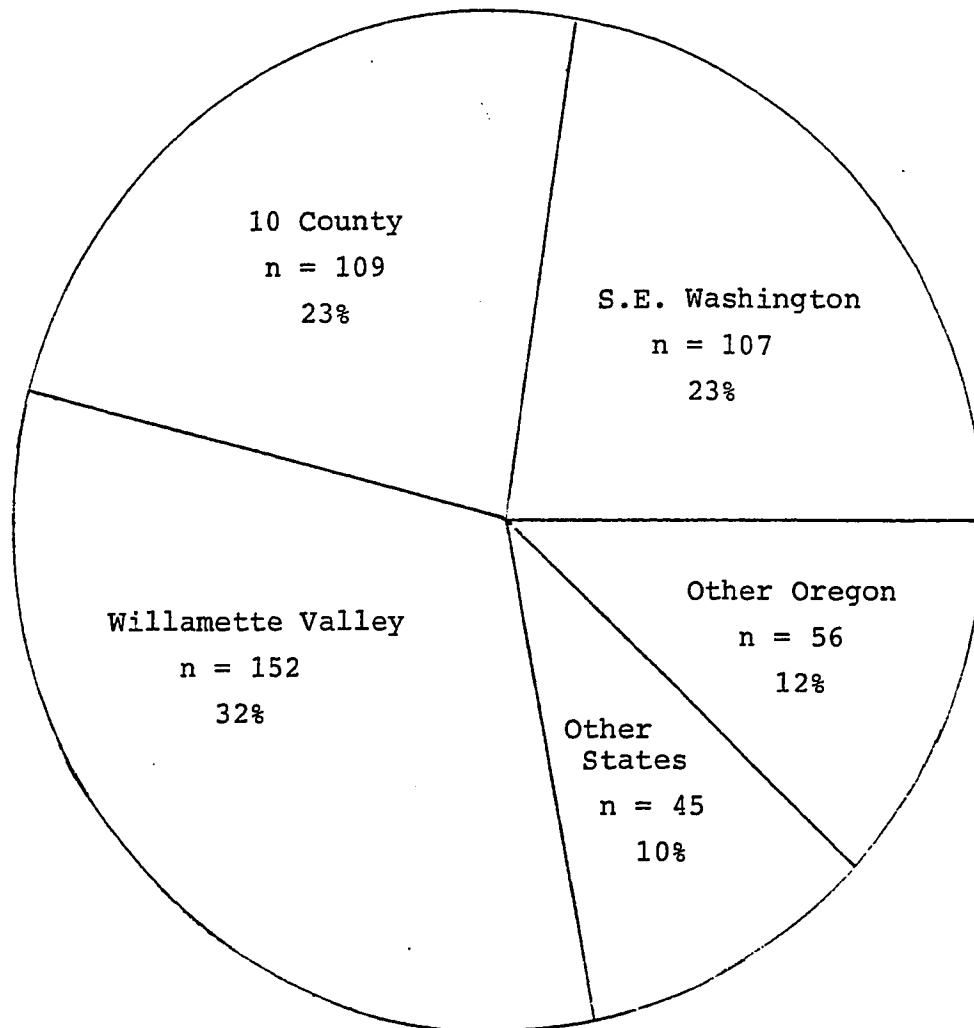


Figure 1. Geographic Distribution of 469 Study Subjects

Definition of Categories

- 10 County: Eastern 40% of Oregon, including Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler counties. Designated by Oregon Legislature as "EOSC Service Region"
- S.E. Washington: Close geographic proximity to La Grande, Oregon, including Tri-Cities area (Kennewick/Pasco/Richland), Prosser and Walla-Walla, Washington
- Willamette Valley: Western Oregon/Southwestern Washington "corridor," including area bordered on south by Eugene, Oregon, and on north by Vancouver, Washington
- Other Oregon: Other Oregon points not included in above categories
- Other States: Other points not included in above categories

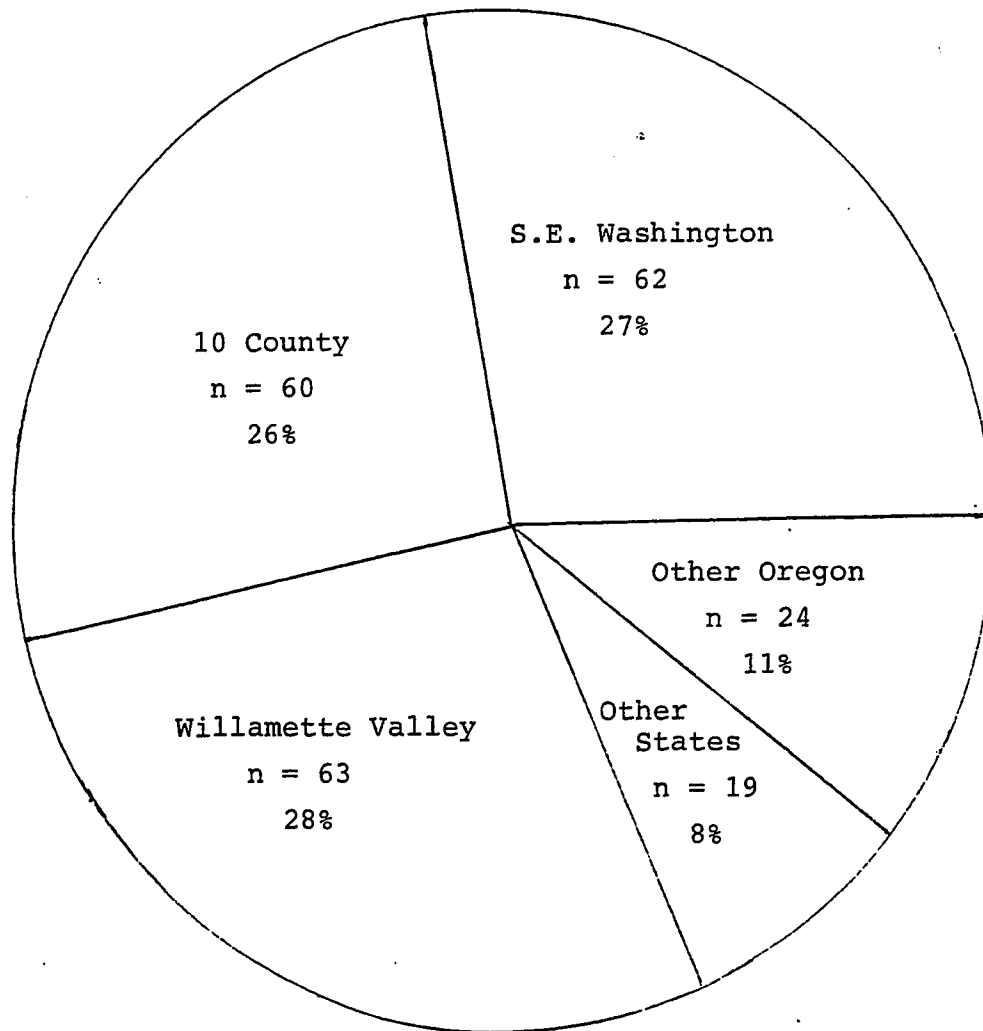


Figure 2. Geographic Distribution of 228 Leavers

Definition of Categories

- 10 County: Eastern 40% of Oregon, including Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler counties. Designated by Oregon Legislature as "EOSC Service Region"
- S.E. Washington: Close geographic proximity to La Grande, Oregon, including Tri-Cities area (Kennewick/Pasco/Richland), Prosser and Walla-Walla, Washington
- Willamette Valley: Western Oregon/Southwestern Washington "corridor," including area bordered on south by Eugene, Oregon, and on north by Vancouver, Washington
- Other Oregon: Other Oregon points not included in above categories
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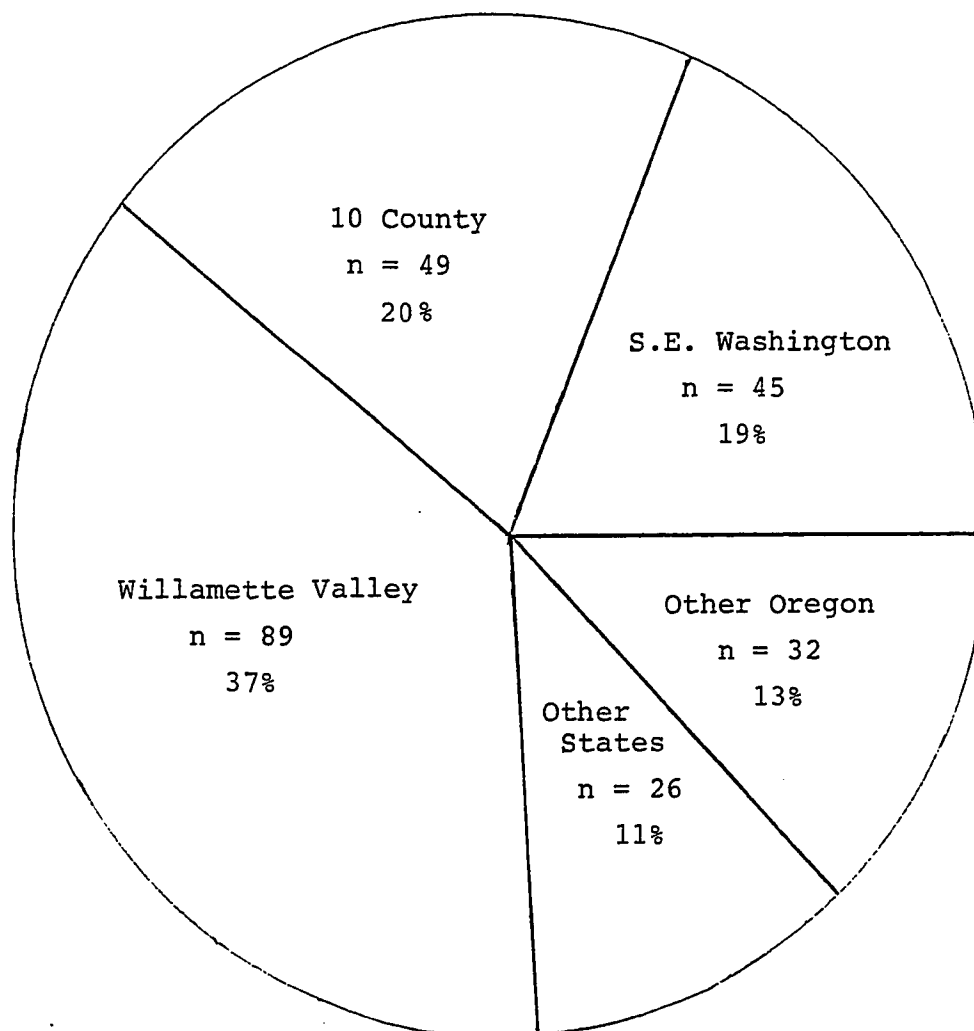


Figure 3. Geographic Distribution of 241 Finishers

Definition of Categories

- 10 County: Eastern 40% of Oregon, including Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler counties. Designated by Oregon Legislature as "EOSC Service Region"
- S.E. Washington: Close geographic proximity to La Grande, Oregon, including Tri-Cities area (Kennewick/Pasco/Richland), Prosser and Walla-Walla, Washington
- Willamette Valley: Western Oregon/Southwestern Washington "corridor," including area bordered on south by Eugene, Oregon, and on north by Vancouver, Washington
- Other Oregon: Other Oregon points not included in above categories
- Other States: Other points not included in above categories

ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The present study is organized into five chapters:

CHAPTER I, the introduction, describes the (1) statement of the problem; (2) the purpose of the study; and (3) the scope of the study; and (4) the organization of the study.

CHAPTER II reviews the related literature and is divided into five components: (1) attrition studies: theory, design, and applications; (2) the adult as learner; (3) telecommunications delivery of distance education; (4) differences between rural and urban adult learners; and (5) adult development.

CHAPTER III, methods and procedures, (1) summarizes the study; (2) explains the design; (3) identifies the limitations; (4) operationalizes the variables; and (5) describes the methods/procedures used to gather and analyze the data.

CHAPTER IV reports the study findings and provides simplified tables showing statistically significant differences at $p < .05$. (Official tables for the significantly different comparisons are found in Appendix B; tables for comparisons which resulted in no significant differences are found in Appendix C.)

CHAPTER V discusses and summarizes the findings and provides recommendations.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The literature reviewed for the present study is divided into four sections:

1. Attrition Studies: Theory, Design, Applications
2. The Adult as Learner
3. Differences between Rural and Urban Adult Learners
4. Adult Development

Each area was researched because of its contribution to the design, findings, and analysis of the present study. For example, the literature on attrition studies helped to determine which existing theories about retention already addressed the environment in which the External Degree student functioned. Specifically, the External Degree students are, for the most part, older (>24 years), part-time (take <12 credits per quarter), commuters (reside off campus and/or in communities beyond La Grande). The attrition literature about traditional students was compared with the minimal amount that existed about non-traditional students in order to select the most appropriate variables to study.

Part two of the literature review, The Adult as Learner, was conducted in order to grasp a broader understanding of differences in learning behavior between non-traditional students and their traditional counterparts.

This reading helped to formulate the definition of subjects in the present study as non-traditional, or:

...older than 24, or does not live in a campus residence (e.g., is a commuter), or is a part-time student, or some combination of these three factors; is not greatly influenced by the social environment of the institution; and is chiefly concerned with the institution's academic offerings especially courses, certification, and degrees. (Bean and Metzner, 1985, p. 489)

Part three, Differences between Rural and Urban Adult Learners, was included because students in the External Degree Program come from both environments. Much of the literature about rural adult learners describes more, or at least different, barriers they perceive to continuing their educations than do their urban counterparts (McCannon, 1977 & 1985). Because program options in the External Degree attempt to overcome such barriers, this review contributed to the inclusion of variables in the study that might otherwise not have been present. For example, subjects were asked about the type of barriers they experienced to participating in the External Degree Program, and their responses were analyzed along a geographic dimension of rural to urban. More importantly, however, this part of the literature review renewed this author's commitment to improve the educational outreach efforts to the rural residents of Eastern Oregon that Eastern Oregon State College is legislatively mandated to serve.

Finally, part four of the literature review, Adult Development, helped provide a framework into which the

subjects' narrative comments could fit. For example, that stage in life popularly referred to as the midlife crisis occurs at about 42-45 years. As many External Degree students were also in this age range, the literature review helped to extract from their narrative comments the main issues the respondents struggled with while participating in the External Degree.

ATTRITION STUDIES: THEORY, DESIGN, APPLICATIONS

Theory

According to Bean (1982), theories are important to educational research about student attrition because they do two things:

1. They explain why dropout occurs.
2. They identify which students are most likely to drop out. (p. 17)

The theory guides the research and identifies which variables to use or not to use. Then, working from a theory, a model is created which hypothesizes the relationship between a set of variables in an attempt to explain or account for some phenomenon.

Atheoretical models are strictly descriptive and do not attempt to match theory to the study and/or to link together the reasons behind an association of variables (Bean, 1982, p. 17). Models based on a student's background characteristics (age, residency, high school performance, gender, ethnicity, educational goals, and family educational

levels) are, says Bean (1982, p. 17), "still just descriptive and focus on strategies for admission, not on strategies for retention." And, according to Bean, the person-role fit models, again basically descriptive, are highly complex and involve profiling either before or upon college admission and again later in the students' programs. Types of attrition models which are based on theory are the longitudinal ones of Spady (1970), Tinto (1975), Pascarella (1980), and Bean (1982). Because the theoretical model underlying the present study borrows much from these well-established theories, a brief review of the literature related to them is included here.

Spady's (1970) sociological model of the dropout process was based on Durkheim's (1951) theory of suicide. Spady viewed the college/university setting as both academic and social. In this environment, the presence/absence of integration through interactions the student has with faculty, friends, or rules and regulations contributed to the student's decision to remain in school (the society) rather than to drop out (as the suicide victim did). Shared group values, grade performance, normative congruence, and friendship support were all expected to lead to increased social integration. Positive social integration led to increased student satisfaction, which led to increased institutional commitment and, thus, a decrease in the likelihood of dropping out. Spady's model cited several important factors related to the dropout process--family

background, academic potential, ability, and socio-economic status. Most important in this model, however, was the effect of interaction between the student and the academic and social system on the student's persist or dropout decision. To the extent that the rewards available with either (the academic or social) system appeared insufficient, however, the student may have decided to withdraw (Spady, 1970, p. 77).

Tinto (1975), also relying on Durkheim's theory of suicide, expanded on Spady's model. According to Bean (1982), Tinto emphasizes the interaction of background characteristics on goal and institutional commitment. "Goal commitment," says Tinto, "is the level of expectation and the intensity with which the expectation is held" (p. 93). He further states:

An individual's educational goal commitment is an important input variable in the model of dropout because it helps specify the psychological orientations the individual brings with him into the college setting--orientations that are important predictors of the manner in which individuals interact in the college environment. (p. 93)

Institutional commitment, on the other hand, refers to the extent with which an individual is committed to remaining at one institution until graduation. Working in a circular fashion, Tinto saw goal commitment leading to higher grade performance and intellectual development, which, ultimately, led to academic integration and, thus, a decrease in the likelihood of dropping out. Such academic

integration would, in turn, restart the circle, by further enhancing the goal commitment. Institutional commitment, on the other hand, created interactions with others (faculty and peers) which led to social integration, and, thus, a decrease in the likelihood of dropping out. Likewise, the circle is rekindled as such social integration contributes to institutional commitment.

Tinto's later research (1982a for example) continued to emphasize the effect that commitment, or lack thereof, had on dropout decisions: "Dropping out may be more a result of not caring than it is of not being able to meet the demands of college work" (p. 6). Tinto also further reinforced Spady's emphasis on social integration, stating:

Evidence abounds that social skills are equally important to persistence in college. These skills enable the person to locate, interact with, and use the resources for attainment. (1982a, p. 6)

This emphasis on social integration and interaction as a means of increasing persistence in the academic environment is again mentioned in Tinto (1982b):

Evidence continues to mount that students' decisions to withdraw are significantly affected by the degree of their intellectual and social integration into the life of the institution. (p. 697)

Tinto's recent literature (1987) more thoroughly incorporates the time dimension in researching student attrition. In this respect, Tinto expands on both Spady's and his own earlier research by describing the:

...longitudinal stages of the process of integration, in particular the early phases of separation and transition which precede incorporation into the life of the college.
(p. 447-448)

His expanded model includes the need for "all individuals, regardless of institution, to make some form of intellectual transition to the academic demands of college life" (p. 449). To assist with this transition, Tinto encourages the inclusion of orientation programs geared to the needs of adult learners who are entering college for the first time or returning after a lengthy absence (p. 449-452).

The importance of informal contact between students and faculty in promoting persistence in higher education is the theme of Pascarella's (1980) conceptual model. Such student-faculty contact impacts both the academic and social integration process. As seen by Pascarella, this contact promotes intellectual and interpersonal self-concept, resulting in, among other things, persistence in college. As a student's background characteristics interact with institutional factors in Pascarella's model (i.e., institutional size or faculty culture), opportunities for informal contact with faculty are either increased or extinguished. Such student-faculty contact, and other college experiences with peers both inside and outside the classroom, impact the student's academic and social outcomes (GPA, satisfaction, self-concept), and from there, withdrawal/persist decisions are made.

Bean's (1980) review of the Spady, Tinto, and Pascarella models cites three characteristics they all have in common:

1. They describe attrition as a longitudinal process.
2. They all rely on Durkheim and have a theoretical base in the social and academic integration of students.
3. They are all very complex in order to enhance accuracy and promote generalizability.

In addition, says Bean (1980), they require an answer to two critical attrition questions:

1. Which is more important in dropout decisions?
 - a. entry-level characteristics
 - b. institutional characteristics
2. Which is more important for the institution to promote?
 - a. academic factors
 - b. social factors

Bean indicates that the answer to the first question sets up a choice of two directions: (1) Do institutions recruit more of those more likely to persist, or (2) Do institutions spend more on programs that respond to factors that keep people in school?

The answer to the second question, says Bean, will determine where institutional resources should be allocated.

Bean's (1982) earlier model of student retention was developed from his study of an industrial model by Price and Mueller. Although incorporating much of the Spady and Tinto

models and recognizing the importance of both academic and social integration, he further identified with and included the impact of "environmental press"--for example, finances, family, and other non-student responsibilities (Murray, cited in Bean & Metzner, 1985, p. 489). Such external forces can significantly impact a student's withdrawal decision. In Bean's model, another variable, "intent to leave," which was based on the work of Fishbein and Ajzen (1975), is inserted immediately prior to when the continue/withdraw decision is made (p. 25). Bean also included Bentler and Speckart's (1979) theme of the influence of past behavior on current decisions.

Bean's (1982) earlier conceptual model was, like Spady's and Tinto's, longitudinal, complex, and drew on social and academic integration of students as influencing decisions to withdraw. The model had four classes of variables: (1) background; (2) organizational; (3) environmental; and (4) attitudinal outcomes. All four variables affected a student's intent to leave, "the immediate precursor to dropping out" (Bean, 1982, p. 25).

The current model of non-traditional student attrition (Bean and Metzner, 1985) and the one being used for this study, reflects the direct effect on attrition of the significantly different environment of the non-traditional student, defined as older, part-time, and/or commuter.

One defining characteristic of the non-traditional student is the lack of social integration into the institution; therefore, a different theory must be used to link the variables in this model. (Bean and Metzner, p. 489)

This model thus includes the influence of the non-traditional student's external environment. Likewise, social integration variables are eliminated from the current model because Bean and Metzner's 1985 review of the literature comparing non-traditional with traditional students:

...overwhelmingly suggests that social integration is rarely a major factor in attrition decisions. It has (also) not been found to be positively and significantly related to persistence of non-traditional students. (p. 520)

There are some studies cited by Parelius (1979), however, that document the significance of student peer groups in facilitating academic success and satisfaction.

An adequate peer group can facilitate academic success for adult students by providing a power base from which they can effect organizational change. (Parelius, 1979, p. 185)

In summary, all of the attrition theories reviewed included background characteristics and academic integration variables. The theories specifically focusing on traditional students usually included social integration variables as well. The non-traditional student attrition theory eliminates social integration variables as important factors, but includes environmental variables in recognition of the variety of roles the older student usually plays in his/her life.

Design

Terenzini (1982) provides a summary of the various research designs available to the educational researcher studying the student attrition problem. The autopsy design, occurs when information is collected from dropouts, usually after the fact and usually with a survey, to see why they withdrew. In cross-sectional designs, information is collected from currently enrolled students and, at a later time, compared for those who have dropped and those who remain. The longitudinal design collects the same information at two or more points in time from the same group of students and then, as the group distributes itself over time into persisters or dropouts, the collected data is analyzed. Following is a summary of the three designs he discusses:

TABLE I

SUMMARY EVALUATION OF THREE DESIGNS
FOR STUDYING ATTRITION

<i>Consideration</i>	<i>Autopsy Studies</i>	<i>Cross-Sectional Studies</i>	<i>Longitudinal Studies</i>
Research Considerations			
Instrument reliability ^a	Probably limited	Possible	Possible
Instrument validity ^a	Probably limited	Possible	Possible
Likely response rates	15-40%	55-80%	40-60% ^b
Sample representativeness	Unlikely	More likely	More likely
Internal validity			
Comparisons with non-dropouts	No	Yes	Yes
Controls for initial group differences	No	Limited ^c	Yes
Analytical procedures	Usually descriptive or bivariate	Bivariate or multivariate	Multivariate
Applicability of data to other purposes	None-Limited	Moderate-High	Moderate-High
Planning considerations			
Needed training/experience of project staff	Minimal	Moderate to advanced	Advanced
Time to complete study	3-5 months	6-9 months	15 months
Direct costs (relatively)	Low	Low-Moderate	High
Planning needed	Limited	Limited-Moderate	Considerable
Data-management problems and requirements	Few	Few-Moderate	Many

^a Depends more on the training and skill of the person(s) designing the study than on the design adopted.
^b Response rates, expressed as proportions of an initial sample, decline with each subsequent data collection.
^c Assumes that the only precollege information available for study respondents is typically collected at time of application for admission.

Source: Terenzini, 1982.

As shown in the table, questionnaires received only from non-persisters are insufficient to ensure internal validity of an attrition study. Terenzini (1982) defines internal validity as:

The design's capability of ensuring that an observed relation between an independent and a dependent variable is not spurious and that alternative explanations for the observed relation have been controlled and can be ruled out. Basically, internal validity can be enhanced in either of two ways: (1) through the random assignment of persons to experimental and control groups (probably impossible in attrition studies) or (2) through the use of a nonequivalent comparison group with statistical controls to take initial group differences into account. (p. 57)

Therefore, to increase internal validity of an attrition research study, data should be gathered from persisters at the same time and under the same conditions as it is from non-persisters.

Application: Traditional Students

Because the non-traditional model of Bean and Metzner is founded, in part, on traditional student research, a brief description of several attrition studies involving traditional students is included here. First, traditional students are defined as generally unmarried, <23 years in age, and registered for fulltime academic loads.

A number of attrition-related studies have been conducted with traditional students. For example, at the University of Texas (Austin), Krebs and Liberty (1971) wrote of the analysis they did on data collected during exit

interviews with three groups of traditional withdrawing students. Group 1, those performing satisfactorily and with no prior history of probation or enforced withdrawal, appeared upon withdrawal to be a "relatively able and materially secure group of students whose chief problem was immaturity" (p. 9). Group 2 students were currently on scholastic probation but had no prior record of enforced withdrawal. Findings from their exit interviews revealed that low academic skills figured most significantly into their withdrawal decisions. They shared, however, the same problems as were prominent in Group 3; that is, finances and relationships with spouses and fiancées. The records of Group 3 students indicated both scholastic probation and a previous history of enforced withdrawal. Depending on the academic history of the individual, therefore, three different variables (social, academic, environmental) had the greatest effect on withdrawal decisions for three different groups of students. As Krebs and Liberty note, "in voluntary withdrawals, it appears that we are in fact dealing with a complex self- and social problem" (p. 8).

Another attrition study done by Herndon (1984) determined among a group of 226 financial aid recipients (mostly traditional students) that persisters were more likely than withdrawals to (1) have good high school grades, (2) have good standardized aptitude test scores, (3) reside in college residence halls, and (4) receive college work study grants.

Bean (1985) conducted another traditional-student attrition study that used the socialization/selection issue as the theoretical base. Factors within the socialization/selection issue included one academic, college grades; one social, institutional fit; and one personal, institutional commitment. Independent variables influencing the three factors in Bean's model included (a) academics; (b) social or psychosocial issues; and (c) environmental support/constraints. The actual criterion that Bean measured was dropout syndrome; "that is, a conscious, openly discussed intention to leave an institution coupled with actual attrition" (p. 36). This definition eliminated from the dropout numbers those students who, because of unpredicted health or family crises, had to leave without intending to.

Differences in dropout syndrome across class levels were also measured. Bean found a set of 13 independent variables that accurately accounted for 47% of the variance in dropout syndrome for freshmen, 35% for sophomores, 27% for juniors, and 35% overall. For Bean's group of traditional students, there were only 2 cases out of 43 tested where significant differences based on class level were found. First, the influence of institutional fit on dropout syndrome decreased significantly over time; i.e., "If students are not selected or socialized to the values of the institution early, they are likely to drop out" (p. 53). Secondly, students increase their level of institutional

commitment significantly over time, but the influence of such commitment on dropout syndrome decreases.

As has been found in other attrition studies with traditional students, socialization has a large, significant effect on institutional fit. Where the institutional fit is good, or as Rootman (1972) states, "there is a good person-role or interpersonal fit" (p. 258), the likelihood of continuation at the institution is increased.

Another attrition-related study with traditional students based its work on the analogy that students in a college environment are like employees in a work setting. Using research on job satisfaction and employee performance, Bean and Bradley's (1986) study developed a model in which academic performance (GPA) and satisfaction were the dependent variables with reciprocal effects on each other. Bean and Bradley's findings consistently indicate that:

A student's satisfaction (defined as a pleasurable emotional state resulting from a person's enactment of the role of being a student) had a greater influence on performance (defined as a student's cumulative GPA) than performance had on satisfaction. (p. 398 & 403)

"This finding," say Bean and Metzner, "is contrary to most studies which assume GPA causally influences satisfaction" (p. 403).

Using institutional fit and academic integration variables from the previously described theoretical models of Spady, Tinto, Bean, and Pascarella, Bradley & Bean

(1986) found that academic integration had a larger effect on satisfaction for men than for women. They also found that institutional fit (similar to social integration) had a larger effect on satisfaction for women than for men (p. 406). Institutional fit was defined as the extent to which a student felt that he/she belonged at the institution. Academic integration was defined as the interest, motivation, and confidence one felt as a student and the perception that one "thought like faculty" (p. 395). Basically, their findings indicated that (a) the causes of satisfaction differ for men and women; (b) only for women is the relationship between GPA and satisfaction statistically significant; and (3) where the relationship exists, the effects of satisfaction on GPA are greater than the effects of GPA on satisfaction.

Application: Non-Traditional Students

Smith's (1980) study of persisters and non-persisters included both traditional and non-traditional students. He found an inconsistent link between age and dropout. This finding is in line, however, with conflicting results obtained in a review by Pantages and Creedon (cited in Bean & Metzner, 1985) of attrition literature which concluded that age was not a primary factor in causing attrition, but in Astin (1975) and Newman's (cited in Greer, 1980) studies which indicated it was. Smith further found that female subjects in his study were more likely to complete their

programs on time, but men were more likely to return (after stopping out) to complete in general. Marriage decreased the likelihood of completion; ethnicity had no effect. The higher one's socioeconomic status, the greater the likelihood of persisting in Smith's study. He also found that high school grades were positively linked to college academic performance, but satisfactory college integration was not always linked to persistence.

Other attrition studies conducted with a variety of non-traditional students, as either the entire sample population or as a comparative group to traditional students, were also reviewed. For example, a study by Irving Rootman (1972) looked at voluntary withdrawal from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Using stepwise multiple regression, Rootman eventually developed a six-key variable theoretical model wherein "person-role fit" and "interpersonal fit" emerged as the major determinants of voluntary withdrawal (p. 258-262). Like the theoretical attrition models of Spady and Tinto, Rootman's theory also emphasized the need for social integration in promoting retention efforts.

Berkove (1976) examined environmental factors that differentiated dropouts from persisters in a non-traditional population consisting of 361 married females over the age of 25. She found a clear distinction between dropouts and persisters on one environmental factor, self-perception of stress. She had mixed findings on the other two factors, husband's support and attitude toward marriage. In fact:

While at least half of the women found specific areas to be problematic to some extent (e.g., time for myself, time for children, taking on too many responsibilities, neglecting housework, integrating my responsibilities as student, wife, and mother), dropouts indicated that those areas created significantly greater problems for them than they did for the "successful" (persisting) student. (p. 3-4)

The students' perceptions of their husbands' support was less clearly differentiated between dropouts and persisters. Emotional support was not perceived as significantly different between the two groups, but functional support was. Such functional support as helping with the housework was reported to be offered on a lesser scale to dropouts than to persisters.

The report of the women's attitudes toward their marriages was also mixed. For dropouts, the women's attitudes toward their marriages improved. However, those dropouts who had satisfactory opinions about their marriages before re-entering college, reported significantly lower opinions after dropout. The opinions of the persisters who were initially happy with their marriages rose significantly as they continued their college studies.

Malin, Bray, Dougherty, and Skinner (1980) conducted a study with non-traditional students to determine differences between men and women regarding (a) their college performance as measured by GPA, and (b) their level of satisfaction with college in general. Though not an attrition study, per se, this research, nevertheless, has implications for persistence-withdrawal decisions because of

its connection to the findings of Bean & Bradley (1986) regarding satisfaction/performance. Malin's students were "over the age of 24 and were enrolled either part-time or full-time in undergraduate or post-baccalaureate (but not formal degree-granting graduate) programs" (p. 117). Demographics from their 343 respondents showed that 56% were men and 44% women. They were primarily upper-level undergraduates attending college part-time, and most had been away from school for at least three years.

The results of this research did not support the general contention that adult women, (rather than men), face special problems in coping with the college experience. (p. 126)

Men in this study had lower GPAs, were less satisfied with college, and reported less positive intellectual and personal achievement. They also reported more suffering than did women from family complaints about time and money spent on college and, in general, experienced more serious conflicts about their multiple roles as spouse, parent, employee, and student. Because of lower academic integration and a higher environmental press, the findings of Malin and others suggest a higher withdrawal rate for the male non-traditional student.

Another attrition study with non-traditional commuting students over the age of 25 years at a junior college was conducted by Greer (1980). Using Tinto's (1975) model, Greer sought to determine if age was a discriminating factor of withdrawals and persisters in two college environments:

(1) the regular academic program, and (2) a developmental program. Overall, Greer found that age was negatively related to persistence in the regular academic program, but positively related in the developmental one (p. 7-8). Greer's (1980) research further supports the later theory of Bean and Metzner (1985, p. 16) in that:

The older students attached little importance to such things as meeting new people, making friends, and participating in campus activities.

Social integration, in other words, was not a primary factor in either withdrawal or persistence decisions.

Another finding of Greer's was that in the regular academic program, older students were more academically successful than younger students, but had higher attrition rates. The older students also were more certain of their goals and had a more positive image of the college. However, this apparent successful academic integration did not contribute to increased retention.

In 1972, Reehling (1980) began a longitudinal study of 323 adult women, 30 years or age or older, attending a community college program cooperatively sponsored by a major midwestern university. The follow-up study of these women in 1978 revealed that the 75% who had continued their education did so more because of high internal motivation for self-improvement and intellectual stimulation than for any other reason(s). Reehling's attempts at predicting persistence/withdrawal through a series of stepwise discriminant analyses were partly successful. The

discriminant function was able to accurately predict 96% of those who continued, but only 10% of those who did not (p. 494). One interesting finding from Reehling's study was that "encouragement from others had definitely not been a main reason for these women to pursue their educational goals" (p. 493). The lack of encouragement may be a less severe deterrent to continuation than is the presence of disharmony or college-induced stress in the personal environment of the adult learners. What Reehling found was that dropouts indicated environmental pressures as main reasons for leaving, but persisters did not. What persisters did show was a very high degree of internal motivation which, "when one views 1972, was probably a required trait in the women who 'pioneered' the first large wave of female re-entries into higher education" (p. 496).

Another longitudinal study with students who met the definition of "non-traditional" was conducted by Pascarella, Duby, Miller, and Rasher (1981). They sought to determine if pre-enrollment variables and academic achievement variables were reliable predictors of withdrawal-persistence behavior for non-residential students. Though some pre-enrollment traits (secondary school performance for example) did significantly differentiate among students, such characteristics were more effective in distinguishing stop-outs from either persisters or withdrawals. It was only after the first quarter's academic performance was added

that a clear distinction between persisters and withdrawals was evident.

What Pascarella and the others surmised was that some students, upon receiving their first quarter GPAs, quickly saw they did not have the background or shared norms that were needed to succeed and, therefore, withdrew (p. 34). Satisfactory first quarter academic performance, on the other hand, began the academic and institutional integration that is correlated with persistence. In summary, what Pascarella and others concluded about their non-traditional student population is consistent with other traditional student research, which suggests that "voluntary withdrawal is less a function of pre-enrollment traits than of post-enrollment experiences" (p. 347).

Pascarella conducted another attrition study with Duby and Iverson (1983) at a non-residential setting. They found that the academic integration results were consistent with studies done at residential universities, but that social integration showed a negative influence on persistence. This latter finding is inconsistent with the Spady (1970), Tinto (1975), and Pascarella and Terenzini (1977, 79, 80) theories that stressed the positive influence played by social integration on retention. Thus, the Pascarella et al. (1983) findings give even more credence to looking at some other variable, i.e., environmental factors, as the critical link in non-traditional student retention studies.

Pascarella (1985) also conducted a longitudinal, multi-institutional study of over 4,000 students to compare differences between on-campus students and commuters on intellectual and interpersonal self-concept. Previous research on student educational outcomes associated with living on campus versus commuting to college (Astin, Chickering, and Iffert, cited in Pascarella, 1985, p. 292) showed that commuters were less likely to persist and had the following characteristics:

1. Commuters were less disposed than residential students to engage in various educationally and developmentally influential activities.
2. Commuters were less likely to participate in non-required offerings, resulting in less interaction with students and faculty.
3. Commuters were less likely to be influenced developmentally by their college experience (measured by various dimensions of change; i.e., increase in aspirations, perceived competence and ability, and commitment to long-range goals.)

The 1985 study by Pascarella sought to determine what impact on student development could be explained by resident living. His findings indicated that:

Living on campus had a significant, direct effect on two causally subsequent variables in the model: social integration with peers and with faculty. Residential status, however, was not significantly associated with academic integration or with either academic or interpersonal self-concept. (p. 298)

Though his findings might imply support for the social- and academic-integration models of Spady and Tinto, Pascarella's data was collected during 1975-77, and he

cautions about generalizing the findings now, "particularly with increased numbers of older and non-traditional students in American higher education" (p. 299).

In another attrition study, Voorhees (1987) found that academic integration variables (GPA, hours spent studying, informal contact with faculty) did not meet statistical criteria to be considered for persistence. He surmised that community college students (usually older, part-time commuters; i.e., non-traditionals) did not have as much time to spend on academic matters because of other (external environmental) commitments.

In conclusion, the literature reviewed on Attrition Studies points to a need: (1) to base institution-specific studies on a theoretical model; (2) to clearly specify the population being studied and select the appropriate variables thereof; and (3) to determine, as closely as possible, the causes of student persist-withdraw decisions in addition to just reporting descriptive data. In addition, this review guided the design of the present study. As a result, improvements, as recommended by Terenzini (1982), were built into the autopsy design to lessen the weaknesses that are characteristic in ex post facto research. For example, rather than just obtaining descriptive data from External Degree leavers and then making some generalizations about who they are and why they are dropping out, a comparative group of finishers from the same degree program was included. As a result, assessment

of any statistically significant differences between these two groups of students was possible.

Likewise, the literature regarding attrition of traditional students as compared to that of non-traditional students points out differences in the contribution of the variables studied. For example, most of the attrition studies of traditional students focuses on the contribution of three major sets of variables: (1) background, (2) social integration of institutional fit, and (3) academic integration. Any influences from the environment of the traditional student were more a part of that student's social/academic integration and, therefore, did not establish themselves as a distinct category.

For non-traditional students, however, the attrition studies reviewed indicated the importance of environmental factors as distinctly contributing to persist/withdrawal behavior. Academic integration variables were still noticeable discriminators in the non-traditional student studies, but socialization variables were frequently ruled out as not contributing to persist/withdrawal decisions.

THE ADULT AS LEARNER

A concise summary of the review of the literature regarding the adult learner is found in Hughes (1983). His synthesis of the diverse literature on non-traditional students was guided by three questions:

1. Who is the non-traditional student?
2. What do they want from higher education?
3. How can educators respond? (p. 51)

Hughes' summary of the literature revealed three characteristics (in addition to being 23 years or older which is somewhat generally accepted as the age divider) that distinguish the non-traditional college student from the traditional student. First, non-traditional students have multiple commitments. They are most frequently carrying several roles as student, spouse, parent, employee, taxpayer, voter, and concerned community citizen. In contrast, traditional students most frequently have limited commitments.

Secondly, non-traditional students are not campus focused. "The family or work environments often take precedence over the educational environment" (Hughes, 1983, p. 53). In contrast, traditional students, because of their on-campus orientation and/or residency, are very "campus focused."

Thirdly, non-traditional students prefer learning that is centered more on problem-solving, even:

...when the learning has no more immediate application than a better understanding or appreciation of some remote aspect of life. (White, cited in Hughes, 1983, p. 56)

This style of learning Hughes calls "informal," as contrasted to the formal, subject-matter focus of traditional students. More succinctly stated, non-traditional

students prefer a hands-on approach to learning; traditional, a more distance approach because of their sense of "storing up the knowledge for later use since 'living begins after learning is completed'" (White, cited in Hughes, 1983, p. 56).

As Rauch (1981) noted:

Adults learn best when they are participants in the learning system (and) they are very "now" oriented. One does not start an adult class with an orientation, with theory, or with a chronological history. You start with a bang. (p. 12)

In addition to these three broadly stated characteristics that Hughes reports as consistently appearing in the literature, there are other characteristics of adult learners that are frequently cited. For example, some adult learner studies report a trend away from education and liberal arts and toward business, accounting, and urban studies (Solomon and Gordon, cited in Hughes, 1983, p. 54). Even though preparation for work remains a major motivator for beginning or returning to college, Flaherty (1978), however, is one researcher who noted that:

Reasons for the influx of older students are more varied, with personal satisfaction, fulfillment, and interest in civic responsibilities becoming stronger motivators. (p. 375-376)

Lance, Lourie, and Mayo (cited in Hughes, 1983, p. 54), found that the subjects of their study, 583 returning students over the age of 24 who had been out of school two years or more, had low self-confidence about their

ability to succeed. Part of the reason for a lower self-confidence may be traced to the adult's previous educational performance. For example, Kuh and Ardailo's (1979) study comparing adult learners with traditional students substantiated the findings of other researchers that "older students did not achieve as well in high school as their younger counterparts" (p. 212). Flaherty (1978, p. 376), however, notes that "non-traditional students are generally more receptive to remedial instruction and/or some type of self-instructional program designed to build self-confidence."

In addition, Kasworm's (1980) review of prior research on academic achievement of older undergraduates in a variety of institutional settings and special population categories reveals that:

Older undergraduates do perform adequately and effectively, as assessed by GPAs, in competitive undergraduate environments. (p. 37)

Using this research background, Kasworm evaluated differences between younger and older undergraduates regarding academic capabilities. Her 1980 article reported on a study of their intellectual and socio-emotional orientations, as measured by the Omnibus Personality Inventory Form F, an instrument developed by the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of California (Berkeley). She found that older undergraduates, as compared to their younger classmates, displayed significantly higher scores in the areas of personal integration, lack of

anxiety, theoretical orientation, and analytical problem solving (p. 30, 39). Kasworm's summary of the different characteristics of older and younger undergraduate students follows.

TABLE II
 TYPOLOGY OF DIFFERENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF
 OLDER AND YOUNGER UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

<i>Younger Undergraduates</i>	<i>Older Undergraduates</i>
1. Quasi-dependent being	1. Independent being
2. Limited emotional/financial support for significant others	2. Major emotional/financial support for significant others
3. Major time focus on academic and related extracurricular activities	3. Competing time focus on job, family, community, personal responsibilities in relation to academic activities
4. High identification with student role	4. Composite identification with many roles
5. Seeking out a self-identity	5. Renewing self-identity
6. Limited awareness of own capabilities	6. Continuing growth of awareness of own capabilities
7. Minimal exposure to life/career role models	7. Significant exposure to life/career role models
8. Minimal self-confidence and developing sense of maturity	8. Developed and diversified self-confidence and maturity
9. Introspective orientation	9. Varied self/others orientation
10. Impulse (short-term) decision-making	10. Capacity for delayed gratification (long-term) decision-making
11. Limited exposure to strategies for learning	11. Varied strategies to learning
12. Passive learner role (unknown readiness to learn)	12. Active learner role (active readiness to learn)
13. Limited history of self-directed learning	13. Diversified opportunities for prior development of self-directed learning
14. Minimal analytical/critical problem solving skills	14. Developed analytical/critical problem-solving skills
15. Limited prior life experiences	15. Varied rich life opportunities and experiences

Source: Kasworm, 1980.

A comprehensive study conducted at the State University of New York at Albany (Mangano, Conado, and Frank, in Hughes, 1983), showed that returning non-traditional

students rated several aspects of college life significantly more important than did traditional students. These higher ratings included more flexible scheduling of courses, including evening and weekends; credit for out-of-college experiences; and independent study course expansion. However, no significant differences between non-traditional and traditional students were reported on preferences for concentration, study-skill and memory improvement; for a broad educational background with a number of courses providing specific job skills; and for relaxed, informal, encouraging instructors who have a realistic view of a student's responsibilities outside class and who use many examples in their lectures.

Kimball and Sedlacek (1971) also found in their study of two groups of full-time undergraduates (one less than 36 years old and the other, over 36), that the older group was significantly different on two issues. First, the older group felt teachers and administrators cared about students; and secondly, the older group was less critical than the younger group about the college environment in general.

One adult-as-learner study, carried out by Wolfgang and Dowling (1981), assessed differences in motivation for participating in college between adults 24 years of age or older and younger undergraduates. Responses were categorized into motivational factors as follows:

- (1) social relationships, "to make new friends"
- (2) external expectations, "to carry out the recommendation of some authority"
- (3) social welfare, "to improve my ability to serve mankind"
- (4) professional advancement, "to secure professional advancements"
- (5) escape/stimulation, "to get relief from boredom"
- (6) cognitive interest, "just for the sake of learning." (p. 642)

Using a two-way ANOVA, Wolfgang and Dowling found that older students scored significantly higher at the .01 level of significance than younger students on the motivational factor of cognitive interest. Older students scored significantly lower than younger students on the motivational factor of social relationships and external expectations. No significant differences between the age groups were found on the other three motivational factors: (1) social welfare and (2) professional advancement were ranked moderately high by both age groups; (3) escape/stimulation was marked low by both.

One implication of the Wolfgang and Dowling study is particularly pertinent to the environment of distance-learning students. The older students scored significantly higher on the cognitive interest factor, and thus, according to Wolfgang and Dowling:

indicated a stronger internal drive for learning, (and) are better candidates for individualized programs that often require a great deal of self-direction and dedication. (p. 646)

In keeping with the cognitive interest theme, Brookfield (1986), too, identifies six principles that promote achievement in the curriculum developed for adult learners:

1. voluntary participation on the part of the learner
2. mutual respect between/among instructors and learners
3. a collaborative spirit within the learning environment
4. a sense of praxis or alteration between activity and reflection
5. critical reflection opportunities for learners
6. self-direction; empowerment of learners (p. 9-11)

Another study with chronological age and marital status as factors of academic performance was reported by Von der Embse and Childs (1979). Their population of 517 senior-status students at a Midwest state university's college of business administration, was divided into groups by age: those older than 27; the others, 27 or younger. They found that older students achieved significantly higher GPAs than did the younger students. Although marital status yielded no significant differences between the two age groups, married women achieved significantly higher GPAs than did unmarried women. Marital status was not a significant factor in academic performance among the men.

Von der Embse and Childs hypothesize in their concluding remarks that:

The older student's academic performance is influenced by a more self-directed commitment to educational goals; (and) using outside experience as a resource for learning, the older student is more likely than the younger student to be a high achiever. (p. 478)

In summary, this section of the literature review confirms that the motives, backgrounds, and environments that adult learners bring to the classroom are diverse. As Flaherty (1978) remarks:

Educators will find a great sense of satisfaction from working with adults. The adults' interest is infectious; their motivations stimulating; (and), for the most part, they are independent learners. (p. 37)

Adult learners bring to the academic environment "a different set of attitudes, values, and expectations" (Von der Embse & Childs, 1979, p. 476). And, as Kasworm's (1980) study suggests:

Older undergraduates have stronger capabilities for conducting analytic inquiry, for assuming self-discipline and responsibilities for learning activities; for involvement in self-directed tutorial and independent study activities, and for integration and synthesizing of theoretical materials. (p. 44)

Demographics in higher education enrollments are changing. And, a summary of the adult-as-learner literature implies one main theme: Institutions which are alert to this change and respond accordingly, by providing the kinds of academic programs and support services that address the needs of adult learners, should reap the benefits of attracting this exciting, challenging group of students. More importantly, such institutions have a better chance of retaining them once they are there.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN ADULT LEARNERS

The third area of literature reviewed for this study was in the area of rural versus urban adult learners. "Participation rates in education," say Darkenwald & Larson (1980), "are notably lower in small towns and rural areas than in cities and suburbs" (p. 4). Even so, rural adults comprise nearly 27% of the nation's adult learners (McCannon, 1985). When McCannon compared them with urban learners, rural adult learners proved remarkably similar on all variables examined--age, sex, reason for participation in adult education, subjects enrolled in, type of provider, number of courses taken, and source of payment. However, McCannon's 1977 and 1985 studies of the differences between rural and urban adult learners pointed to three distinct barriers faced by rural adults more frequently than by their urban counterparts:

- (1) access to educational programs, because of distances
- (2) lack of adequate finances with which to participate
- (3) lack of adequate advising and counseling (p. 13)

Barker (1985) reiterates these differences by expanding on each of the three, citing the most notable as distance or residency location:

Rural learners who live in areas of low population density and/or geographical isolation will most definitely be provided fewer educational services and opportunities. (p. 5)

Even though telecommunications has the ability to provide access to educational programs and, according to Spears (1985), "serves as a valuable ally in serving rural professionals, its abilities to reach the less-educated in rural areas is seriously questioned" (p. 15). Barriers two and three (lack of finances and lack of advising/counseling) help to explain the justifications behind Spear's statement.

Financial support for participation is also confounded in rural areas where it is generally more expensive to provide outreach programs with mileage for teachers and/or telecommunications increasing the costs to the consumer. Generally lower income levels of many rural adults further limit accessibility to programs delivered on a self-support basis to distant areas (McCannon, 1977 & 1985; Treadway, 1984; and Zucker, 1986).

According to Treadway (1984), current federal criteria for allocating resources ignores the higher costs of delivering instruction to rural areas and overestimates the local resources available to support such services. Such was certainly the case, as reported by Hershfield (1986), in the Learn Alaska Network \$30 million telecommunications system. This rural-outreach system was terminated after developers failed to recognize that \$200,000 annually for the entire programming effort was insufficient to meet the educational needs and distance expenses involved in serving native Alaskans in rural areas who were unable to supplement the expense themselves. "Therefore," says Spears (1985),

"states should not look to technology as the solution to all rural needs" (p. 15).

Perhaps all too frequently, rural adult learners are presented with a smorgasbord of courses--an attempt to meet most of the needs of most of the learners. What is reality, says Treadway (1984) in quoting Margery Walker of the Rural Education Program at the University of Alaska in 1981, is that "rural residents seek coherent programs, sanctioned for field delivery, by campus departments--not just occasional courses" (p. 14). Treadway continues:

In the area of providing credit programs and extended degree opportunities for residents of small rural towns, four-year colleges and universities offering comprehensive programs are definitely in the minority. (p. 48)

A study reported in 1986 by McDaniel confirmed a distinction between perceptions of barriers to rural adult learners as compared with their urban counterparts. Overwhelmingly, both rural providers and learners felt that they did not have equal choice in selecting educational options. Added to the choice issue are problems of (a) distance and transportation; (b) increased costs; (c) declining incomes; (d) limited access to instructors and advisors; (e) limited support services; and (f) lack of access to materials and resources. Barriers listed by providers and learners across seven Northwest states in the McDaniel study were highly similar.

Numerous systems and programs designed to serve rural learners are reported in the literature. Many appear to be

reasonably successful. For example, Benson and Hirschen (1987) cite the Interactive Telecommunications Cable Project in rural downstate New York (Westchester County); the Educational Telecommunications in Small Rural Schools operation in Norwich, New York; audio-teleconferencing of the University of Nebraska, Eastern Montana State University, and the University of Wyoming; linkages between microcomputers and electronic chalkboards successfully operating in the Mansfield, Pennsylvania, Teleteaching Project and in the Delaware-Chenango Schools network; the interactive TV via satellite with one-way video and two-way audio systems which include programs from Oklahoma State, Texas, Utah, and Spokane, Washington; and the Appalachian Educational Satellite program.

The literature reviewed about rural/urban adult learners cited only the differences in terms of access, affordability, and acceptance of the types of educational programs available. No literature was found which compared rural and urban adult learners on their persist/withdrawal behavior in college programs.

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

Much of the literature reviewed in the area of Adult Development is written by theorists who, according to Schlossberg (1984, p. 4-19), describe adults from an age and stage perspective. Age-related stages are described by Levinson (1978); the new-development stages by Erikson

(1978, 1980); Fowler (1981); Gould (1978); Havighurst (1972); and Vaillant (1977); ethical/moral development stages by Gilligan (1982) and Kohlberg (1983); cognitive development stages by Perry (1970) and Piaget (1969); and ego-development stages by Kegan (1982) and Loevinger (1976). Non age-related concepts regarding adult development are described by Belenky (1986), and women's "different ways of knowing"; Bridges (1980) and Schlossberg (1984), the importance of understanding and patience in coping with transitions and of weaving play into work and love; Lowenthal's (1975) significant life events; and Neugarten's (1968) individual variability/times.

Although the specific age ranges may differ, most of the age/stage theorists noted above refer to 4-5 stages of adulthood. These stages can be broadly categorized as: (1) Early Adulthood (18-30); (2) Mid Adulthood I (30-45); (3) Midlife Crisis (42-45); (4) Mid Adulthood II (45-60), and (5) Later Adulthood (60+).

According to Levinson (1978), individuals in the Early Adulthood stage (18-30 years) are either already involved in full-time, traditional studies or have not yet felt the urge to return to school on a part-time basis--other issues are occupying their time (p. 72-78). For example, in his all-male study, Levinson identified the focus of this "season" of life with a work-related, goal-directed theme. Actively pursuing a fulltime college education might be the goal in Levinson's 17-22 year-old category, described as moving out

of the pre-adult world and experimenting and choosing adult rules (p. 56). But, by age 22-28 when entering the adult world, Levinson's subjects are busy exploring options and developing a stable life structure (p. 58). However, at about age 28-33, Levinson's age 30 transition occurs.

"Transitions," according to Bridges (1980), "are natural processes of disorientation and reorientation that mark the turning points of our path of growth" (p. 5). Common to all transitions, says Bridges, is (1) an ending; (2) a middle, confusing time, and (3) a new beginning. One's attitude towards the transition, notes Bridges, is dependent on whether the change being experienced is chosen or externally forced.

At this stage, Levinson's adult is making efforts to improve or correct his life structure which may result in a return to college studies. However, other issues begin arising for individuals in this age, namely marital problems and occupational shifts. Bridges speaks to this critical transition period when he references "the riddle of the sphinx," in that the individual now "walks on two feet at noon" (the independent adult), following a period of childhood or "walking on four feet in the morning" (p. 28). Bridges sees the speed with which individuals are able to establish themselves as an independent adult affecting their ability to commit to a goal at the age of 30 (p. 37). For example, as Piaget (1969) asks, did the individual accommodate or assimilate the situation in life to his/her own

needs while arriving at the age 30 transition? Or, rather, did he/she merely power his/her way through to age 30 without much change or self-reflection?

Assimilation would have the individual interpreting new experiences by existing rules, concepts, or schema. It is deemed easier than accommodation which demands that the individual modify his/her existing concept (or expectation) in order to "fit in" the new experience. Piaget, a cognitive theorist, describes these processes as periods of equilibrium/disequilibrium as individuals move through several life stages. Fowler (1981) describes Piaget's theory as being focused on structural changes that constitute one's thought processes at a given time. When enough accommodation occurs to warrant a change, according to Fowler, a new stage emerges.

Piaget's research serves as a backdrop for Kegan's (1982) theories on the evolving self. "Meaning making" is the descriptive phrase Kegan uses to refer to his studies on the evolving self. According to Kegan, the making of one's understanding is a balancing throughout the lifespan of subject and object relations (p. 12, 46-110).

Kegan's three adulthood stages are (1) the interpersonal balance, (2) the institutional balance, and (3) the interindividual balance. The individuals at the interpersonal balance stage are so dependent on what others think of them (i.e., faculty, advisors, fellow students), that they have no real sense of self that is separate. They are,

according to Kegan, incapable of establishing true intimacy because their "self" is brought into being by others--"you are the other by which I complete myself" (p. 100).

Other early adulthood college participants fit Kegan's second adulthood stage, the institutional balance. Here, adults are seen as capable of holding conflicting feelings simultaneously. Self-dependence and self-ownership create a personal self-system that can separate, for example, the belief that "I have relationships" from earlier stages of "I am my relationships" (p. 100). Kegan cautions individuals here of exhaustion, resulting from being too self-sufficient.

Individuals at the interindividual balance level are able to separate themselves from their work/performance life and survive, therefore, failing on some task or at least hearing some negative report about their performance. They see themselves as "running" their system, but not being the system itself" (p. 103). Because their sense of self is no longer brought into meaning by others, they are capable of becoming intimate or interpersonal.

All individuals, says Kegan, evolve through a duality of human experience between yearning for inclusion and yearning for independence. The flow between holding on and letting go marks transitions in individuals' lives that need to be understood and supported as much as possible in an academic program.

Levinson's next three categories are: (1) Settling Down, about ages 33-40; (2) Midlife Transition, about ages 40-45; and (3) Entering Middle Adulthood, about ages 45-50. The "settling down" students, as Levinson describes them, are the younger "settlers" who are becoming junior members of society by establishing their niche, making it, and identifying the steps on the ladder of success that are needed to move up (p. 59-60). The older settlers in this group are busy "becoming one's own man" (p. 60) by striving to achieve, says Levinson, authority or independence and reappraising their goals and achievements.

Though Levinson's research was done with males, Bridges claims the "tasks" of completing the midlife transition for women and men are about the same: (1) to terminate the era of early childhood; (2) to initiate middle adulthood; and (3) to deal with conflicting feelings and values brought about by middle age.

The last age-related category described by Levinson is the 45-50 year-olds "entering middle adulthood" (p. 61). Levinson's men are described here as responding to the task of bringing stability and meaning to one's commitments and values. The dream of achievement, involving a mentor and/or a "special woman" (p. 109) is no longer predominant. Lowenthal and Thurner (1975) see a continual process through a man's lifespan of analysis and reorganization. Relationships play a relatively subordinate role in the tasks associated with the male's adult development: (1) building

and modifying the life structure; (2) working on a single component of the life structure; and (3) becoming more individuated.

Another way to profile adults is with new-development stage theory. Erikson's (1978) crisis resolution theory is, according to Fowler (1981), built on Freud's psychosexual stages by expanding the circle of influence to include the cultural symbols of the larger society, i.e., the psychosocial environment. Erikson's belief is that one's life consists of a series of events that lead to choices at certain periods in life. The choice is described by Erikson as a "crisis," and the individual is in a period of disequilibrium until the crisis (choice) is resolved. As crises are met and dealt with, the individual's personality is defined and redefined.

Although not discretely age-related, the crisis stages nevertheless represent critical periods during which certain issues become predominant. In the early adulthood category (18-30 years), for example, Erikson describes two periods: 18-22 year-olds dealing with the crisis between achieving an identity or remaining role diffused; and 23-30 year-olds struggling with the issues of intimacy and isolation. Adults of ages 31-50 are in conflict between generativity and stagnation, and those over 50 are attempting to achieve integrity rather than despair. As the adult integrates and differentiates between the choices at each stage, his/her identity is achieved and serves as the basis for commitments

to values that help resolve later stages of conflict. Erikson suggests that each event in an adult's life may be perceived as either a crisis or a non-crisis event. If perceived as a crisis, individuals usually experience a brief state of "moratorium" as they decide whether or not they are capable of solving the specific crisis. If the perceived crisis is solved, the "identity-achieving" status results; if the crisis is not solved, the individual may either be foreclosed on the subject while seeking an easy solution; identity-diffused or unconcerned; or continue to exist in a moratorium. If the individual does not perceive the event as a crisis in the first place, it is either because (1) the problem has already been solved (identity-achieved); (2) the event is denied (identity-foreclosed); or (3) the individual is unconcerned (identity-diffused). At Erikson's 7th stage, individuals are either concerned about future generations or have turned inward with a lack of interest or rejection of the younger generation.

Building on Erikson's "stage notion of crisis resolution," Gould (1978) characterizes adulthood with descriptions of five age-related levels: (1) 16-22 year-olds growing independent from one's birth family, including an openness to new ideas; (2) 22-28 year-olds stabilizing of concerns, engaging in work, and becoming confident with one's self and autonomy; (3) 28-34 year-olds showing an increasing dissatisfaction with their marriage but increasing investment with their children. This is a time,

says Gould, of self-reflection (p. 153). (4) At ages 35-45, Gould sees adults in "quiet desperation," where time becomes finite and concerns mount regarding health and aging parents. (5) Then at age 44-50, the adult stabilizes his/her personality, increases the involvement with the spouse, kids, and friends, and generally begins to accept things the way they are.

Gould's theory of adult development revolves around the changes in self-insight and personal philosophy that arise as the adult grows and continues to integrate his/her "childhood consciousness" into an adult reality. Gould (1978) also incorporates the developmental task theory of Havighurst (1972). This theory emphasizes where, at certain ages, society expects involvement in and/or achievement of certain tasks. These tasks are (1) achieving civic and social responsibility; (2) establishing/maintaining an economic standard of living; (3) assisting one's teenage children to become responsible and happy adults; (4) developing adult leisure time activities; (5) relating oneself to one's spouse as a person; (6) accepting and adjusting to the physiological changes of middle age; and (7) adjusting to aging parents.

Vaillant's (1977) longitudinal study is also founded on Erikson's (1978 & 1980) work, although done strictly with 268 men at Harvard. He fills in the gap in Erikson's stages between intimacy (20's) and generativity (40's) and calls it "career consolidation," or a period when adults translate

their hobbies and ambitions into occupational terms (Schlossberg, 1984, p. 27). He found that those individuals who were able to achieve intimacy in resolving the 23-30 year-old intimacy vs. isolation crisis, were then able to deal effectively with their careers. The theme of Vaillant's research effort seems to be on adaptation to life and to the development of coping skills. Inner adaptation factors for Vaillant include (1) biological injury, (2) intellectual growth, and (3) capacity for intimacy. External factors include (1) early loving relationships, (2) the array of targets for identification, and (3) stresses and opportunities. "Psychosexual maturation occurs," says Vaillant, "through the success or failure of negotiating the Eriksonian life crises" (p. 349-50).

Fowler (1981) uses several adult development theoretical models to help describe the stages of faith development. For example, Piaget's (1969) and Kohlberg's (1969 & 1973) studies helped Fowler focus on the structuring activity of faith; Erikson, on the functional aspect of faith. Fowler believes that:

The level in one's faith stage will help determine how the Erikson crisis is resolved because the quality of response to the crisis is dependent on one's stage of faith. (p. 107)

"Faith," says Fowler (p. 25), "is the way we commit ourselves to centers of values and power that exert an ordering force in our lives."

Another way to describe categories of adults is with Kohlberg's (1983) six moral development stages. The first two, (1) Punishment/Obedience and (2) Naive Instrumental Hedonism, are grouped under the broad title "Premoral," and are associated with the preadolescent period of life. Stage 1 individuals see people of high authority unbound by rules; authority for such individuals is associated with age, size, and power. The value of life for a moral Stage 1 individual may get confused with the value of physical possessions. Stage 2 individuals follow rules to get rewards/favors. They believe, according to Loevinger's (1976) interpretation of Kohlberg, that it's OK to take advantage of another's mistakes and that rights have power, even if the exercise of them causes another to suffer (p. 120).

Another category described by Kohlberg is the "Conventional Role-Conforming" morality. Two stages make up this category, roughly associated with ages 13-35. Stage 3 (13-21 years) is called Good Relations/Approval, and is characterized by gratitude and the drive to maintain loyalty. In Kohlberg's hierarchy, Stage 4 is called Law and Order. At this stage, individuals interpret law as basic for the social order. Individuals at Stage 4, for the most part, do not feel responsible for the effects of their behavior beyond one's own defined role responsibilities. The last broad category in the Moral Development theory of Kohlberg is titled "Self-Accepted Moral Principles." The 5th and 6th stages are included here. Number 5 is called Democratic

Contract, where one conforms in order to maintain the respect of an external spectator who judges in terms of a whole community's welfare. Kohlberg believes that individuals at this stage feel laws should be obeyed because they were developed by the democratic process; punishment serves rehabilitation and it is the contractual obligation of the judge to administer punishment. (p. 99)

Kohlberg's 6th stage is called Individual Principles of Conscience. At this level, one conforms to avoid self-condemnation; assumes self-responsibility for acts done and not done; believes in the importance of personal trust; and feels that moral principles determine the appropriateness of rules. Though this 6th stage completes Kohlberg's theory at the present time, he hints (p. 6, 41) at the possibility of a 7th soft stage of ethical and religious orientation. Gilligan's (1982) criticism of Kohlberg focuses on the differences she perceives between men and women, especially at the 4th, 5th, and 6th stages of moral development. According to Gilligan, female participants are more likely to be responding throughout their lifetimes to "a different voice" that speaks more to relationships than to rights; more to caring for others than to responsibility for self (p. 21, 24-38).

Much adult development theory, according to Gilligan, is based on research done with men. In the case of moral development, the very factors that are seen as strengths for women come through in Kohlberg's hypothetical situations as

evidencing weakness in the female's moral judgment. For example, "achievement of Kohlberg's 6th stage," says Gilligan, "is based on a male model of adherence/belief in rules (stage 4) and justice (stages 5 and 6)" (p. 18). The caring and sensitivity of women makes it less natural to fit into these stages, but not, as Gilligan refutes, deficient in moral development. "Judgment," says Gilligan (p. 69), "comes in two modes: (1) masculine, or the public world of social power; and (2) feminine, or the privacy of domestic interchange." The usual expectation in our society, according to Gilligan, is that the masculine mode is "better" and moves toward maturity. The constant tension that is, therefore, created for females is between a more natural inclination to be sensitive and responsible for others versus the "more mature expectation" of developing the self through the appropriate exercise of rights and responsibilities. This conflict between achievement and care leaves women divided in their moral judgments and/or feeling betrayed (Gilligan, p. 159). As Gilligan (p. 135) states, "Women are always in the dilemma of either caring for and worrying about not hurting another or doing what is right for themselves;" i.e., saying no to family/friend obligations or expectations in order to study. "The tension between attachment on the one hand, and separation on the other, characterizes and anchors the cycle of human life" (p. 149).

In the early adulthood period of life, positive resolutions of Erikson's crises result in a dichotomy of identity (self) and intimacy (other). As Gilligan states:

Females will most likely struggle more than men to maintain both these resolutions because of the different voice that speaks to them saying, "We know ourselves as separate only insofar as we live in connection with others, and we experience relationship only insofar as we differentiate other from self." (p. 63)

"The conflict between self and other constitutes," says Gilligan (p. 69), "the central moral problem for women: i.e., birth control vs. abortion, compassion vs. autonomy, virtue vs. power."

Stages of thinking may also be used to describe adults. Perry's (1970) work provides, perhaps, the best description of the development of thinking. Belenky (1986) describes Perry's scheme as:

how students' conceptions of the nature and origins of knowledge evolve and how their understanding of themselves as 'knowers' changes over time and how they interpret educational experiences. (p. 4)

As with most, if not all developmental stage theories, Perry also recognizes the irregularities of growth. He describes three alternatives to ethical/intellectual growth as (1) temporizing, or pausing for more than a year in any one position, typically with awareness of the next step; (2) retreating after glimpsing multiplicity and then actively denying the legitimacy of another's opinion; and (3) escaping, usually to one of the middle positions where the individual may alienate oneself and become cynical.

Yet another way to describe adults is with Loevinger's (1982) structural stage theory regarding ego development. Her framework provides 10 sequential stages with only the first two, presocial and symbiotic, reserved for infancy and, therefore, not descriptive of adulthood. In order, stages 3-10 are:

- (3) Impulsive, seeking immediate gratification without regard for negative consequences "as long as I can get away with it."
- (4) Self-Protective, where, as an adult, the individual becomes opportunistic, deceptive, and pre-occupied with the control of others.
- (5) The Conformist, where the individual is beginning to trust within the family or group but generally just obeys rules because they are rules and makes no distinction between rules and norms.
- (6) The Conscientious-Conformist, where the individual sees multiple options, is able to differentiate norms from goals, and sees him/herself falling short of the "ideal."
- (7) Conscientious, where the individual has self-evaluated standards, is self-critical, assumes guilt or achievement for consequences of behavior, and internalizes rules.
- (8) Individualistic, which carries forward features of the previous stage but adds the dimension of respect for individuality.
- (9) Autonomous, previous stage characteristics and adds coping and toleration skills in dealing with conflicting inner needs.
- (10) The Integrated Ego, with previous stage characteristics plus the added dimension of being able to reconcile inner conflicts and renunciate the unattainable.

Belenky (1986) provides a different view of women by describing, not a developmental approach, but rather five "epistemological" viewpoints. She views Piaget's theory as a morality of rights; Kohlberg's as an evolution of moral reasoning for males; and Gilligan's as a morality organized around responsibility and care. Belenky feels, though, that women have a "different way of knowing" that can take shape in five different dimensions:

- (1) Silence, where the woman essentially "maintains her place" and is seen but never heard. Such women are subject to the whims of authority and are virtually unable to conceive of their own sense of self.
- (2) Received Knowledge, where the woman is capable of getting and passing on knowledge but feels incapable of generating it herself. She listens to the voices of others to determine the right or wrong answers and is, therefore, intolerant of ambiguities. She thinks literally and, without really understanding the ideas, is unable to read between the lines. She believes self-advancement is OK, but only if it is to help others in the process; otherwise, she sees it as selfish and destructive. Her self-concept is formed from other's opinions and expectations of her.
- (3) Subjective Knowledge, where the woman senses and listens to "the still small voice" that is emerging "in her gut." Belenky speculates (p. 58) that many women function or come to this level as a result of a crisis of trust with a male authority figure. If such crisis is followed by some confirmatory experience showing the woman that she is capable of learning, she is probably able to walk away from the past. Frequently, the walk leads to more education and/or a turn to a maternal-type authority. Though the future may seem foggy for such women, they are strongly

self-determined. The caution, here, is that what may become a stubborn independence will thwart further growth.

- (4) Procedural Knowledge, is a humbler, but more powerful voice of reason. Women with this perspective are learning and applying objective procedures for obtaining and communicating information. The inner voice is changing to point out and push for acceptance of the fallibility of the gut instinct of perspective three. There is more perspective taking here and more objectivity as the woman becomes a more pragmatic problem solver. For example, the woman is able to organize her educational pursuits so that the goal becomes reality.
- (5) Constructed Knowledge, is able to "integrate the different voices" (p. 137). Women here do not avoid conflict and stress, but recognize it as a fact of life. They feel the process of learning is what's important.

A final way to look at adults is through the life events theory of Neugarten (1968). "Her work," says Schlossberg (p. 11), "emphasizes variability or individual 'fanning out.'" As our lives grow longer and successive choices and commitments accumulate, our lives grow more different from each other than the same. Generational differences, in Neugarten's theory, account for variability among individuals along four dimensions:

- (1) one's chronological age (lifespan)
- (2) age-related expectations (social time)
- (3) the period of history during which one is an adult (historical time)
- (4) one's perception of his/her place in the course of life (psychological time).

Summary

Returning to college is a transition, and as Bridges (1980) notes:

Most of us did only a passable job of resolving identity issues as youth; consequently, whenever we enter a new transition, some of these old identity issues are going to re-emerge. (p. 35)

The broad concept of transition in terms of re-entering college remains a challenge for adult learners who struggle with the added identity of student. According to Bridges, the process of reaching a goal (i.e., completing the baccalaureate), is as important as the goal itself. At 18-30, adult learners may still be so focused on the goal that the rigor of the process becomes an obstacle. Thus, this period of time Bridges calls searching for a place (p. 37) may be a frustrating one for the younger adults in the External Degree Program. Because they are also coping with tensions associated with moving from a dependent role to independency, they may not be ready to commit to the independent nature of study characteristic of the Program. And, some External Degree students in Kegan's institutional-balance description may burn out before completing the Program because of their inability to back off somewhat from their self-imposed independency. True, the Program expects students to be self-starters, but also provides numerous connections to a helping network of faculty, advisors, and peers in recognition of the support such non-traditional students may need. Avoiding, denying, or ignoring the

support systems because of too high a reliance on a personal self-system may result in frustration and/or dropout.

Individuals at this stage may not be able to receive and integrate the constructive criticism from the support system because of their perceptions of being personally demeaned.

This review of the literature in Adult Development helped provide a more comprehensive look at the challenges non-traditional students face when enrolled in a college degree program. Reviewing how different theorists describe the patterns of life through which one becomes an adult provided helpful insights into both age- and stage-related theories regarding adult development. Particular attention was focused on the transition experienced in a midlife crisis, where adults may turn to college as a somewhat temporary respite from what they believe their unfulfilled life to be. For some, the stimulation of learning catches on, and a commitment to stay results; for others, though, the exposure is temporary and may/may not be productive in moving the adult forward to whatever else beckons.

This broader understanding of the phenomena called adult development provided the necessary checks and balances that prevented quick assumptions or generalizations from being made about External Degree students' dropout decisions. The review also facilitated the organization of a summary of the respondents' narrative comments regarding "What would I do differently a second time around when returning to college."

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study was to identify finishers and leavers in the External Degree Program at Eastern Oregon State College, and then to answer these basic questions:

1. Who's "making" it? Who's not?
2. What's the difference between the two groups?
3. Do certain variables predict dropping out?

This chapter presents the methodology used to answer these questions. Separate sections of this chapter will address (a) the setting, (b) the sample population, (c) the research design, (d) the variables of the study, (e) data-gathering procedures and instruments, and (f) the statistical methods used to analyze the data.

SETTING

This study was conducted with students admitted to the External Degree Program at Eastern Oregon State College in La Grande, Oregon. The College is located in the northeastern corner of the state. Established in 1929 as Eastern Oregon Normal School, its original mission was as an educational training college for teachers. Over its 60-year

history, the College evolved into what it is now, a regional state college within the Oregon State System of Higher Education. It is one of the seven publicly supported post-secondary institutions in Oregon, but the only one east of the Cascade Mountain Range. Thus, the College has been attempting in the 10 years that have passed since the Oregon Legislature deemed it a "regional" institution, to serve the educational and cultural needs of the residents of a 10-county, sparsely-populated, geographically-isolated, yet immense (42,000 square mile) service region.

One of the main projects undertaken by the College following the creation of the Division of Continuing Education in 1979 was the External Degree. This program was created to provide an opportunity for adults, who had either never gone to college or whose college studies had been interrupted, to complete a baccalaureate.

In responding to the diverse schedules and interests of such adult students, the External Degree Program offers either a bachelor of science (BS) or a bachelor of arts (BA) in General Studies. Though no campus residency in La Grande is required for the degree, participants must have at least 45 of the 186 minimum quarter hours required for graduation awarded under the supervision of Eastern Oregon State College faculty. This definition of residency fostered the creation of multiple options that External Degree students have available to them in order to meet the 45-hour requirement and to complete the degree itself. (These options will

be described later in the Definition of Variables section of this chapter). Other requirements of the degree parallel the on-campus General Studies degree and/or institutional requirements for graduation. Specifically, of the 186 quarter hours required for graduation:

1. 70 hours must be at the upper-division level;
2. 50 must satisfy Eastern's general education (liberal arts) requirements with a minimum of 15 hours in each of 3 disciplines:
(a) humanities, (b) social science, and
(c) natural science;
3. a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of a 2.0 must be achieved on all Eastern Oregon State College credits and on all credits, including transfer credits, appearing on the student's transcript;
4. up to 45 vocational-type credits that do not meet the normal mix of theory and application, including cooperative education (work placement credits) may be applied toward the degree;
5. up to 108 community college credits may apply toward the degree; this limit may be exceeded with approval of the Assistant Academic Dean if the excess credits fit into a planned degree program.

In addition, External Degree graduates, just like graduates in any other Eastern Oregon State College degree program, must pass the College's exit writing test, the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE). No limitations are imposed on the number or type of credits that can be earned through different options made available to students (e.g., Assessment of Prior Learning portfolio, Weekend College courses, Individualized Studies courses). To preserve the

intent of a general studies degree, however, no more than 90 of the 186 credits required for graduation can be in the same discipline; and within these 90 hours, no more than 35 can be at the upper-division level.

SAMPLE POPULATION

Over 1,000 adults have been admitted to the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program since accurate program admissions records began in 1982. Using the Program's admissions list, students were identified as either (a) finishers, (known to have graduated through the External Degree Program by Fall Quarter 1988); (b) actives, those individuals whose Program advisors or transcripts reported either portfolio or course activity during 1988); or (c) leavers, those admitted prior to 1988 whose Program advisors and/or transcripts reported no progress made toward the degree for at least one calendar year. Once identified, actives were omitted and the remaining 241 finishers and 228 leavers constituted the sample population of this study.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The theoretical model on which the study was based came from a published researcher in the field of post-secondary attrition, Dr. John Bean, of the Department of Higher Education and Student Affairs at Indiana University in Bloomington. In collaboration with Barbara Metzner from Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis, Dr.

Bean developed the Conceptual Model of Non-Traditional Student Attrition. The model, as shown below, was based on Bean and Metzner's review and interpretation of codifications, or "reviews of research that synthesize the findings of many empirical studies" (p. 493) from the field of postsecondary student attrition.

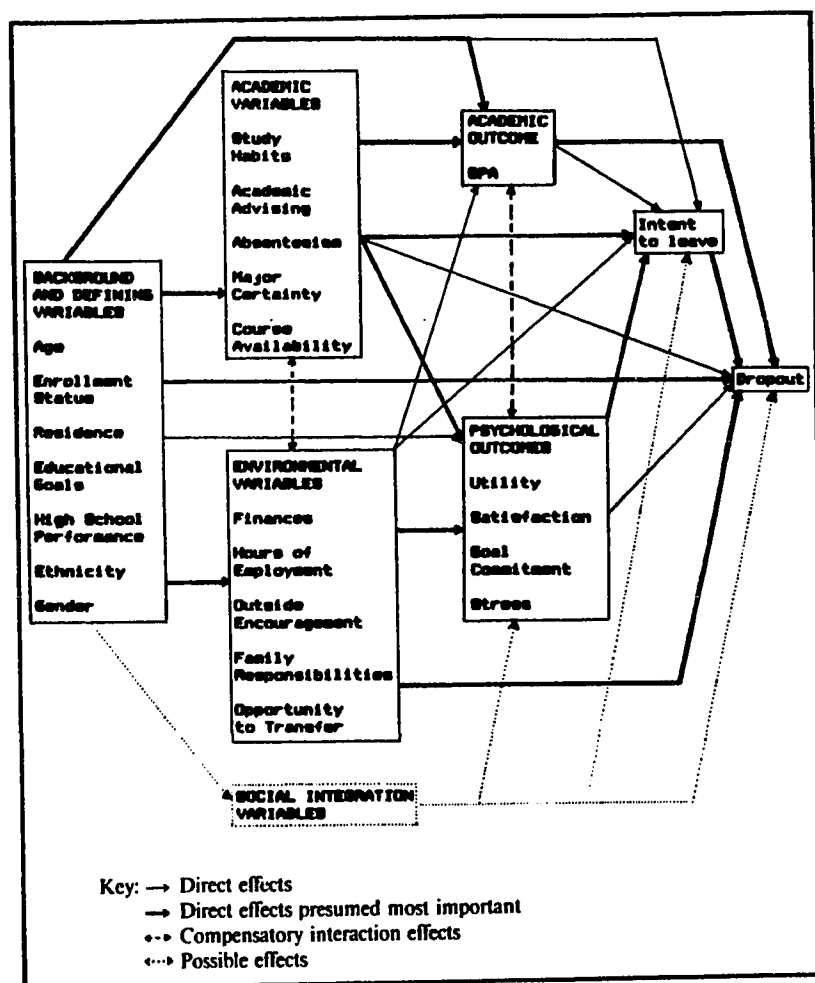


Figure 4. Non-Traditional Student Attrition

Source: Bean and Metzner, 1985

To overcome or at least reduce several of the weaknesses that Terenzini (1980) identifies as characteristic of the autopsy/post hoc design (p. 56-58), several procedures or features were built in. As already mentioned, the research design was established from a theoretical base about non-traditional student attrition. In addition, the instrument used to collect the data was patterned after one made available by Dr. Bean which he had used in similar research. Some modifications were required in the instrument to reflect the particular situation in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program.

Also, in order to improve the response rate of 15%-40% predicted by Terenzini (p. 63) for mailout surveys, Total Design Method procedures described by Dillman (1978, p. 160-199) were followed.

As Terenzini (1982) notes:

The longitudinal design provides the most extensive planned control of the many variables thought to be potential influences on the persistence behavior of students. (p. 61)

However, as Terenzini also comments (p. 61-62) a project staff, with advanced training and time, and sizable financial support are needed to conduct longitudinal studies. Neither was present to assist with conducting the current study.

The cross-sectional design was considered for the present study. In such a design, data are obtained from a group of students at the same time and reviewed a

relatively short time later when dropout or persistence can be determined. However, this type of design, notes Terenzini (1980, p. 58-60), also needs a project staff with adequate time and money. In addition, the cross-sectional design did not seem as applicable to a non-traditional program like the External Degree. The nature of the External Degree Program options, especially the assessment of portfolio, creates instances where a 3-9 month period of no transcripting of credits may occur. It may be incorrect, therefore, as well as inappropriate, to identify students as leavers after only one or two quarters following admission to the Program just because no new credits had appeared on their transcripts. Many cross-sectional studies would assume that the no transcripting indicated leaving. However, in the External Degree Program, it may only mean that the student is working on portfolio essays, or weekend college and/or individualized studies assignments.

Therefore, after considering all the advantages and disadvantages of the three types of designs, (autopsy, longitudinal, and cross-sectional), the autopsy design, with the previously described strengthening features built in, was selected for the present study.

To determine sample representativeness, the non-respondents were compared on known defining and background variables (age, sex, GPA, and ethnicity) with the respondents. Similar comparisons between non-responding and responding finishers and leavers were also conducted. The

results of these comparisons, as described in Chapter IV, affirmed representativeness of the respondents.

LIMITATIONS

Initial group differences in career and college aspirations or motives for participating in the External Degree Program could not be controlled in this autopsy design, and this aspect of the study is a recognized limitation.

Although generalizability to other populations and/or institutions may be limited, the findings of the present study still contribute to the larger body of knowledge about non-traditional students in general, a body of literature which is recognized as minimal (Knoell, cited in Bean and Metzner, 1985; Lenning, Beal, & Sauer, 1980; Tinto, 1975, 1982b; and Zaccaria & Creaser, cited in Bean and Metzner, 1985).

The wording of several survey questions may have limited the interpretation of their response categories. For example, questions 27-34 and 70-77 provided for an "n/a" response. When comparisons between leavers and finishers were calculated, the "n/a" responses were included. Therefore, the individuals for whom the questions applied were compared against those for whom they did not. The significance of differences which resulted may have been affected more by the number of "n/a" responses (individuals for whom the questions did not apply) rather than by actual differences between/among students for whom they did.

Differences in responses to a number of questions may have been affected by the amount of time the participants spent in the External Degree Program. For example, if leavers left before involving themselves in numerous options available for earning credits toward their degrees, then a larger number of "no" responses to questions asking whether or not they earned credits through certain types of options (questions 3-17), may be more an indication of shortness of time in the program rather than of failure to academically integrate. If finishers more frequently responded "yes" to such questions, then the interpretation of any significant difference between leavers and finishers is limited because the study did not control for length of time in the Program.

VARIABLES FOR THE STUDY

Dependent Variables

There was one behavior, persistence, which was measured in this study. The behavior, however, could result in two choices: (1) leaving the Program or (2) finishing the Program.

A leaving student was defined as one who:

- (1) had been admitted (beginning with 1982 records) to the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program, but
- (2) had not shown any activity indicating progress toward finishing the Program for at least one year as verified by:

- (a) no activity on his/her transcript in the Eastern Oregon State College Registrar's Office for at least one year (i.e., all of 1988 or more), or
- (b) the student's faculty advisor verification that no portfolio essays were in progress.

A completing student was defined as one who:

- (1) had been admitted (beginning with 1982 records) to the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program, and
- (2) who had graduated within this Program with a General Studies Degree.

Independent Variables

The independent variables included in the present study were adopted from the Bean and Metzner model. As their model on page 73 shows, four variable categories were identified: (1) Defining; (2) Background; (3) Academic; and (4) Environmental. Also, two outcome categories were included: (1) Psychological Outcomes and (2) Academic Outcomes. Although social integration variables are usually included in traditional student attrition research, Bean and Metzner's review of the literature regarding student attrition (p. 490) determined that while socialization was relatively unimportant for non-traditional students, the noncollegiate environment was. The importance of environmental variables is unique to this model:

Whereas most research has concentrated on what could push a student out of an institution, environmental variables indicate ways in which the student might be pulled from the institution. (Bean, 1982, p. 28).

Therefore, the underlying process of attrition on which the present study was based differs from what is frequently seen in attrition studies. For example, Bean and Metzner presume environmental variables to be more important for non-traditional students than academic variables, which lead them to the following hypotheses:

1. When academic and environmental variables are both good (i.e., favorable for persistence), students should remain in school.
2. When both are poor, students should stop/dropout.
3. When academic variables are good, but environmental variables are poor, the student should leave school because of the stronger influence of a distracting or unsupportive noncollegiate environment on stop/dropout decisions.
4. When environmental support is good, but academic support poor, students would be expected to remain enrolled--the environmental support compensates for low scores on academic variables. (p. 491-492)

Defining Variables. Age, enrollment status, and residency were the three aspects of defining variables compared in the current study. These variables are included as reminders that they must be controlled or they would interact with other variables. For example, since the present study focuses only on non-traditional students, any significant impact on attrition of age within this group would need to be assessed.

Attrition studies that attempted to link age with persist-withdrawal decisions have produced conflicting

results. The effect of age on withdrawal appears, say Bean and Metzner, to be indirectly applied through jobs, family responsibilities, and absenteeism associated with work and family expectations. Likewise, Lenning (1982) reported conflicting results when attempting to link age with dropout decisions because "older students are rusty on academics, but are more highly motivated" (p. 35). To determine any age-related differences of External Degree leavers and finishers, students were asked:

"What age interval best describes you while you were participating in the External Degree Program?"

Response options included: under 23; 24-35; 36-44; 45-54; 55-64; over 64 years.

(The current age of each respondent was also obtained from the Eastern Oregon State College student data base.)

The codifications Bean and Metzner found regarding enrollment status of full-time vs. part-time students consistently agreed that attrition rates for part-time students were higher than for full-time students. In the Bean and Metzner model, this variable referred to the number of academic credits for which a student was enrolled during the term when the initial assessment occurred. However, because most External Degree students attend a four-credit-hour portfolio development workshop and then spend a minimum of two terms developing a portfolio of prior learning, their transcripts frequently show two or three quarters when no additional credit is recorded. The enrollment status

variable was modified in the present study, therefore, to refer to (1) the subject's grade level upon entrance to the External Degree; and (2) for leavers, their progress level prior to leaving the Program; and for finishers, the average number of credits per term they completed as they progressed toward graduation. Respondents were asked two questions:

- (1) Which term best describes the grade level at which you entered the External Degree Program?

Response options included: Freshman, 0-44 crs.; Sophomore, 45-89 crs.; Junior, 90-134 crs.; or Senior, 135 crs. or more.

- (2) Leavers: Which statement best describes your progress in the External Degree Program up until the time you stopped progressing toward graduation?

Response options included: basically 0, I never really got started; up to about 25 credits; between 25-75 credits; between 76-125 credits; over 125 credits, or:

Finishers: Which statement best describes your progress toward graduation in the External Degree Program?

Response options included: less than 6 crs. per term; between 6-8 credits per term; between 9-11 credits per term; or at least 12 credits per term.

In the Bean and Metzner model, **residence** was defined as the difference between commuting to campus and residing on/near campus. Since the External Degree Program is designed for commuter students who, for the most part, live with other family members away from the campus grounds, this variable was modified in the present study to differentiate between living in or out of Oregon, near or away from a

college facility, and living in a rural or an urban area. A question about differences in perception of barriers between rural and urban External Degree participants was also included in this variable. The effect of residence on leavers/finishers was assessed by asking the following questions:

While you were participating in the External Degree Program, were you a resident of Oregon all or most of the time?

Yes/No

Was there, while you were participating in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program, a regional outreach-type center provided by Eastern or another community or four-year college/university near (within 10 miles) of your home?

Yes/No

For the most part, what kind of community did you live in while participating in the External Degree Program?

Response options included: Rural area or farm, 15+ miles from city; Town or small city under 50,000; Medium-sized city (50,000-250,000); Suburban area near large city; Large city over 250,000

How many miles away is the home you lived in while participating in the External Degree Program from the La Grande campus of Eastern Oregon State College?

Response options included: 0-49 miles (considered within one hour's drive and includes two counties, Union and Baker, within the Eastern regional service region); 50-149 miles (includes all or parts of seven other regional counties, Wallowa, Malheur, Umatilla, Grant, Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler as well as S.E. Washington); 150-249 miles (includes more remote regional service area (Harney County) where regular commuting is less likely); 250-499 miles (includes Willamette Valley area and beyond); 500 miles or more (would include most out-of-state participants)

How many miles away is the home you lived in while participating in the External Degree Program from any community college or four-year institution?

Response options included: 0-49 miles; 50-149 miles; 150-249 miles; 250-499 miles; 500 miles or more

What was the most difficult barrier you faced to participating in the External Degree?

Response options included: lack of adequate finances; too great a distance from college(s); not enough time to commit to school assignments; lack of encouragement from people in my life; unexpected personal/family crisis; other _____ (explain).

Background Variables. Just as in attrition studies of traditional students (Bean, 1982; Pascarella, 1980; Spady, 1970; and Tinto, 1975), background variables (educational goals, high school performance, ethnicity, family educational levels, and gender) were included in the present study because "past behavior is expected to predict future behavior" (Bentler & Speckart, cited in Bean and Metzner, p. 492).

Background variables are expected to affect how non-traditional students interact with the institution and thus must be taken into account in modeling the attrition process. (Bean & Metzner, p. 493)

The link between **educational goals** and persist/dropout decisions produced conflicting findings in the codifications reviewed by Bean & Metzner, although no research findings regarding dropout were based on educational goals of part-time students. Any impact of educational goals on

differences between leavers and finishers in the present study was assessed by asking the following question:

What is the highest degree you expected to eventually receive when you returned to college in the External Degree Program?

Response options included: did not expect to receive a degree; associate degree; baccalaureate degree; graduate degree.

Within background variables, only high school performance was consistently linked with persist/dropout decisions in the codifications studied by Bean and Metzner. Lenning (1982) reported that even though high school achievement was the highest predictor of college success, it still only accounted for 10% of the variance in persistence/withdrawal decisions. To assess the difference that high school performance may have had on leave/finish behavior of External Degree students, the following questions were asked:

What was your high school grade point average (on a 4-point scale where A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1)?

Response options included: 3.76-4.00; 3.50-3.75; 3.00-3.49; 2.50-2.99; 2.00-2.49; 1.50-1.99; 1.00-1.49; 0.00-0.99; N/A, received a General Education Diploma, (GED).

What ranking in your high school graduating class best describes you?

Response options included: upper 20%; lower 20%; in the middle; n/a, received a General Education Diploma (GED).

Although Bean and Metzner also recommend determining differences due to standardized test scores, the External Degree admission procedures do not require such tests. Such

data, even if it were available from the high school records of the External Degree students, would be difficult to obtain because of the time that has elapsed for most External Degree participants between high school graduation and the present. Therefore, although the standardized test data were not obtained from the participants, they were asked:

Do you think taking any standardized tests should have been required of you while participating in the External Degree?
Yes/No

No differences in the codifications reviewed by Bean & Metzner between persisters and dropouts were attributed strictly to **ethnicity**. However, because such data were available on the Eastern Oregon State College student data base, the respondents' race was included in the comparisons. Specifically, respondents were coded as:

1=Black, non-Hispanic; 2=Indian/Alaskan;
3=Asian/Pacific Islander; 4=Hispanic; 5=White, non-Hispanic; 6=International; 7=No Response

The codifications reviewed by Bean & Metzner showed that at commuter-oriented, four-year institutions, **parents' education** did not significantly affect persist/dropout decisions. However, because the present study was conducted with older students, many of whom were expected to be married, External Degree participants were asked about the educational levels of their spouses, as well as their mothers and fathers.

Indicate the number that corresponds to the highest educational level of (1) your mother; (2) your father; (3) your spouse.

Response options included: less than high school; high school/GED; post high school, non-college vocational school training; some college; college degree.

Although gender was not shown to directly affect persist/dropout behaviors in the Bean and Metzner codifications, gender differences were included in the present study to determine if the indirect effect on dropout that Bean and Metzner noted between gender and family responsibilities was also evident in the External Degree student population studied. For example, Lenning (1982) reported that married men had higher completion rates than did unmarried men, but married women had lower than unmarried women. Therefore, students were asked if they were male or female, and in the environmental variable section, if they were/were not married.

Academic Variables. "Academic variables represent the primary way in which non-traditional students interact with the institution" (Bean & Metzner, p. 492). According to Tinto's (1975) model, the more a student interacts with the institution, the more likely the student will be committed to persisting there. Academic variables, say Bean and Metzner, are expected to have an indirect effect on the dropout/persist behavior of non-traditional students. Five academic variables were included in this category: study skills/habits, academic advising; major certainty; course availability; and program involvement. Although the Bean and Metzner model also includes absenteeism as an academic

variable, this factor was eliminated from the present study. No codifications were found in the Bean and Metzner literature review that assessed the effect of absenteeism on non-traditional student attrition. And, since the External Degree Program does not require on-campus residency and students in the Program do not all participate in traditional-type courses where daily/bi-weekly attendance is the norm, absenteeism was not an appropriate variable to include in the present study.

The codifications that Bean and Metzner studied regarding the effect of **study skills/habits** on the dropout/persist behavior of non-traditional students did not provide any findings from studies done with older students. To attempt to assess the impact of External Degree students' perceptions of their study skills/habits on their complete/dropout behavior, students were asked the following questions:

While participating in the EOSC External Degree Program,

...did you usually complete your assignments on time?

Yes/No

To what extent:

Were you able to find time to do assignments?

Did you procrastinate with doing your work?

Were you confident with your study skills?

With your reading ability? Your writing ability? Your verbal expression ability?

Your ability to cope with stress? With challenging academics?

Response options included: not at all; to a small extent; to some extent; to a great extent; to a very great extent.

The amount of time spent in academic advising and the student's satisfaction with the quality of advising service did not show significant differences for non-traditional students at commuter-oriented four-year institutions in the codifications reviewed by Bean and Metzner. Because of Eastern Oregon State College's emphasis on good, dependable, and regular academic advising, however, the following questions related to this variable were included in the present study.

Were degree requirements made clear to you by your advisor? Options: Yes/No

Should La Grande campus meetings between you and your advisor have been required? Options: Yes/No

To what extent were you satisfied with the amount of academic advising you received? Options: not at all; small; some; great; very great extent

To what extent were you satisfied with the quality of academic advising you received? Options: not at all; small; some; great; very great extent

The codifications reviewed by Bean and Metzner showed a strong positive correlation at commuter-oriented four-year institutions of **major certainty** and persistence. Even though the External Degree, a BS/BA in General Studies, does not require a major, participants are allowed to have a focus to their degree with 90 of the 186 credits in the same discipline. For this study, therefore, subjects were asked:

Did you focus on any particular subject area while accumulating credits toward your degree?
Options: Yes/No

Another variable in the academic category is **course availability**. Although the codifications studied by Bean and Metzner showed this to be an important variable:

It was nevertheless, not significantly related to differences between dropouts and persisters at commuter-oriented four-year schools. (p. 502)

However, because one hypothesis of the present study was that students who live in areas where more options for completing their college degrees are available to them will be more likely to graduate than will those who live where such options are not so available, this variable was included in the present study. For example, two questions related to this variable were asked:

How often were courses that you desired to take in order to complete your degree offered to you?

Were the courses you wanted to take offered at convenient times for you?

Response options included: does not apply; not at all; some of the time; most of the time; all of the time.

A final academic variable of interest and possible difference between finishers and leavers in the External Degree Program was the number and type of **program options** in which the students participated. One hypothesis of this study was that students who spent some time on the La Grande campus taking classes were more likely to complete the External Degree than were those who attempted to satisfy all

degree requirements by correspondence formats or through other at-home opportunities. Therefore, for this study, students were asked to respond "yes" or "no" about their participation in a number of program options in which they may have participated while enrolled in the External Degree:

I. Correspondence/Regional Options

- A. Assessment of Prior Learning Portfolio Workshop: a credit-bearing, upper-division hour class in which External Degree students who show potential for earning at least 15 credits through documented knowledge obtained outside the traditional classroom, learn how to develop the portfolio in which such learning is displayed. Workshops are held in various locations throughout the State. In the early years of the program, class could also be taken by correspondence.
- B. Portfolio Credit: a collection of student-written essays and supporting documentation that attempts to translate experiential learning into academic subject modules that campus faculty then evaluate for college credit.
- C. Individualized Studies Program: a collection of courses developed by Eastern Oregon State College faculty that may be done through the mail, using a combination of print, audio, and/or video components.
- D. Cooperative Education Program: a mechanism whereby students earn college credit for current, on-the-job work experience where opportunities for new learning can be verified through jointly developed learning objectives by the student, the employer, and the academic advisor. The work placement may be in the student's home community or elsewhere. Faculty visits to verify progress on the learning objectives occur during the 10-week placement.

E. Course Challenge Options

1. College Level Examination Program (CLEP): an opportunity for students to receive college credit for obtaining satisfactory scores on a variety of general and specific subject area standardized exams developed by the American College Testing Program in Princeton, New Jersey. Paperwork may be filed through the mail and exams proctored in the student's home community.
2. Eastern Oregon State College: any course in the curriculum at EOSC may be challenged for credit by an External Degree student following consultation with the appropriate course instructor. Paperwork may be filed through the mail and exams proctored in the student's home community.

F. Military Evaluation: training obtained while in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces that is documented in the American Council on Education credit equivalencies handbook may be petitioned for transfer credit at Eastern Oregon State College. The paperwork may be completed at one's home and mailed to the EOSC Registrar's Office for processing.

G. Regional Weekend College Program: a collection of modularized (1-2 credit) liberal arts courses offered on a one-weekend format with substantial post-weekend assignments that students then complete at home and mail in to instructors. Between 1982-1985, several of these courses were offered in locations other than La Grande where clusters of External Degree students lived; currently, all are offered in just La Grande or Portland. Credit may be applied toward Eastern's general education requirements in humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences.

- H. Regional Center outreach classes: courses offered at any one of six locations (Burns, Baker, Enterprise, John Day, Ontario, or Pendleton) where Eastern has a designated site for delivery of courses.
- I. Transfer Courses: credits completed at another institution and then transferred to Eastern for application toward External Degree requirements.
- J. Other: some well-known agencies (American Institute of Banking, National Management Association, Board of Police Standards and Training for example) have credit equivalencies recommended by the American Council of Education in a handbook similar to the one used for military evaluations. Though usually included in a portfolio of prior learning, some External Degree students have received direct transfer credit from an evaluation in the EOSC Registrar's Office for such training.

II. La Grande Campus Residency Options

- A. Weekend College Program: same description as above, but students come to the La Grande campus to attend class.
- B. Regular courses/daytime or evening
- C. Portfolio Workshop: same description as above, but students come to the La Grande campus to attend workshop.

Environmental variables. The Bean and Metzner (1985) model of non-traditional student attrition predicts that environmental variables will have a direct effect on dropout decisions. Finances, hours of employment, outside encouragement, family responsibilities, and opportunities to transfer are the variables categorized as environmental.

The codifications Bean and Metzner reviewed involving finances and dropout indicated a positive relationship; that

is, the student's perception of his/her ability to pay educational costs at commuter-oriented, four-year schools was directly related to persist/dropout behaviors. When the financial picture/perception was good, retention resulted; when it was poor, dropout occurred. External Degree students in the present study were asked:

To what extent were finances a problem for you while you were participating in the External Degree?

Response options included: not at all; to a small extent; to some extent; to a great extent; to a very great extent.

Which statement best describes how your educational expenses in the External Degree were funded?

Response options included college-provided financial aid; self/spouse income; employer reimbursement; outside family/friends loans or gifts; bank loans; GI bill; other:_____.

Finances were also included, along with distance, time, the unexpected, and lack of encouragement, as possible barriers from which study participants chose their most critical problem.

Another environmental variable which, according to the codifications reviewed by Bean and Metzner, yields conflicting results with regard to persist/dropout behavior is the effect of **outside employment**. In general, the codifications showed that working more than 20 hours a week at an outside job was negatively associated with persistence. One study, however, showed that outside employment had no significant effect on persist/withdraw behavior. To

assess any impact on the leaving/finishing behavior of External Degree students, they were asked:

How many hours per week were you employed outside your home while participating in the External Degree Program?

Response options included 0, 1-10, 11-20, 21-30; 31-40; over 40.

The presence/effect of outside encouragement on a student's dropout/completion behavior has not, according to Bean and Metzner, resulted in any codifications for non-traditional students attending commuter-oriented, four-year schools. Outside encouragement is defined as the extent of encouragement to remain at a college that the student receives from significant others, not employed by the college. External Degree students were asked:

To what extent, did your spouse/significant other encourage the completion of your degree? Your parents? Your friends? Your employer? Your children? Your siblings?

Response options included: not applicable, not at all, to a small extent, to some extent, to a great extent, to a very great extent.

The extent to which family responsibilities significantly affect a non-traditional student's dropout/complete behavior was not represented in the codifications reviewed by Bean and Metzner. However, since their conceptual model of non-traditional student attrition shows a direct effect on dropout of all environmental variables, the extent to which family responsibilities may have affected leaving/finishing behavior in the present study was included. For example, External Degree students were asked:

What was your marital status while participating in the External Degree?

Response options included:

Single; Married; Separated; Divorced; Widowed

How many children did you have living at home while participating in the Program?

Response options included: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4+

A student's perception of his/her ability to transfer to another degree program has produced conflicting findings with regard to dropout/persist behaviors in the codifications reviewed by Bean and Metzner. Whereas some studies show opportunities to transfer positively linked to persistence, others show such perception positively linked to dropout behaviors. Since the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program does not require any La Grande campus residency, the need to transfer when a student moves to another community is unnecessary. However, because the Eastern Oregon External Degree Program isn't the only one of its kind (two private institutions, Marylhurst and Linfield in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, for example, provide somewhat similar programs), dropout/complete behavior of the Eastern External Degree student might have been linked to the student's perception of the likelihood of transfer. Therefore, External Degree students were asked:

While participating in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree, were you aware of any other External Degree type programs that you could have enrolled in? Options: Yes/No

Did you consider transferring to another institution prior to completing/withdrawing from the Eastern External Degree? Yes/No

The last variable in the Bean and Metzner (1985) model is **social integration**. This variable was not included in the present study because (1) social integration has not been found to be significantly related to dropout of non-traditional students (Bean & Metzner, p. 520), and (2) the nature of the External Degree Program does not provide structured opportunities for students to become socially integrated.

Academic outcomes, as measured in this study by the External Degree students' college GPA, have been shown to be consistent and powerful predictors of persistence in numerous studies at various institutions. But, as Bean & Metzner (1985, p. 521) point out, "College grade average may be relatively less predictive of persistence for part-time, older commuters than for their more traditional peers." With the Eastern Oregon State College student data base as a source, GPAs were obtained on 207 of the 316 respondents. Prior to 1982, however, transfer GPAs were merged into an EOSC GPA to determine the cumulative GPA reported on the student data base. After 1982, only the GPA earned on EOSC courses was reported for transfer students on the student data base. Therefore, for non-traditional students who did poorly in their younger years and transferred into Eastern's External Degree prior to 1982, the reported GPA is especially low; transfers after 1982 with the same background started over on a GPA and theirs, therefore, may be much higher relative to their pre-1982 classmates.

Psychological outcomes, defined as utility, satisfaction, goal commitment, and stress, are located in the Bean and Metzner Conceptual Model of Non-Traditional Student Attrition where they are primarily affected by the academic and environmental variables. Their effect on persist/dropout decisions of non-traditional students is indirect, acting through "intent to leave" intentions (p. 522).

Utility is defined as the student's perception of the usefulness of the college degree in obtaining/maintaining employment and of developing as a person. Research on the practical job application of persisting in college shows a positive link with completing behavior. No research on growth in personal development of non-traditionals was reported in the codifications studied by Bean and Metzner. External Degree students were asked:

Which factor below best describes the reason you enrolled in the External Degree?

Response options included: Required in my career; to improve myself; to get a job; to get a better job; for the personal challenge; other _____.

How much impact did participating in the External Degree have on knowing yourself; using interpersonal skills; seeing alternative points of view?

Response options included: little/none; some; quite a bit; a great deal; a very great deal

Another psychological outcome, **satisfaction**, was defined as the degree to which a student enjoyed the role of being a student and reported a lack of boredom with college courses. For commuter-oriented, four-year institutions, the

codifications reviewed by Bean and Metzner showed a positive correlation between satisfaction and persistence. For purposes of the present study, External Degree students were asked:

Did you find the academic expectations of the External Degree more difficult than you liked?
Options: Yes/No

Do you think taking standardized tests should have been required? Options: Yes/No

Was feedback on your assignments from your course instructors timely? Options: Yes/No

Was it difficult for you to ask your advisor for help when you needed it? Your instructors?
Options: not at all; small extent; some extent; great extent; very great extent

Do you feel the rules/procedures of the Program inhibited your progress toward completing the degree?
Options: not at all; small extent; some extent; great extent; very great extent

One open-ended question related to this variable was also asked: If you had it to do all over again, what would you do differently "a second time around" in starting or returning to college in order to complete your degree?

Goal commitment is one psychological outcome that is difficult to validate in autopsy designs. Although the goal may have seemed very important at the time, the memory may fade after awhile. When asked in a survey several years following either graduation/dropout, the intensity of the commitment to the goal may be different. Especially for dropouts, it may be easier to cope with the reality of withdrawal by describing the goal of a college

degree as unimportant. For graduates, completion of the degree may have opened doors that, at the time of participation, they were unaware of and may now be unable to be objective about. For the present study, therefore, rather than asking participants how important it was for them to complete their programs, they were asked:

Was a college degree required for continuation in your chosen career? Options: Yes/No

Stress is another psychological outcome in the Bean and Metzner model. It is defined as:

The extent to which students believe they experience stress from factors that are not related to college attendance, as well as from the amount of time/energy required for college study (p. 526).

Bean and Metzner concluded that "outside stress factors appeared with sufficient frequency to warrant a conclusion they may significantly affect commuter student attrition" (p. 526). In addition, research at a commuter-oriented four-year institution as reported by Louis, (cited in Bean and Metzner, p. 526) indicated that "lack of time for school was one of the most frequent reasons that students reported for withdrawing at the end of a semester." Therefore, in the present study, External Degree students were asked: Which statement best describes your response to the amount of time that was required of you on a weekly basis to participate in the External Degree.

Options: More time than I could possibly give;
More time than I expected, but I found it;
About the amount I had expected/planned for;
Less time than expected; Hardly any time at all

Also, with regard to the time needed for the External Degree, the present study sought to find if students had conscientiously adjusted their life styles/habits in order to accommodate the added demands of participating in a college degree program. Therefore, External Degree students were asked:

Did you cut back on any of the following activities while participating in the External Degree: paid employment; social activities with friends; alone time with spouse/significant other; housework or home maintenance; involvement in children's activities; in civic responsibilities

Response options included: Yes/No/Not Applicable

The last step in the Bean and Metzner conceptual model of non-traditional student attrition is called "intent to leave, the best predictor of actual dropout" (p. 527). Although Bean and Metzner did not find any research that related intent to leave and attrition of older or part-time students, questions were asked of the External Degree students in the present study because "prior research has consistently shown intent to leave to be an extremely strong predictor of dropout" (p. 528) in other institutional settings. Students in the present study, therefore, were asked:

Did you, at any time while you were participating in the External Degree Program, discuss leaving the Program with anyone other than EOSC personnel? Options: Yes/No

Two additional perception of quality questions were asked of the participants:

All in all, how good an education do you think you received through Eastern Oregon State?

Options included: unable to judge; rather poor; fair; good; very good; excellent

In your opinion, how high is the quality of Eastern Oregon State College?

Options included: very low; fairly low; neither high nor low; fairly high; very high

DATA-GATHERING PROCEDURES AND INSTRUMENTS

Identification of Population to Study

A list of all students admitted to the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program since accurate Program admissions records began in 1982 was obtained from the External Degree Program secretary. In consultation with Program advisors, leavers and finishers were identified "1" or "2," respectively, using the definitions given on pages 77-78 of this report. Transcripts in the Eastern Oregon State College registrar's office were used to verify the leaver/finisher classifications.

Distribution of Survey

Procedures explained in Dillman (1978) regarding the total design method for implementing mail-out surveys served as a guide for distribution of the surveys to the External Degree subjects. In order to enhance the return rate from study participants, Dillman's theme of personalization was followed. Specifically:

(1) each envelope was individually stamped (first-class) and addressed to each of the 469 subjects; likewise the author's return address was also individually typed on each envelope;

(2) although the body of a cover letter which accompanied each survey was xeroxed, the date and inside address for each letter was individually added at the typewriter; also, each letter was individually signed by the author; and

(3) each envelope contained a stamped, individually typed return envelope for ease in mailing back the completed survey.

Regarding the purpose of the cover letter, Dillman says:

The cover letter communicates the appeal to the study participants and emphasizes a reasonable explanation of the subject of the study, its benefit to a group with which the recipient identifies, and the individual importance of the respondent to the study's success. (p. 163)

Copies of the cover letters accompanying the leavers' and finishers' surveys are found in Appendix A of this report.

Following a pilot test of the survey with several External Degree participants (including finishers, leavers, and actives), the revised survey was printed on blue paper for finishers, yellow for leavers. The color coding aided in processing the completed surveys. (Copies are found in the Appendix A.) On Monday, March 13, 1989, the envelopes containing a cover letter, survey, return envelope, and author's business card were mailed to the 469 subjects.

Exactly one week later, on Monday, March 20, 1989, a postcard follow-up was sent to all recipients of the first

mailing. Following Dillman's personalization theme, these cards were also individually addressed and signed by the author. This postcard (copy in Appendix A) was written as a thank you to those who had already returned their questionnaires and as a reminder to those who had not.

A second follow-up (Appendix A) was mailed to non-respondents on April 3, 1989, exactly three weeks after the original mailout. It contained another cover letter (again individually addressed, dated, and signed) that informed subjects that their questionnaire had not yet been received. The letter included a restatement of the basic appeal from the original cover letter, a replacement questionnaire, and another first-class stamped, addressed return envelope.

Receipt of Completed Surveys

Of the 469 surveys distributed, 402 or 85% were either completed and returned by study participants (316; 67%) or undeliverable due to out-of-date addresses, death, or general unavailability of subjects due to overseas travel, etc. (86; 18%). Of the 383 deliverable surveys, the following return was obtained:

112	Returned of 159	Surveys to Leavers:	70%
<u>204</u>	"	<u>224</u> " " Finishers:	91%
316	Total of 383	Deliverable Surveys:	82.5%

A geographic breakdown of these 316 respondents follows.

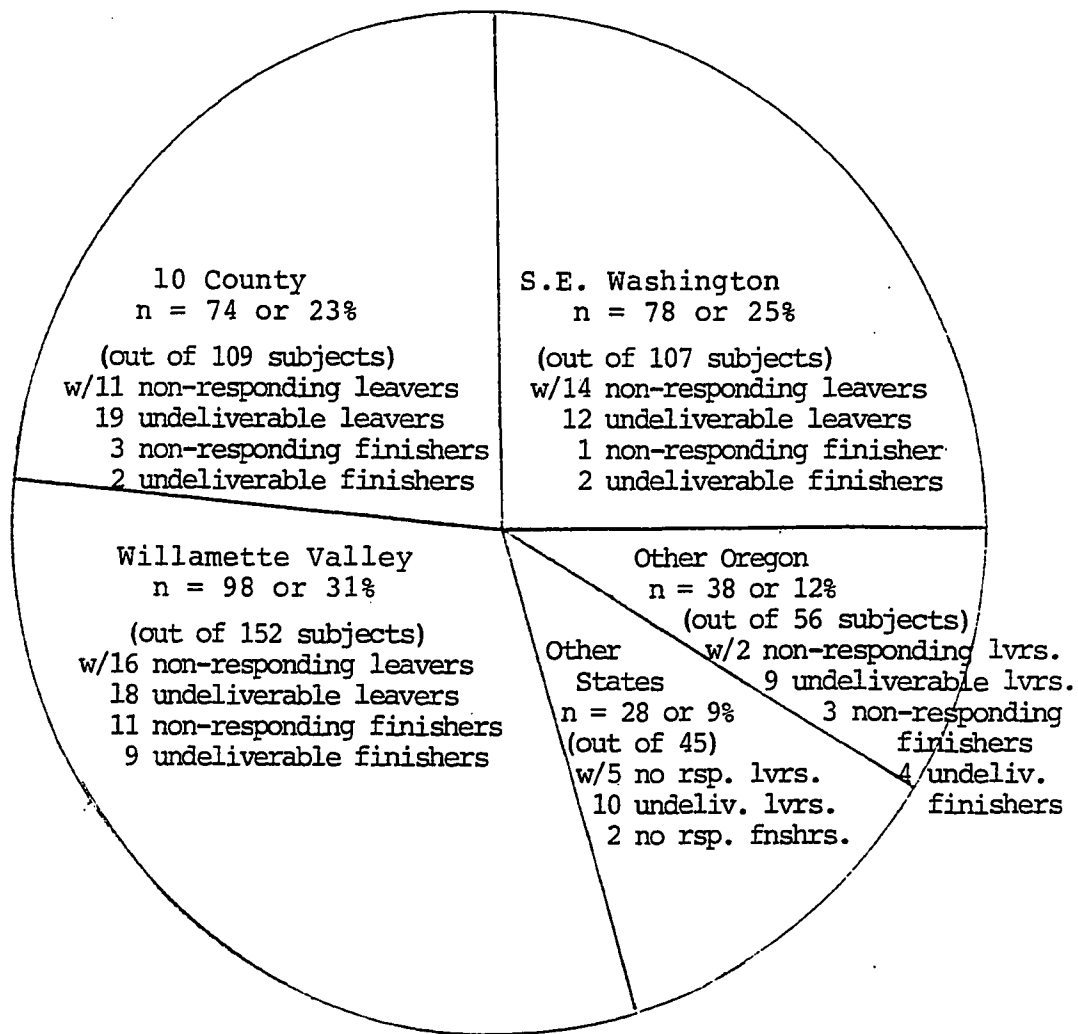


Figure 5. Geographic Distribution of 316 Respondents

Definition of Categories

- 10 County: Eastern 40% of Oregon, including Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler counties. Designated by Oregon Legislature as "EOSC Service Region"
- S.E. Washington: Close geographic proximity to La Grande, Oregon, including Tri-Cities area (Kennewick/Pasco/Richland), Prosser and Walla-Walla, Washington
- Willamette Valley: Western Oregon/Southwestern Washington "corridor," including area bordered on south by Eugene, Oregon, and on north by Vancouver, Washington
- Other Oregon: Other Oregon points not included in above categories
- Other States: Other points not included in above categories

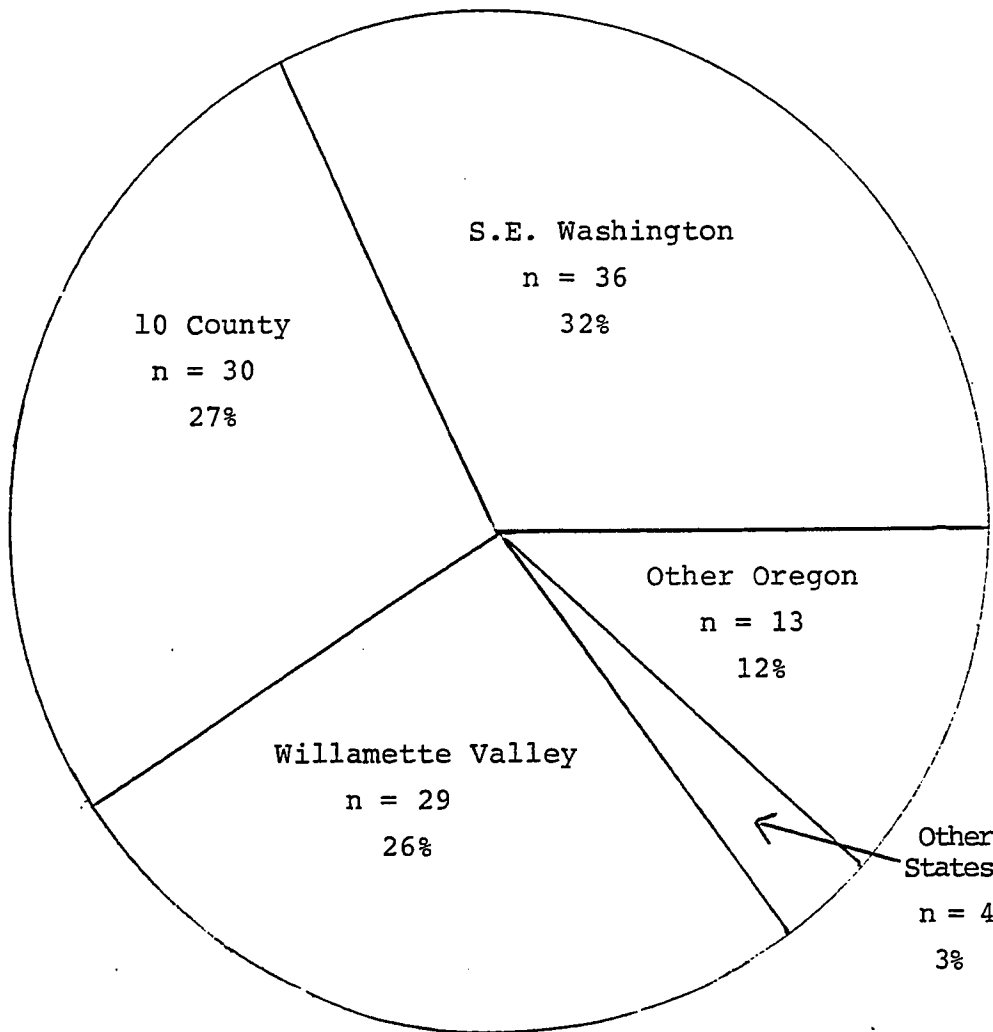


Figure 6. Geographic Distribution of 112 Responding Leavers

Definition of Categories

- 10 County: Eastern 40% of Oregon, including Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler counties. Designated by Oregon Legislature as "EOSC Service Region"
- S.E. Washington: Close geographic proximity to La Grande, Oregon, including Tri-Cities area (Kennewick/Pasco/Richland), Prosser and Walla-Walla, Washington
- Willamette Valley: Western Oregon/Southwestern Washington "corridor," including area bordered on south by Eugene, Oregon, and on north by Vancouver, Washington
- Other Oregon: Other Oregon points not included in above categories
- Other States: Other points not included in above categories

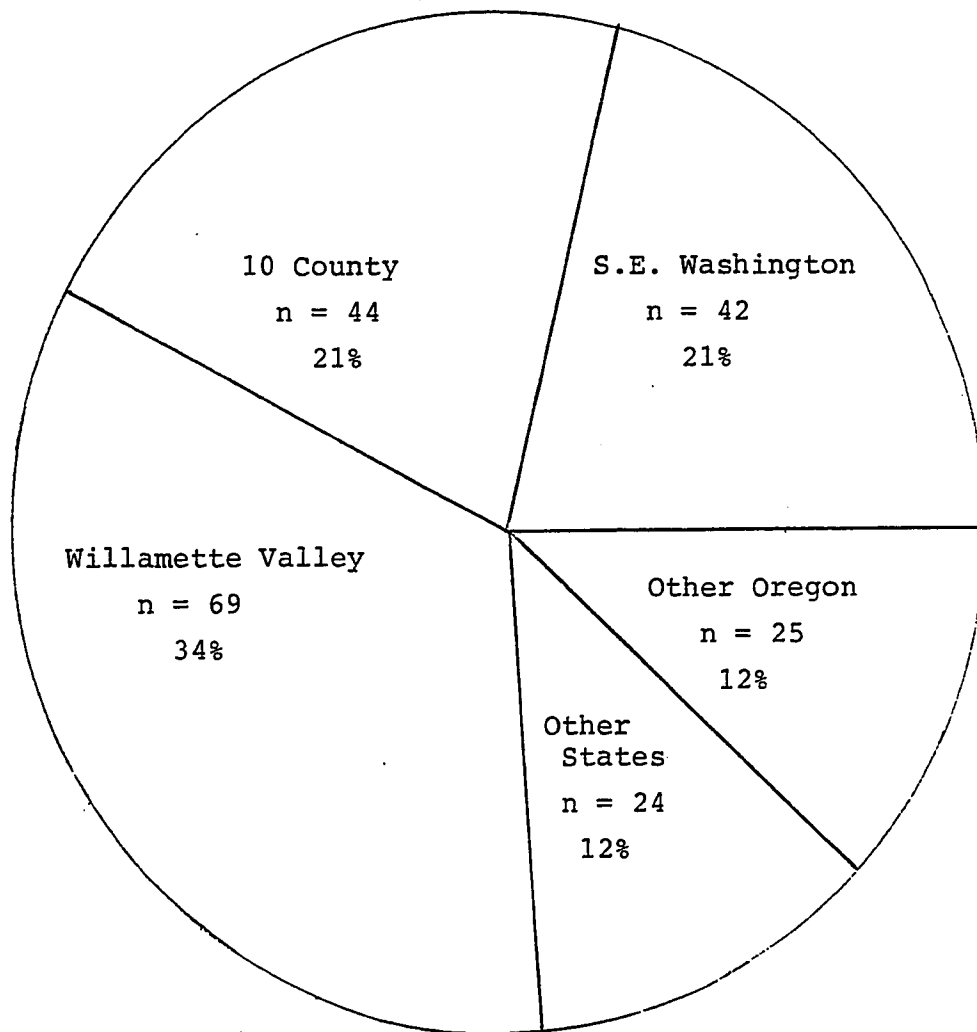


Figure 7. Geographic Distribution of 204 Responding Finishers

Definition of Categories

- 10 County: Eastern 40% of Oregon, including Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler counties. Designated by Oregon Legislature as "EOSC Service Region"
- S.E. Washington: Close geographic proximity to La Grande, Oregon, including Tri-Cities area (Kennewick/Pasco/Richland), Prosser and Walla-Walla, Washington
- Willamette Valley: Western Oregon/Southwestern Washington "corridor," including area bordered on south by Eugene, Oregon, and on north by Vancouver, Washington
- Other Oregon: Other Oregon points not included in above categories
- Other States: Other points not included in above categories

Instrument

The survey instrument used in this study to differentiate finishers from leavers was adapted from (1) the Student Entry-Level Questionnaire (SEL-Q), copyright 1983 by John P. Bean; (2) and the Student Attitude Questionnaire (SAQ), copyright 1983 by John P. Bean. Permission was granted in the Fall of 1988 from Dr. Bean to use his instruments. (See Appendix A for the two questionnaires and permission from Dr. Bean to use/adapt them as necessary).

The survey contained information regarding background, defining, academic, and environmental variables, psychological and academic outcomes, and intent-to-leave questions. Changes in wording were primarily done to match the specific institutional setting of the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program.

STATISTICAL METHODS USED FOR ANALYSIS

Statistical analysis of the research questions was generated using the computer packages, StatPac, copyright 1984 by David Walonick, and MINITAB, copyright 1987 by T.W. Anderson and B.P. Eynon.

Because most of the survey responses were in the form of nominal data (Yes/No; attitudes/perceptions on Likert scales; or best statement descriptions), chi-square analyses were most frequently used to compare leavers with finishers, rurals with urbans, and non-respondents with respondents. The level of significance was set at $p < .05$.

With two variables, age and GPA, the data were parametric and t-tests and one-way ANOVA calculations were conducted.

Following an analysis of all chi-square and t-tests, stepwise multiple regression was used to statistically examine the amount of difference in leave/finish behavior that could be explained by responses to certain survey questions. All survey questions could have been regressed and a complete correlation matrix reviewed. However, for this study, only those questions which met two criteria were selected for the regression procedure. First, the question had to have produced significantly different responses between leavers and finishers at $p < .05$. Second, the question had to be one which asked about characteristics/opinions the respondents had either at the time of Program admission or shortly thereafter, rather than traits and/or opinions which would have been more affected by the length of time the respondent spent in the Program. For example, though leavers responded significantly different than did finishers to questions regarding the Program's impact on knowing themselves, using interpersonal skills, and seeing alternative points of view (questions 78-80), responses to these questions were expected to have been affected by the amount of time the respondents had spent in the Program. On the other hand, a question which asked about the need to have a degree to pursue one's career was seen as more descriptive of the respondent's entry-level status. After screening each

survey question on the two criteria cited above, the following items were selected for regression:

<u>Survey Number</u>	<u>Content of Question</u>	<u>Variable or Outcome Category</u>
19	Awareness of Other External Degrees	Environmental
27	Career/Degree Bond	Psychological
36	Grade Level at Admission to Program	Defining
37	Highest Degree Aspirations	Background
50	Time Needed Weekly for Program	Psychological

NULL HYPOTHESES

The literature review, a theoretical base in Bean and Metzner's (1985) model of non-traditional student attrition, and the author's practical experience within the External Degree Program led to the formulation of the following null hypotheses which were tested in this study:

Null Hypothesis 1

There will be no significant differences between finishers and leavers in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program on defining variables of age, enrollment status, or residency.

Null Hypothesis 2

There will be no significant differences between finishers and leavers in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program on background variables of educational goals, high school performance, ethnicity, family educational levels, or gender.

Null Hypothesis 3

There will be no significant differences between finishers and leavers in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program on academic variables of the student's perception of their study habits, academic advising, course availability, major focus within the degree, or program involvement.

Null Hypothesis 4

There will be no significant differences between finishers and leavers in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program on environmental variables of finances, hours of outside employment, outside encouragement, family responsibilities, or perception of opportunities to transfer.

Null Hypothesis 5

There will be no significant differences between finishers and leavers in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program in psychological outcomes as measured by the student's sense of utility of the degree, satisfaction with themselves and the program, goal commitment (as measured by the linkage between career and degree completion), and perceptions of stress.

Null Hypothesis 6

There will be no significant differences between finishers and leavers in the Eastern Oregon State College

External Degree Program in academic outcomes as measured by their college GPAs.

Null Hypothesis 7

There will be no significant differences between finishers and leavers in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program regarding their intent to leave, as measured by their having discussed with non-college personnel their plans to withdraw.

Null Hypothesis 8

There will be no significant differences between finishers and leavers in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program in their perceptions about the quality of education they received through Eastern and of Eastern's reputation itself.

SUPPLEMENTAL: RURAL VS. URBAN

In addition to analyses between leavers and finishers, respondents were compared along a rural/urban dimension regarding their perception of barriers. Another hypothesis related to these comparisons was:

Null Hypothesis 9

There will be no significant difference between rural and urban respondents in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program in their perception of barriers, including financial and academic expectations, thoroughness

and clarity of advising, and adherence to Program rules/procedures.

SUPPLEMENTAL: MARITAL STATUS/FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

The effect of family responsibilities on differences in the leave/finish behavior of male and female External Degree respondents prompted the following supplemental hypotheses:

Null Hypothesis 10

There will be no significant difference in the leaving/finishing behavior of females in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program as a result of marital status.

Null Hypothesis 11

There will be no significant difference in the leaving/finishing behavior of males in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program as a result of marital status.

Null Hypothesis 12

There will be no significant difference in the leaving/finishing behavior of females in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program as a result of having children or not having children in the home while participating in the Program.

Null Hypothesis 13

There will be no significant difference in the leaving/finishing behavior of males in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program as a result of having children or not having children in the home while participating in the Program.

Null Hypothesis 14

There will be no significant difference in the leaving/finishing behavior of females in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program as a result of having 0-1 child as opposed to having 2 or more children in the home while participating in the Program.

Null Hypothesis 15

There will be no significant difference in the leaving/finishing behavior of males in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program as a result of having 0-1 child as opposed to having 2 or more children in the home while participating in the Program.

Null Hypothesis 16

There will be no significant difference in the leaving/finishing behavior between females and males in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program as a result of marital status.

Null Hypothesis 17

There will be no significant difference in the leaving/finishing behavior between females and males in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program as a result of having children or not having children in the home while participating in the Program.

Null Hypothesis 18

There will be no significant difference in the leaving/finishing behavior between females and males in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program as a result of having 0-1 child as opposed to having 2 or more children in the home while participating in the Program.

CHAPTER IV

STUDY FINDINGS

REPRESENTATIVENESS OF RESPONDENTS

Representativeness of the respondent population was determined by comparing non-respondents with respondents on four known variables: (1) gender, (2) ethnicity, (3) age, and (4) college GPA.

Gender

Three comparisons by gender were conducted: (1) all respondents to all non-respondents, (2) responding leavers to non-responding leavers, and (3) responding finishers to non-responding finishers. No significant differences were observed in any of the three comparisons. Overall, a higher percentage of females responded and/or finished than did males; but, the differences were not significant at $p < .05$.

Ethnicity

The three comparisons done regarding gender were also conducted for ethnicity. No significant differences were observed. The majority of all subjects, respondents or non-respondents, leavers or finishers, were white, non-Hispanic. Slight group variations were not significant at $p < .05$.

Age

No significant differences between respondents and non-respondents, leavers or finishers, were observed when age was the variable compared. The mean age of respondents was slightly more, 45.45 years, than that of non-respondents, 45.01 years. Responding leavers were older than non-responding leavers, 46.39 years to 44.96 years; responding finishers were younger than non-responding finishers, 44.94 to 45.15 years, but these differences were not significant at $p < .05$.

College GPA

GPA information was available for 38 non-respondents and 207 respondents. The mean GPA for respondents was 3.25; for non-respondents, 3.07. This difference was significant on a one-tailed t-test, ($p = .049$), but not on a two-tailed t-test, ($p = .098$). When the population was distributed into leavers and finishers, the mean GPAs of 57 responding and 23 non-responding leavers (2.91 and 3.01 respectively) were not significantly different. Likewise, the mean GPAs of the 150 responding and 15 non-responding finishers (3.38 and 3.16 respectively), were not significant at $p < .05$.

Summary

Because no significant differences between respondents and non-respondents were observed on the four variables for which data were available, the 316 respondents are considered representative, at least in terms of age, sex,

ethnicity, and academic outcome, of the total population of the study.

COMPARISON OF LEAVERS WITH FINISHERS

A summary of the results of comparisons between leavers and finishers on the four major variable categories (defining, background, academic integration, and environmental) is provided below and on the following page. Following this summary is a narrative description, category by category, of the responses to each of the 80 questions asked on the survey and of the four questions (age, ethnicity, sex, and GPA) determined from the student data base.

TABLE III

Results of Survey Using Bean/Metzner Variables

DEFINING VARIABLES (10 questions; 9 provided opportunity for comparing leavers/finishers; 1 or 11% was significantly different at $p < .05$.)

- A. 0 of 2 Age Questions
- **B. 1 of 2 Enrollment Status Questions
- C. 0 of 6 Residency Questions

BACKGROUND VARIABLES (8 questions; 1 or 12.5% was significantly different at $p < .05$.)

- **A. 1 of 1 Educational Goals Question
- B. 0 of 2 High School Performance Questions
- C. 0 of 1 Ethnicity Question
- D. 0 of 3 Family Educational Level Questions
- E. 0 of 1 Gender Question

ACADEMIC VARIABLES (31 questions; 20 or 64.5% were significantly different at $p < .05$.)

- **A. 8 of 9 Study Skills/Habits Questions
- **B. 4 of 4 Academic Advising Questions
- **C. 1 of 1 Major Certainty Question
- **D. 2 of 2 Course Availability Questions
- **E. 5 of 15 Program Involvement Questions

ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES (13 questions; 8 or 61.5% were significantly different at $p < .05$.)

- A. 0 of 2 Finance Questions
- **B. 1 of 1 Hrs. Employed Question
- **C. 5 of 6 Outside Encouragement Questions
- D. 0 of 2 Marital/Family Questions
- **E. 2 of 2 Opportunity to Transfer Questions

**indicate issues within each category which resulted in significantly different responses at $p < .05$ between leavers and finishers.

Defining Variables

The category labeled Defining Variables consisted of three areas: (1) age, (2) enrollment status, and (3) residency.

Age. Responses to two age-related questions regarding the study groups revealed no significant difference between the ages of leavers and the ages of finishers. The largest percentage of leavers (33.6%) and of finishers (47.5%) was in the 36-44 year-old age range. The average age of leavers was 46.39 years and of finishers, 44.94 years.

Enrollment Status. Two questions on the survey related to the enrollment status of the study participants. The first (No. 36), regarding the grade level at which the subjects entered the External Degree Program, did result in a difference between the two groups of students that was significant at $p < .05$. Specifically, as the following table shows, a higher percentage of the finishers (75%) entered the program at a more advanced level (either juniors or seniors) than did leavers (61%). For both groups, however, the largest percentage of entrants was juniors; 20% of the finishers began as seniors, whereas only 9% of leavers entered as seniors.

TABLE IV
GRADE LEVEL UPON ADMISSION TO THE EXTERNAL DEGREE

	Frosh. 0-44 cr.	Soph. 45-89 cr.	Junior 90-134 cr.	Senior 135+ cr.	Row Total Column %
LVRS	23 (21.1%)	20 (18.3%)	56 (51.4%)	10 (9.2%)	109 (34.8%)
FNSHR	22 (10.8%)	29 (14.2%)	113 (55.4%)	40 (19.6%)	204 (65.2%)

($\chi^2 = 11.08$; $df = 3$; $p = 0.011$; response rate 99.1%)

The second question (No. 42) regarding enrollment status was worded differently for the two groups of students. Leavers were asked to select the best statement from five choices that described their progress in the External Degree Program up until the time they stopped progressing

toward graduation. Finishers were asked to select the best statement from four choices that described their level of progress in the External Degree until they graduated. A frequency distribution of the leavers' responses indicated that the majority (52%) felt they "never really got started in the program" before deciding to cease participating. On the other hand, 53.8% of the finishers indicated that, including portfolio-awarded credit recommendations, they averaged at least 12 credits per quarter as they progressed toward graduation.

Residency. Six questions were asked related to residency status of the subjects. None produced significant differences between the leavers and the finishers.

While in the program, a majority from both groups of students: (1) were Oregon residents all/most of the time (leavers, 55.6%; finishers, 55.9%); (2) lived in communities with populations less than 50,000 (leavers, 69.3%; finishers, 67.2%); and (3) lived 0-59 miles from a post-secondary school (leavers, 82.0%; finishers, 87.2%).

On a fourth question (No. 54), the largest percentage of respondents in both the leaver group (28.3%) and in the finisher group (29.9%) lived 250-499 miles from the La Grande campus. Low percentages from both groups, 14.1% of leavers and 11.2% of finishers, reported living within 59 miles of La Grande. In addition, the two groups were nearly equally split on Question No. 2 in their responses to whether or not any regional outreach center was within 10

miles of their home. The leavers were exactly 50/50 on this question; 54.2% of finishers said yes, 45.8% no. The sixth residency-related question (No. 55) asked subjects to identify the most difficult barrier they faced to participating in the External Degree. For both groups of subjects, not enough time was cited most frequently. Though not significantly different, thirty-four of the finishers (17%) cited no barriers, whereas only 10 of the leavers (9%) did not.

TABLE V

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATING IN THE EXTERNAL DEGREE PROGRAM

<u>Response Frequency</u>	<u>Leavers</u>	<u>Finishers</u>
#1	Lack of Time (37.9%) (36 responses)	Lack of Time (37.6%) (64 responses)
#2	Other, with program-related disappointments and/or criticism most frequently cited (18 out of 21 times). (22.1%)	Other, with personal discipline cited most often (16 of 36 times) and program-related complaints second (11 of 36). (21.2%)
#3	Unexpected crises (17.9%) (17 responses)	Distance from La Grande Campus (18.2%) (31 responses)
#4	Distance from La Grande Campus (11.6%) (11 responses)	Unexpected crises (8.8%) (15 responses)
#5	Finances (6.3%) (6 responses)	Finances (7.6%) (13 responses)
#6	No Encouragement (4.2%) (4 responses)	No Encouragement (6.5%) (11 responses)

In summary, therefore, regarding the ability of defining variables to discriminate between leavers and finishers in this study, it was found that only one of the nine questions which could be compared from this category produced a significantly different result. The more advanced entry-level status of finishers than of leavers was significantly different at $p < .05$. All other defining-variable questions resulted in no significant differences between leavers and finishers.

Background Variables

The category labeled Background Variables consisted of five areas: (1) educational goals, (2) high school performance, (3) race, (4) family educational levels, and (5) gender.

Educational Goals. Of the eight questions asked in the category of Background Variables, only the one from educational goals resulted in a significant difference in responses from the two groups of subjects. The question (No. 37), asked subjects what degree expectations they had upon admission to the External Degree Program. As the table below shows, a majority in both groups reported the BS/BA as the degree expected, but the difference in response patterns was significant at $p < .05$. Significantly more leavers than finishers indicated they either aspired to no degree or to the associate only.

TABLE VI
HIGHEST DEGREE EXPECTED TO OBTAIN

	No Degree	Associate	BS/BA	Graduate	Row Total
LVRS	4 (3.6%)	6 (5.4%)	93 (83.8%)	8 (7.2%)	111
FNSHR	1 (0.5%)	0 (0.0%)	183 (89.7%)	20 (9.8%)	204

($\chi^2 = 16.24$; $df = 3$; $p = 0.001$; response rate 99.7%)

High School Performance. Two questions asked for high school performance data and neither resulted in significant differences between the two subject groups. With regard to high school GPA (No. 39), the most frequent response from both groups was in the 3.00-3.49 range, 34% for finishers and 31.5% for leavers. A higher percentage of the leavers (19.8%) than of the finishers (13.3%) reported a high school GPA of 3.76 or higher. The second performance question (No. 41) asked the subjects to select the rank (upper 20%, middle 60%, lower 20%, GED) that described their high school background. The response trend was identical for both subject groups with a majority in both reporting their high school rank in the upper 20%--52.3% for leavers and 55.2% for finishers.

Ethnicity. Ethnic differences were also not significantly different between the two subject groups. The majority of subjects were white, non-Hispanic--88.4% for leavers, 86.6% for finishers.

Family Educational Levels. Family educational levels were also not significantly different between the two subject groups. The largest percentage of both the leavers' and finishers' mothers had obtained a high school diploma or GED; 37.6% leavers and 42.2% finishers. The second most frequent response for both subject groups' mothers was less than a high school diploma; 26.6% leavers and 24.5% finishers. A higher percentage of the leavers' mothers (26.6%) than of the finishers' mothers (21.6%) had attended and/or graduated from college. In contrast, however, to the higher educational level obtained by more leaver/finisher mothers, the most frequent response for fathers was less than a high school diploma. Almost 41% of the leavers' and 37% of the finishers' fathers had not graduated from high school. The second most frequent response for both groups was high school diploma/GED with 28.8% of leavers' fathers and 32.0% of finishers' fathers graduating from high school or obtaining the GED. Though not significantly different, a higher percentage of the finishers' spouses (43.1%) had completed a college degree than of the leavers' spouses (32.6%). For both groups, the majority of spouses had attended and/or graduated from college--66.3% of the leavers' spouses and 75.5% of the finishers'.

Gender. Gender did not account for statistically significant differences in leaving/finishing the program. However, for this study group, more of the finishers were

women than men (109 vs.95) and more of the leavers were men than women (57 vs.55).

Overall, therefore, background variables provided little differentiation between leavers and finishers except where a degree-aspiration question was asked. Finishers had a higher percentage aspiring to the BS/BA or beyond than did leavers, and the difference was significant at $p<.05$.

Academic Variables

Five areas constituted the category called academic variables: (1) study habits and skills, (2) advising, (3) course availability, (4) major certainty, and (5) program involvement. Numerous cases of significant differences between the two subject groups were reported from the 31 questions comprising this variable. Responses involving eight of the nine study skill questions, five of the fifteen program interaction questions, all four advising questions, both course availability questions, and the one major certainty question, resulted in significant differences at $p<.05$.

Study Habits and Skills. The only question which did not produce a significant difference was one (No. 62) asking students to identify to what extent they were confident with their writing ability upon admission to the program. The majority of subjects in both groups (leavers 69.7% and finishers 74.0%) felt either great or very great confidence with this skill.

Though significantly different in overall numbers, the majority of responses from both subject groups were in the same direction on five other study habits/skills questions. For example, in both groups of subjects, a majority indicated that they did complete assignments on time (No. 20). However, more finishers (97.1%) than leavers (63.7%) affirmed their timeliness and the difference was significant.

TABLE VII

DO YOU GENERALLY COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS ON TIME?

	YES	NO	ROW TOTAL
LEAVERS	65 (63.7%)	37 (36.3%)	102
FINISHERS	198 (97.1%)	6 (2.9%)	204

($\chi^2 = 59.82$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 96.8%)

Likewise, a higher percentage of leavers (21.4%) than of finishers (6.9%) reported procrastinating to a great or very great extent when doing their work and this difference, too, was significant (No. 58).

TABLE VIII

DO YOU PROCRASTINATE WITH DOING YOUR WORK?

	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	26 (25.2%)	55 (53.4%)	22 (21.4%)	103 (33.7%)
FINISHERS	76 (37.4%)	113 (55.7%)	14 (6.9%)	203 (66.3%)

($\chi^2 = 15.26$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 96.8%)

The two groups' responses to three perception-of-confidence questions also produced significant differences--again, though, with response trends in the same direction. For example, as the next table shows, more leavers (7.3%) than finishers (.5%) reported they were not at all confident with their study skills (No. 60) even though a majority in both groups (54.1% of leavers and 71.6% of finishers) were confident to a great or very great extent.

TABLE IX
DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE WITH STUDY SKILLS

	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	8 (7.3%)	42 (38.5%)	59 (54.1%)	109 (34.8%)
FINISHERS	1 (0.5%)	57 (27.9%)	146 (71.6%)	204 (65.2%)

($X^2 = 17.4$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.1%)

Also, both groups reported a majority of subjects confident to a great/very great extent with their ability to cope with stress (No. 64). However, the finishers reported a higher percentage (76.4%) than leavers (61.1%), and the difference was significant.

TABLE X

DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE WITH ABILITY TO COPE WITH STRESS

	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	3 (2.8%)	39 (36.1%)	66 (61.1%)	108 (34.7%)
FINISHERS	1 (0.5%)	47 (23.2%)	155 (76.4%)	203 (65.3%)

($\chi^2 = 9.44$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.009$; response rate 98.4%)

A fifth study habits/skills question yielded results in the same direction though with numbers that were significantly different. This question referred to the subjects' perception of their ability to cope with academic challenges. Although a majority of respondents in both groups reported great/very great confidence, the higher percentage of finishers with this response (82.3%) than leavers (52.8%) was significant.

TABLE XI

DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE WITH COPING WITH ACADEMICS

	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Totals Column %
LEAVERS	3 (2.8%)	48 (44.4%)	57 (52.8%)	108 (34.7%)
FINISHERS	0 (0.0%)	36 (17.7%)	167 (82.3%)	203 (65.3%)

($\chi^2 = 32.77$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 98.4%)

Three study habits/skills questions resulted in differences that were both significant and in different directions for the two subject groups. As the next table shows, a majority of finishers (74.8%) reported they were able to find the time to do their assignments, whereas only 26.2% of the leavers were. The majority of leavers (53.3%) reported they were rarely able or only to a limited extent able to find the necessary time, and 20.6% of the leavers (compared to 0.5% of finishers) said they were not at all able to find the time.

TABLE XII

ABLE TO FIND TIME TO DO ASSIGNMENTS?

	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	22 (20.6%)	57 (53.3%)	28 (26.2%)	107 (34.6%)
FINISHERS	1 (0.5%)	50 (24.8%)	151 (74.8%)	202 (65.4%)

($\chi^2 = 82.76$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 97.8%)

More finishers (85.3%) than leavers (78%) reported they were confident to a great/very great extent with their reading ability; this difference was significant. Finishers also exhibited more qualitative confidence levels than did leavers. As the following table shows, nearly half (48.5%) of finishers (compared to just 29.4% of the leavers) reported a very great extent of reading confidence.

TABLE XIII
DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE WITH READING ABILITY

	Small/ Some Extent	Great Extent	Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	24 (22.0%)	53 (48.6%)	32 (29.4%)	109 (34.8%)
FINISHERS	30 (14.7%)	75 (36.8%)	99 (48.5%)	204 (65.2%)

($\chi^2 = 10.88$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.004$; response rate 99.1%)

In the area of confidence with verbal expression, a significant difference in overall responses was found, as was a trend difference. Though both groups reported a majority of subjects claiming great or very great confidence with their verbal expression ability (75.2% of leavers and 82.3% of finishers), a higher percentage of leavers (24.8%) than finishers (17.6%) said they were confident to only a small or limited extent.

TABLE XIV
DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE WITH VERBAL EXPRESSION

	Small Some Extent	Great Extent	Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	27 (24.8%)	57 (52.3%)	25 (22.9%)	109 (34.8%)
FINISHERS	36 (17.6%)	87 (42.6%)	81 (39.7%)	204 (65.2%)

($\chi^2 = 9.12$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.010$; response rate 99.1%)

In summary, therefore, regarding the ability of study habits/skills to discriminate between leavers and finishers, it was found that all areas, except self-perception of writing ability, did contribute to differences.

Advising. Four advising questions were asked of the subjects and all produced significant differences. For three questions, the response trends for the two groups were in the same direction. For example, though the majority of subjects in both groups (75.7% of leavers and 94.1% of finishers) agreed that degree requirements were made clear to them by their advisors, the higher percentage of finishers was significant.

TABLE XV

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS MADE CLEAR TO YOU BY YOUR ADVISOR?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	84 (75.7%)	27 (24.3%)	111 (35.4%)
FINISHERS	191 (94.1%)	12 (5.9%)	203 (64.6%)

($X^2 = 20.7$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.4%)

Likewise, though the majority of subjects in both groups (74.5% of leavers and 62.6% of finishers) did not feel La Grande campus meetings between Program Staff and students should be required, the smaller percentage of finishers feeling that way was significant.

TABLE XVI

SHOULD LA GRANDE CAMPUS MEETINGS W/YOUR ADVISOR BE REQUIRED?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	28 (25.5%)	82 (74.5%)	110 (35.1%)
FINISHERS	76 (37.4%)	127 (62.6%)	203 (64.9%)

($\chi^2 = 4.09$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.043$; response rate 99.1%)

Also, though the pattern of responses from subjects in both groups was identical to a question regarding their satisfaction with the quality of academic advising they received (No. 59), the larger percentage of finishers expressing satisfaction (77.8%) than of leavers (49.1%) was significant.

TABLE XVII

SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF ACADEMIC ADVISING RECEIVED

	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	13 (12.3%)	41 (38.7%)	52 (49.1%)	106 (34.3%)
FINISHERS	4 (2.0%)	41 (20.2%)	158 (77.8%)	203 (65.7%)

($\chi^2 = 30.86$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 97.8%)

And, as the following table shows, a difference in response numbers and in response trend was reported by finishers and leavers on the question (No. 56) regarding

their satisfaction with the amount of academic advice they received. Whereas the majority of finishers (76.4%) were satisfied to a great/very great extent, only 37.6% of the leavers were.

TABLE XVIII

SATISFACTION WITH QUANTITY OF ACADEMIC ADVISING RECEIVED

	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	14 (12.8%)	54 (49.5%)	41 (37.6%)	109 (34.9%)
FINISHERS	4 (2.0%)	44 (21.7%)	155 (76.4%)	203 (65.1%)

($\chi^2 = 49.01$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 98.7%)

In summarizing the ability of responses to advising questions to discriminate between leavers and finishers, this study showed that even though majorities in both groups of subjects were satisfied with the no-La Grande campus meeting requirement and with the clarity and quality of academic advising, they differed significantly in numbers on these questions and, more noticeably, in the quantity of advising they sought.

Course Availability. Two questions in the category of Academic Variables referred to the students' perceptions of course access for degree completion. Both resulted in significant differences in responses from the two groups. When asked about how frequently desired courses were offered

and whether/not they were at convenient times, the largest response from leavers to both questions was not applicable (36%). On the other hand, the largest response from finishers to the same questions was most of the time, 45-47%). It would appear that the leavers had withdrawn from the program prior to seeking additional coursework to complete their degree. However, for those who did seek courses, a larger percentage of leavers (11.9%) than of finishers (.5%) said that classes were not at all offered for them. The following two tables reflect the differences in responses from the study groups to these two questions (No. 76 and 77).

TABLE XIX
FREQUENCY OF DESIRED COURSES BEING OFFERED

	N/A	Not at All	Some of Time	Most of Time	All of Time	Row Total Column %
LVRS	40 (36.7%)	13 (11.9%)	39 (35.8%)	16 (14.7%)	1 (0.9%)	109 (34.8%)
FNSHRS	40 (19.6%)	1 (0.5%)	51 (25.0%)	97 (47.5%)	15 (7.4%)	204 (65.2%)

($X^2 = 58.77$; $df = 4$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.1%)

TABLE XX

CONVENIENCE OF TIME WHEN COURSES WERE OFFERED FOR YOU

	N/A	Not at All	Some of Time	Most of Time	All of Time	Row Total Column %
LVRs	39 (36.1%)	22 (20.4%)	36 (33.3%)	10 (9.3%)	1 (0.9%)	108 (34.6%)
FNSHRS	40 (19.6%)	3 (1.5%)	56 (27.5%)	93 (45.6%)	12 (5.9%)	204 (65.4%)

($\chi^2 = 2.29$; $df = 4$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 98.7%)

Major Certainty. Though the External Degree provides for a generalized degree, opportunities within the degree structure do allow for an academic focus of approximately 50% of the total credits needed for graduation. When asked (No. 18) if they focused on a specific area while participating in the program, a higher percentage of finishers (69.1%) than of leavers (51.4%) indicated that they had and this difference was significant.

TABLE XXI

DID YOU FOCUS IN A SUBJECT AREA WHILE PURSUING DEGREE?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	57 (51.4%)	54 (48.6%)	111 (35.2%)
FINISHERS	141 (69.1%)	63 (30.9%)	204 (64.8%)

($\chi^2 = 8.97$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.003$; response rate 99.7%)

Program Involvement. Fifteen questions regarding the subjects' interaction with program options were asked. Five produced significant differences, and two of these five showed differences not only in number but in direction. The ten program interaction questions which did not produce significant differences were:

1. Did you participate in outreach center classes?
(82.6% of leavers and 73.9% of finishers did not)
2. Did you take the portfolio workshop in La Grande?
(81.1% of leavers and 74.9% of finishers did not)
3. Did you take the portfolio workshop in a non-La Grande location?
(60.4% of leavers and 65.2% of finishers did)
4. Did you take the portfolio class by correspondence?
(87.5% of leavers and 79.7% of finishers did not)
5. Did you receive credit for cooperative education?
(91.0% of leavers and 86.3% of finishers did not)
6. Did you receive credit through CLEP?
(93.8% of leavers and 87.3% of finishers did not)
7. Did you receive credit through challenging courses?
(97.3% of leavers and 97.0% of finishers did not)
8. Did you receive credit through military evaluation?
(88.3% of leavers and 81.3% of finishers did not)
9. Did you take evening/daytime classes at Eastern?
(95.5% of leavers and 88.2% of finishers did not)
10. Did you receive credit for any agency-sponsored training not otherwise included in a portfolio of prior learning?
(90.6% of leavers and 85.6% of finishers did not)

As this list shows, no significant difference resulted from asking students if they had participated in an Assessment of Prior Learning Portfolio Workshop (the majority of leavers and finishers had not taken the workshop in La

Grande or by correspondence but had taken it in non-La Grande locations). However, when asked if they received credit for essays submitted through the portfolio process, 88.7% of the finishers compared to only 43.8% of the leavers had. In other words, the majority of leavers either did not complete a portfolio or at least did not receive credit for any portfolio essays they did complete.

TABLE XXII

DID YOU RECEIVE CREDIT THROUGH PORTFOLIO ESSAYS?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	49 (43.8%)	63 (56.3%)	112 (35.6%)
FINISHERS	180 (88.7%)	23 (11.3%)	203 (64.4%)

($\chi^2 = 71.13$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.7%)

Another area of program interaction in which leavers and finishers differed significantly was in their use of correspondence studies to meet degree requirements (No. 8). The majority (57.4%) of finishers did participate in correspondence, whereas only 22.5% of the leavers did.

TABLE XXIII

DID YOU RECEIVE CREDIT BY CORRESPONDENCE COURSES?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	25 (22.5%)	86 (77.5%)	111 (35.2%)
FINISHERS	117 (57.4%)	87 (42.6%)	204 (64.8%)

($\chi^2 = 33.83$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.7%)

Significant differences were found in the responses to three other program interaction questions. Though the majority in both study groups had not participated in Eastern's Weekend College Program (either in La Grande or in other locations, No. 13 and 14), the differences in the number responding either yes or no from the two groups was significant.

TABLE XXIV

DID YOU TAKE WEEKEND COLLEGE IN NON-LA GRANDE SITES?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	21 (18.8%)	91 (81.3%)	112 (35.4%)
FINISHERS	92 (45.1%)	112 (54.9%)	204 (64.6%)

($\chi^2 = 20.71$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 100%)

TABLE XXV

DID YOU TAKE WEEKEND COLLEGE CLASSES IN LA GRANDE?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	24 (21.4%)	88 (78.6%)	112 (35.6%)
FINISHERS	95 (46.8%)	108 (53.2%)	203 (64.4%)

($\chi^2 = 18.69$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.7%)

The final program interaction question on which leavers and finishers significantly differed was No. 15, "Did you receive credit through transfer from other

institutions?" Even though the majority of subjects in both study groups did, the larger percentage of finishers receiving credit through transfer was significant.

TABLE XXVI

DID YOU RECEIVE CREDIT THROUGH TRANSFER COURSES AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	80 (72.1%)	31 (27.9%)	111 (35.2%)
FINISHERS	198 (97.1%)	6 (2.9%)	204 (64.8%)

($\chi^2 = 40.91$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.7%)

A summary of the findings from this study related to the discriminating ability of program interaction questions regarding leavers and finishers indicates three things:

1. Leavers and finishers were significantly different in what participation in the portfolio development process produced. For example, the finishers received credit for portfolio essays more often than did the leavers.
2. Leavers and finishers were also significantly different in their use of correspondence studies to meet degree requirements; i.e., finishers accessed this option more frequently than did leavers.
3. Though majorities in both subject groups responded the same, significantly more finishers than leavers used EOSC Weekend College courses and transfer credits from other institutions to progress toward degree completion.

Environmental Variables

The category labeled Environmental Variables consisted of 5 areas: (1) finances, (2) outside employment, (3) outside encouragement, (4) family responsibilities, and (5) perception of one's ability to transfer.

Finances. Responses to two directly related finance questions (No. 52 and 66) plus one indirectly related question (No. 55) resulted in no significant differences between the leavers and finishers in the (1) manner in which educational expenses were funded; (2) extent of problem with financing education; or (3) placement of finances in a hierarchy of barriers regarding pursuing one's education. Specifically, the #1 and #2 responses received from both leavers and finishers when asked how their educational expenses were funded were self/spouse job-related income (73.2% leavers; 70.7% finishers) and employer reimbursement (16.5% leavers; 19.6% finishers). When asked to what extent they had financial problems while participating in the program, the largest percentage of subjects in both study groups (34.5% leavers; 40.4% finishers) said "not at all." Though not statistically significant, 19.1% of the leavers responded that finances posed a great or very great problem, whereas only 11.3% of the finishers did. As shown on page 121 in this chapter, finances ranked fifth out of six categories the study groups indicated posed the greatest barrier to their participation in the External Degree Program.

Outside Employment. The effect of outside employment on leaving/finishing decisions of External Degree students was assessed in survey question number 47. As the following table shows, both study groups reported sizable numbers working over a 40-hour week, but leavers reported a larger percentage (68.5%) than did finishers (45.6%), and the difference was significant at $p < .05$.

TABLE XXVII
HOURS PER WEEK EMPLOYED OUTSIDE THE HOME

	0	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	40+	Row Total Column %
LVRS	3 (2.7%)	2 (1.8%)	3 (2.7%)	2 (1.8%)	25 (22.5%)	76 (68.5%)	111 (35.2%)
FNSHRS	13 (6.4%)	5 (2.5%)	12 (5.9%)	10 (4.9%)	71 (34.8%)	93 (45.6%)	204 (64.8%)

($\chi^2 = 15.95$; $df = 5$; $p = 0.007$; response rate, 99.7%)

Outside Encouragement. Six potential sources of outside encouragement for the subjects were assessed: (1) spouse/significant other, (2) parents, (3) siblings, (4) children, (5) friends, and (6) employer. In all areas except sibling support, leavers and finishers responded differently and the differences were significant. The largest percentage of responses for both groups regarding the extent of sibling support was "not applicable," 46.7% for leavers and 32.7% for finishers. Support from one's

spouse/significant other was stronger for finishers than for leavers as the following table shows.

TABLE XXVIII

EXTENT OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER

	N/A	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LVRs	20 (18.3%)	9 (8.3%)	34 (31.2%)	46 (42.2%)	109 (34.8%)
FNSHRS	16 (7.8%)	5 (2.5%)	41 (20.1%)	142 (69.6%)	204 (65.2%)

($\chi^2 = 24.7$; $df = 3$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.1%)

Likewise, support from parents was stronger for finishers than it was for leavers:

TABLE XXIX

EXTENT OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PARENTS

	N/A	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LVRs	45 (42.1%)	16 (15.0%)	28 (26.2%)	18 (16.8%)	107 (34.4%)
FNSHRS	54 (26.5%)	39 (19.1%)	59 (28.9%)	52 (25.5%)	204 (65.6%)

($\chi^2 = 8.57$; $df = 3$; $p = 0.035$; response rate 98.4%)

So, too, was encouragement from one's children stronger for finishers than it was for leavers:

TABLE XXX
EXTENT OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM CHILDREN

	N/A	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LVRS	32 (29.1%)	21 (19.1%)	35 (31.8%)	22 (20.0%)	110 (35.1%)
FNSHRS	50 (24.6%)	21 (10.3%)	69 (34.0%)	63 (31.0%)	203 (64.9%)

($\chi^2 = 7.9$; $df = 3$; $p = 0.048$; response rate 99.1%)

Friends and employers were also identified by finishers as providing more support than they were by leavers as the following two tables show.

TABLE XXXI
EXTENT OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM FRIENDS

	N/A	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LVRS	21 (19.3%)	21 (19.3%)	46 (42.2%)	21 (19.3%)	109 (34.9%)
FNSHRS	12 (5.9%)	17 (8.4%)	96 (47.3%)	78 (38.4%)	203 (65.1%)

($\chi^2 = 27.47$; $df = 3$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 98.7%)

TABLE XXXII
EXTENT OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM EMPLOYER

	N/A	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LVRS	26 (23.9%)	27 (24.8%)	39 (35.8%)	17 (15.6%)	109 (34.9%)
FNSHRS	31 (15.3%)	31 (15.3%)	72 (35.5%)	69 (34.0%)	203 (65.1%)

($\chi^2 = 15.00$; $df = 3$; $p = 0.002$; response rate 98.7%)

As shown in the preceding tables, with the exception of sibling support, finishers reported receiving significantly more encouragement than did leavers from people in their lives--spouses/significant others, parents, children, friends, and employers. Also, in every case, a higher percentage of leavers than of finishers responded "n/a" when asked about support from all sources: spouse/significant other, parents, siblings, children, friends, and employer.

Family Responsibilities. These environmental issues were assessed for the two study groups by survey questions no. 48 and 49. Specifically, there was no significant difference at $p < .05$ between the two groups on the number of children at home while in the program nor on the respondent's marital status. Even so, the highest percentage of leavers, 31.8%, reported having two children at home while in the program, whereas the highest percentage of finishers, 34.8%, reported that no children were at home while they were in the program. Though not statistically significant at $p < .05$, responses to this question showed movement toward significance as the following table indicates:

TABLE XXXIII

NO. CHILDREN AT HOME WHILE IN EXTERNAL DEGREE PROGRAM

	none	1	2	3	4+	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	30 (27.3%)	18 (16.4%)	35 (31.8%)	17 (15.5%)	10 (9.1%)	110 (35.0%)
FINISHERS	71 (34.8%)	45 (22.1%)	62 (30.4%)	18 (8.8%)	8 (3.9%)	204 (65.0%)

($\chi^2 = 8.61$; $df = 4$; $p = 0.072$; response rate 99.4%)

Marital Status. The majority of subjects in both study groups were married, 73.6% of leavers and 84.3% of finishers. Though not statistically significant, leavers almost doubled the finishers' percentage of single and/or divorced respondents: 23.7% of leavers were single or divorced whereas 13.3% of finishers were.

Perception Of Ability to Transfer. The final environmental variable evaluated in this study referred to the subjects' perception of their ability to transfer out of the External Degree. The two questions asked of subjects regarding transfer (No. 19 and 21) did produce significantly different responses. A higher percentage of finishers were aware of similar programs at other schools as the following table shows.

TABLE XXXIV
 AWARENESS OF OTHER EXTERNAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	57 (51.4%)	54 (48.6%)	111 (35.2%)
FINISHERS	139 (68.1%)	65 (31.9%)	204 (64.8%)

($\chi^2 = 7.91$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.005$; response rate 99.7%)

Though neither of the two study groups reported a majority considered transferring, significantly more leavers (38.7%) than finishers (4.4%) did:

TABLE XXXV
 DID YOU CONSIDER TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	43 (38.7%)	68 (61.3%)	111 (35.2%)
FINISHERS	9 (4.4%)	195 (95.6%)	204 (64.8%)

($\chi^2 = 58.99$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.7%)

A summary of the effect that environmental variables have on leave/finish decisions of External Degree students indicates that neither finances nor family responsibilities discriminate between leavers and finishers. However, outside employment, especially where the work week is longer than 40 hours, did discriminate leavers from finishers. Also, leavers reported less encouragement to pursue their

education from others in their lives than did finishers, and these results were significantly different. Awareness of transfer opportunities was more pronounced in the finishers than in the leavers but did not result in actual transfer.

Academic Outcomes

College GPA was the measure by which Academic Outcome was studied. With information obtained from the Eastern Oregon State College active and archive student data bases, GPAs of 57 of the 112 leavers and 150 of the 204 finishers were obtained. The average GPA for leavers was 2.91; for finishers, 3.38, resulting in a t-statistic between the two means that was significantly different on both a one-tailed and a two-tailed test at $p = 0.000$. In other words, the performance, as measured by college GPA, of the External Degree finishers was significantly better than that of Program leavers, and the probability of finding this difference in GPA was due to something other than chance. A further statistical calculation using a one-way ANOVA resulted in a significant F ratio with $p = 0.00$, and determined that the source of the variation in means was between, rather than within, the two groups of subjects.

Psychological Outcomes

The Psychological Outcomes felt by the two study groups as a result of their participation in the External Degree Program were assessed in four areas: (1) utility of degree, (2) satisfaction with the role of being a student,

- (3) commitment to goal as it relates to career needs, and
 (4) stress.

Utility of Degree. Four questions (No. 51, 78-80) comprised the utility area. Three resulted in statistically significant differences at $p < .05$ for leavers and finishers. The one which did not asked subjects to cite the main reason they enrolled in the program. For both the 108 leavers and 203 finishers who responded to this question, the ranking of nearly 90% of their responses was in the same order:

TABLE XXXVI
 REASON ENROLLED IN EXTERNAL DEGREE

<u>Response Frequency</u>		<u>Leavers</u>	<u>Finishers</u>
#1	To improve myself	31.5% (n=34)	29.6% (n=60)
#2	For personal challenge	28.7% (n=31)	25.1% (n=51)
#3	To get better job	24.1% (n=26)	17.2% (n=35)
#4	Required in my work	10.2% (n=11)	16.7% (n=34)

When reasons 1 and 2 are combined, over 60% of the leavers and 55% of the finishers cited personal, versus vocational, reasons as the primary motivator.

Questions 78-80 asked subjects to assess the impact that participating in the External Degree Program had on knowing themselves, using interpersonal skills, and seeing alternative points of view. All three questions resulted in

statistically significant differences at $p < .05$. Though responses to the "knowing myself" question resulted in similar response trends between the two study groups, the following table shows that significantly more finishers than leavers felt the impact was great.

TABLE XXXVII
EXTERNAL DEGREE'S IMPACT ON KNOWING MYSELF

	little/ none	some	much	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	36 (33.0%)	36 (33.0%)	37 (33.9%)	109 (34.8%)
FINISHERS	13 (6.4%)	51 (25.0%)	140 (68.6%)	204 (65.2%)

($\chi^2 = 49$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate, 99.1%)

The trend was just the opposite, however, when leavers' and finishers' responses to the impact on using interpersonal skills and seeing alternate points of view were compared. Whereas the majority of finishers reported much impact, the majority of leavers reported little/none.

TABLE XXXVIII
EXTERNAL DEGREE'S IMPACT ON USING INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

	little/ none	some	much	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	41 (37.6%)	33 (30.3%)	35 (32.1%)	109 (34.8%)
FINISHERS	10 (4.9%)	58 (28.4%)	136 (66.7%)	204 (65.2%)

($\chi^2 = 62.26$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate, 99.1%)

TABLE XXXIX

EXTERNAL DEGREE'S IMPACT ON SEEING ALTERNATE POINTS OF VIEW

	little/ none	some	much	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	40 (37.0%)	30 (27.8%)	38 (35.2%)	108 (34.8%)
FINISHERS	11 (5.4%)	57 (28.2%)	134 (66.3%)	202 (65.2%)

($X^2 = 55$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate, 98.1%)

Satisfaction with Student Role. The subjects' level of satisfaction with several aspects of the External Degree was determined from six survey questions, No. 23, 26, 34, 67-69. Responses to all six questions resulted in statistically significant differences at $p < .05$. Question 23 asked subjects if they felt the academic expectations were more difficult than they liked. Though a majority in both groups said no, more leavers (23.9%) than finishers (5.4%) said yes.

TABLE XL

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS MORE DIFFICULT THAN YOU LIKED?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	26 (23.9%)	83 (76.1%)	109 (34.9%)
FINISHERS	11 (5.4%)	192 (94.6%)	203 (65.1%)

($X^2 = 21.32$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 98.7%)

Leavers differed significantly from finishers in response to their attitude regarding the need for required standardized testing. The finishers were nearly equally split in their yes/no responses. The leavers, however, had over twice as many no responses as yes ones.

TABLE XLI

SHOULD STANDARDIZED TESTING BE REQUIRED IN THE PROGRAM?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	35 (31.8%)	75 (68.2%)	110 (35.0%)
FINISHERS	110 (53.9%)	94 (46.1%)	204 (65.0%)

($\chi^2 = 13.17$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.4%)

When asked if instructor feedback on course assignments had been timely, over 25% of the leavers, compared to only 3% of the finishers, stated not applicable. The majority of subjects in both groups, however, stated yes, 54.1% of the leavers and 85.6% of the finishers.

TABLE XLII

INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK ON COURSES TIMELY?

	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	59 (54.1%)	22 (20.2%)	28 (25.7%)	109 (35.2%)
FINISHERS	172 (85.6%)	23 (11.4%)	6 (3.0%)	201 (64.8%)

($\chi^2 = 46.31$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 98.1%)

The last three questions in the area of student satisfaction dealt with the subjects' perception of their difficulty obtaining information from (1) advisors and (2) instructors and (3) with progressing in the program because of, or in spite of, certain rules and procedures.

All questions resulted in statistically significant differences at $p < .05$ between leavers and finishers. In all cases as the following three tables show, the majority of finishers responded not at all to perceptions of difficulty but the largest percentage of leavers responded to some/small extent.

TABLE XLIII

DIFFICULTY WITH ASKING ADVISOR FOR HELP

	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	37 (33.9%)	51 (46.8%)	21 (19.3%)	109 (34.8%)
FINISHERS	142 (69.6%)	54 (26.5%)	8 (3.9%)	204 (65.2%)

($\chi^2 = 42.59$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.1%)

TABLE XLIV

DIFFICULTY WITH ASKING INSTRUCTORS FOR HELP

	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	39 (37.5%)	41 (39.4%)	24 (23.1%)	104 (34.1%)
FINISHERS	109 (54.2%)	76 (37.8%)	16 (8.0%)	201 (65.9%)

($\chi^2 = 15.94$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 96.5%)

TABLE XLV

DID RULES/PROCEDURES OF PROGRAM INHIBIT YOUR PROGRESS?

	Not at All	Small/Some Extent	Great/Very Great Extent	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	42 (39.6%)	43 (40.6%)	21 (19.8%)	106 (34.2%)
FINISHERS	165 (80.9%)	35 (17.2%)	4 (2.0%)	204 (65.8%)

($\chi^2 = 60.53$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 98.1%)

Linkage of Degree to Career. Whether or not a college degree was required for the subject's continuation in their career was used to measure the subjects' goal commitment. A significant difference in leavers' and finishers' responses to this question resulted with more finishers (43.2%) than leavers (27.1%) indicating that a degree was required for career continuation. On the other hand, the majority of leavers (64.5%) stated that it was not.

TABLE XLVI

DEGREE REQUIRED FOR CAREER CONTINUATION?

	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	29 (27.1%)	69 (64.5%)	9 (8.4%)	107 (35.0%)
FINISHERS	86 (43.2%)	98 (49.2%)	15 (7.5%)	199 (65.0%)

($\chi^2 = 7.83$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.020$; response rate 96.8%)

Stress. To determine any differences in the level of stress felt by leavers and finishers, seven questions (No. 28-33, 50) were asked. Specifically, subjects were asked to indicate whether/not they had had to cut back on six different aspects of their life and to what level they had been able to commit the time that the program required. Two of the six life aspects, amount of paid employment and time with their children, resulted in no statistically significant differences between leavers and finishers. A majority of responses in both groups of subjects indicated that they had not reduced time spent on either of these two activities. In the other areas, however, responses were different. For example, a majority of finishers indicated they had cut back on social activities with friends, but a majority of leavers had not.

TABLE XLVII

CUT BACK ON SOCIAL ACTIVITIES WITH FRIENDS?

	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	44 (40.4%)	57 (52.3%)	8 (7.3%)	109 (34.8%)
FINISHERS	123 (60.3%)	81 (39.7%)	0 (0.0%)	204 (65.2%)

($\chi^2 = 22.81$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.1%)

Likewise, 56.9% of finishers but only 45.5% of leavers indicated they had cut back on time with their spouse or significant other while participating in the program.

TABLE XLVIII

CUT BACK ON ALONE TIME WITH SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER?

	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	50 (45.5%)	47 (42.7%)	13 (11.8%)	110 (35.0%)
FINISHERS	116 (56.9%)	82 (40.2%)	6 (2.9%)	204 (65.0%)

($\chi^2 = 11.17$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.004$; response rate 99.4%)

Respondents from the two groups were somewhat more similar, though still statistically different at $p < .05$ in responding to whether or not they had cut back on housework or home maintenance during their participation in the program. A majority (53.9%) of finishers had, while a majority (50.9%) of leavers had not.

TABLE XLIX

CUT BACK ON HOUSEWORK/HOME MAINTENANCE?

	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	46 (42.6%)	55 (50.9%)	7 (6.5%)	108 (34.6%)
FINISHERS	110 (53.9%)	93 (45.6%)	1 (0.5%)	204 (65.4%)

($\chi^2 = 12.12$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.002$; response rate 98.7%)

The largest area of difference regarding cutting back on responsibilities resulted from asking the study groups

about their civic commitments. While more finishers (47.5%) than leavers (19.1%) said they had cut back, the percentage of responses from leavers saying "not applicable" doubled that response from finishers.

TABLE L
CUT BACK ON CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES?

	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	21 (19.1%)	65 (59.1%)	24 (21.8%)	110 (35.0%)
FINISHERS	97 (47.5%)	86 (42.2%)	21 (10.3%)	204 (65.0%)

($\chi^2 = 26.28$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 99.4%)

The final stress-related question asked subjects about the amount of time they found the program required of them. The #1 response from both groups to this question was "about as expected," 40% leavers; 53.2% finishers. However, whereas 32.4% of leavers said the demands of the program required more time than they had, only .5% of the finishers felt that way.

TABLE LI
AMOUNT OF TIME REQUIRED FOR PROGRAM

	more than I had	more, but I found it	about as expected	less than expected	hardly 0 at all	Row # Col %
LVRs	34 (32.4%)	25 (23.8%)	42 (40.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (3.8%)	105 (34.1%)
FNSH	1 (0.5%)	88 (43.3%)	108 (53.2%)	5 (2.5%)	1 (0.5%)	203 (65.9%)

($\chi^2 = 78.88$; $df = 4$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 97.5%)

A summary of the ability of psychological outcomes to differentiate between leavers and finishers indicates that there are many differences between these two groups of individuals. Of 18 questions asked in this category, only 3 resulted in no statistically significant differences at $p < .05$. For example, similar percentages of both leavers and finishers indicated the prime reason for participating in the program was for self-improvement. Also, similar percentages from both groups indicated they had not cut back on time on their jobs or with their children. Beyond these three issues, however, the similarities stop.

Though majorities from both groups agreed, significantly more finishers than leavers felt that participation in the External Degree Program resulted in knowing themselves much better than before. Likewise, significantly more finishers than leavers felt program expectations were not that difficult. Also, more leavers than finishers indicated a degree was not required for continuation in their career. And, even though the highest percentage from both groups claimed to have cut back on alone time with their spouse/significant other while in the program, significantly more finishers than leavers indicated that they had.

Clearer differences between the two groups of subjects emerged on other dimensions of psychological outcomes. For example, whereas a majority of finishers felt External Degree participation impacted their use of interpersonal

skills and ability to see alternate points of view "a great deal," the highest percentage of leavers felt participation had done little, if anything, to impact them in these areas. Likewise, a majority of finishers felt standardized basic skills tests should be a required part of the Program, whereas a majority of leavers did not. More leavers than finishers expressed significantly more difficulty in obtaining information from advisors and instructors, and the leavers felt that the rules and procedures of the Program inhibited their progress a great deal more than did finishers. In addition, significantly more leavers than finishers indicated the Program required more time than they had, but they were also less apt to cut back on social activities with friends, alone time with spouse/significant other, housework/home maintenance, or civic responsibilities.

Intent-to-Leave

One question which was asked of the subjects dealt with any discussions they may have had with individuals, other than EOSC personnel, regarding the possibility of their leaving the program. Though neither group had a majority stating that they had ever discussed this possibility with non-EOSC personnel, more leavers (14.4%) than finishers (3.4%) had, and the difference was significant at $p < .05$.

TABLE LII

ANY DISCUSSION WITH NON-EOSC PERSONNEL ABOUT LEAVING?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	16 (14.4%)	95 (85.6%)	111 (35.2%)
FINISHERS	7 (3.4%)	197 (96.6%)	204 (64.8%)

($\chi^2 = 11.24$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.001$; response rate 99.7%)

Quality Issues

Another area on which leavers and finishers were compared referred to the quality that subjects perceived receiving from their education at Eastern and their impressions of the overall reputation of Eastern Oregon State College itself. The majority of leavers indicated they were unable to judge the quality of their Eastern education, whereas the majority of finishers felt they received a good or excellent education.

TABLE LIII

QUALITY OF EOSC EDUCATION RECEIVED

	Unable to Judge	Poor/ Fair	Good Excellent	Row Total Column %
LEAVERS	60 (53.6%)	14 (12.5%)	38 (33.9%)	112 (35.4%)
FINISHERS	9 (4.4%)	7 (3.4%)	188 (92.2%)	204 (64.6%)

($\chi^2 = 123.24$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 100.0%)

With regard to the question about the overall quality of Eastern Oregon State College, 50% of the leavers felt it

was fairly or very high, as did 84.8% of the finishers. Of the leavers, 44.6% felt the reputation was neither high nor low. Small percentages of both groups, as the following table shows, felt the overall quality was either very or fairly low.

TABLE LIV

HOW HIGH IS THE QUALITY OF EASTERN OREGON STATE?

	Very/ Fairly Low	Not High Or Low	Fairly High	Very High	Row Total Column %
LVRS	6 (5.4%)	50 (44.6%)	45 (40.2%)	11 (9.8%)	112 (35.4%)
FNSHRS	1 (0.5%)	30 (14.7%)	126 (61.8%)	47 (23.0%)	204 (64.6%)

($\chi^2 = 46.43$; $df = 3$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 100.0%)

Changes if Re-entering College

One open-ended question was asked on the survey: "If you had it to do all over again, what would you do differently a 'second-time around' when returning to college?" The majority of leavers' comments could be organized into four categories:

- (1) Seek a more structured curriculum/program with more traditional requirements and deadlines. (21 responses)
- (2) Set personal deadlines; develop a clear degree-completion plan; and maintain self-discipline even if the program allows for more flexibility. (17 responses)
- (3) Analyze and make conscientious choices about stress points that could distract me from my studies or postpone college until finances, employment responsibilities, and family obligations are less demanding. (13 responses)

- (4) Be more assertive in asking questions ahead of time to determine what the Program really was and what it was going to expect of me, so that I felt the end product was what I wanted and the process was something I could handle. (9 responses)

Comments from the other leavers to this "second-time-around" question were either isolated responses or not given at all.

When finishers responded to the same question, their comments shared some of the categories as the leavers but added a few new ones. For example, like responses from 21 leavers, 14 finishers said they would:

"seek a more structured Program or start out the External Degree with more traditional coursework rather than the assessment-of-prior-learning portfolio."

And, like 13 responses from leavers, 52 finishers said they would:

"start earlier in my life or at least at a time when other responsibilities (family, job) were less stressful."

Nine leavers, as well as 9 finishers, said they would:

"be more assertive with Program and College staff when they didn't agree with the review of their portfolio essays, transfer credit standing, or interpretation of policies."

In addition, finishers added the following new categories of responses:

Choose a Program that either results in a specific degree (not General Studies) and/or has more visibility in the major academic area I pursued. (29 responses)

Try to find a way to return on a full-time basis or at least finish faster. (14 responses)

Not be so obsessed with hurriedly finishing up; slow down and enjoy the process and classes more. (12 responses)

As with the leavers, a number of other isolated comments were offered. Of the finishers who responded to this question, 51 stated, in effect, that they would not do anything different. For example, the following comments were received from several of these individuals:

"I had a plan; the Program was there, and I saw it through. Everything worked out just right for me."

"You just have to make up your mind and go for it; the Program options are all right there."

"I had to just do it for me; no one else. It has to be that way."

"I only had 35 credits to complete my BS; I feel getting a degree through this Program was the best way."

"I wouldn't change a thing. I can't say enough good things about this Program."

"I can't imagine doing it differently. I think all the various options available now are valid ways to get a real meaningful degree. My portfolio essays and independent study classes were every bit as valuable and equal in quality to the four-year liberal arts college classes I also took."

"I'd do nothing differently. For all my purposes, the EOSC External Degree was exactly the right thing at the right time and in the right place."

"Tho I'd rather have finished college without interruption when I was young, you play life as it comes. I feel very fortunate to have participated in the Program; it was an excellent experience."

Letters Received From Respondents

In addition to the comments included on the survey about what the respondent would do a second-time around when returning to college, 50 supplemental pieces of correspondence were received from study participants. These items ranged from brief notes attached to the completed survey to two-page typewritten letters. A breakdown of the content of these communications showed that:

- 16 included endorsements or compliments of the External Degree Program itself
- 15 provided an update on the personal and/or professional changes in the life of the respondent following graduation
- 9 were personal greetings to the author and External Degree Program staff
- 4 criticized the Program citing delays with feedback, misinterpretations, etc.

The balance mentioned various items, including requests for information about graduate programs, indications that they (the leavers) were still interested, and suggestions for changes in the Program to enhance completion. One especially poignant letter was received from the daughter of a recently deceased External Degree participant. She wrote, "Mom didn't particularly care for every instructor or every assignment; however, I've never known a college student (myself included) who didn't, at some time during college, have these same feelings. Your program helped to make a dream come true."

COMPARISON OF RURAL WITH URBAN RESPONDENTS

Literature cited in Chapter 2 regarding rural adult learners indicated that they perceive more barriers to participating in education than do their urban counterparts. Therefore, the answers to several questions related to barriers were compared between rural and urban respondents in the present study. Specifically, using question 38 from the survey, respondents were first divided into two groups: (1) those living in either a rural area/farm 15+ miles from a city or in a town or small city under 50,000 and (2) those living in cities of 50,000+ population or suburbs near large cities. This division resulted in 213 rural and 100 urban subjects with 3 missing the necessary data to categorize. Seven questions were then analyzed using the chi-square statistic:

1. Did you find the academic expectations more difficult than you liked?
2. Were degree requirements made clear to you by your advisor?
3. What was the most difficult barrier you faced to participating in the External Degree?
4. Were you satisfied with the amount of academic advising you received?
5. Were you satisfied with the quality of academic advising you received?
6. Were finances a problem for you?
7. Do you feel the rules and procedures of the Program inhibited your progress toward completing the degree?

Only one question, number 2, resulted in a statistically significant difference between rural and urban respondents.

TABLE LV

WERE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS MADE CLEAR TO YOU BY YOUR ADVISOR?

	YES	NO	Row Total Column %
Rural & Town <50,000	181 (84.6%)	33 (15.4%)	214 (68.2%)
Urban, >50,000	94 (94.0%)	6 (6.0%)	100 (31.8%)

($\chi^2 = 4.72$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.030$; response rate 99.4%)

When asked if the academic expectations of the program were more difficult than they liked, 211 rural and 101 urban subjects responded. Majorities in both groups, 87.7% rural and 89.1% urban, said no.

When asked about the most difficult barrier to participating in the External Degree Program, the largest percentage in both groups, 35.2% rural and 43.0% urban, cited time. Though not statistically significant, distance was cited as the most difficult barrier by 20.1% of the rural respondents but by only 7% of the urban respondents. Also, the unexpected was cited by 13.4% of the rural respondents, but by only 9.3% of the urban respondents. Finances were listed fifth by rural respondents and fourth by urban respondents. When asked specifically about any problem the respondents had with finances while participating in the External Degree Program,

majorities in both groups, 62.5% rural and 56% urban, said either "not at all" or "to only a small extent."

Advising issues were asked in the fourth and fifth questions. The majority of both rural and urban respondents, 63.5% and 61.4% respectively, were satisfied to a great or very great extent with the quantity of advising they had received and with the quality, 69.0% rural and 65.7% urban.

The last question compared rural and urban respondents on whether they felt the rules and procedures of the External Degree Program inhibited their progress toward completing the degree. Majorities in both groups, 64.3% rural and 72.0% urban said "not at all."

Because towns/cities of populations up to 50,000 may not seem rural in the sense of isolation, a further distinction between respondents was made. This time, rural meant only those respondents indicating they lived in a rural area or farm 15+ miles from a city; all other respondents were considered urban. This distinction produced 52 rural and 261 urban respondents, with 3 missing the necessary data for classification. Again, the seven questions were analyzed. All, including the clarity of degree requirements question, yielded no significant differences between the two categories of respondents. Response trends were identical to those described above when a broader definition of rural was used. On the question about degree clarity, 82.7% of the rural/farm respondents and

88.5% of the urban town/city respondents said advisors were clear in communicating degree requirement information.

COMPARISON OF LEAVERS/FINISHERS BY GENDER & FAMILY STATUS

The effect of two environmental variables, marital and family status, on the leaving/finishing behavior of men and women was the subject of another comparison. The first step in this procedure involved twelve chi-square tests:

- (1) effect of married/single status on leaving/finishing females (for this comparison, single status included never married, as well as separated, divorced, or widowed)
- (2) same as test (1) on leaving/finishing males
- (3) effect of absence/presence of any children in the home on leaving/finishing females
- (4) same as test (3) on leaving/finishing males
- (5) effect of 0-1 child versus 2 or more children in the home on leaving/finishing females
- (6) same as test (5) on leaving/finishing males
- (7) effect of married/single status on leaving females and leaving males
- (8) same as (7) on finishing females/males
- (9) effect of absence/presence of any children in the home on leaving females and leaving males
- (10) same as (9) on finishing females/males
- (11) effect of 0-1 child versus 2 or more children in the home on leaving females/males
- (12) same as (11) on finishing females/males

Using the above numbers, the comparisons which resulted in statistically significant differences at $p < .05$ were:

- (1) A higher percentage of female finishers than female leavers was married.
- (7/8) A higher percentage of males, whether leavers or finishers, was married than was leaving/finishing females.
- (11/12) A higher percentage of males than females, whether leavers or finishers, had two or more children.

TABLE LVI

EFFECT OF MARITAL STATUS ON LEAVING/FINISHING FEMALES

	Single	Married	Row Total Column %
Female Leavers	24 (44.4%)	30 (55.6%)	54 (33.1)
Female Fnshrs.	24 (22.0%)	85 (78.0%)	109 (66.9%)

($\chi^2 = 7.69$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.006$; response rate 99.4%)

The marital status of male respondents, whether leavers or finishers, was almost identical: 91.1% of the male leavers were married as were 91.6% of the male finishers.

The absence or presence of children in the home did not significantly discriminate between leaving or finishing behavior of either males or females. The majority of leaving and finishing males and females had at least one child at home while they were participating in the External Degree Program. Though not significant, a higher percentage

of leavers (both males and females) had children at home than did finishers.

Two more statistical comparisons sought to determine if the number of children affected the leaving/finishing behavior of either female or male External Degree subjects. Neither comparison resulted in statistically significant differences. However, whereas the majority of both leaving and finishing females had either none or just one child at home while participating in the External Degree, the majority of leaving and finishing males had at least two.

The final set of analyses regarding any effect of marriage and children on the leaving/finishing behavior of External Degree subjects compared female leavers with male leavers and female finishers with male finishers.

Both comparisons related to marital status resulted in statistically significant differences. For example, more male leavers than female leavers were married; so too, though, more male finishers than female finishers were also married.

TABLE LVII

EFFECT OF MARITAL STATUS ON LEAVING BEHAVIOR OF MEN/WOMEN

	Single	Married	Row Total Column %
Female Leavers	24 (44.4%)	30 (55.6%)	54 (49.1)
Male Leavers	5 (8.9%)	51 (91.1%)	56 (50.9%)

($X^2 = 16.07$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.000$; response rate 98.2%)

TABLE LVIII

EFFECT OF MARITAL STATUS ON FINISHING BEHAVIOR OF MEN/WOMEN

	Single	Married	Row Total Column %
Female Finishers	24 (22.0%)	85 (78.0%)	109 (53.4)
Male Finishers	8 (8.4%)	87 (91.6%)	95 (46.6%)

($\chi^2 = 6.10$; $df = 1$; $p = 0.013$; response rate 100.0%)

No statistically significant difference resulted from comparing female leavers with male leavers on whether or not children were present in the home while the subject was participating in the External Degree Program. For both the female and male leavers, the majority did have at least one child at home. For finishers, the same trend was true but the larger percentage of female finishers than of male finishers without children approached significance with $p = .053$.

TABLE LIX

COMPARISON OF MEN/WOMEN FINISHERS ON CHILDLESS/CHILD STATUS

	No Children	1 or More Children	Row Total Column %
Female Finishers	45 (41.3%)	64 (58.7%)	109 (53.4%)
Male Finishers	26 (27.4%)	69 (72.6%)	95 (46.6%)

($\chi^2 = 3.74$; $df = 1$; $p = .053$; response rate 100.0%)

When the comparison of female vs male leavers and female vs. male finishers was based on the number of children

(either 0-1 or 2+), significant differences resulted. For example, the majority of female finishers reported 0-1 child at home, while the majority of male finishers had two or more children.

TABLE LX
COMPARISON OF MEN/WOMEN FINISHERS WITH
EITHER 0-1 CHILDREN OR 2 OR MORE

	0-1 Children	2 or More Children	Row Total Column %
Female Finishers	71 (65.1%)	38 (34.9%)	109 (53.4%)
Male Finishers	45 (47.4%)	50 (52.6%)	95 (46.6%)

($X^2 = 5.82$; $df = 1$; $p = .016$; response rate 100.0%)

The majority of female leavers, however, also reported having either no children or only one at home while they were participating in the program. The majority of male leavers, on the other hand, had at least two children at home.

TABLE LXI
COMPARISON OF MEN/WOMEN LEAVERS WITH
EITHER 0-1 CHILDREN OR 2 OR MORE

	0-1 Children	2 or More Children	Row Total Column %
Female Leavers	30 (55.6%)	24 (44.4%)	54 (49.1%)
Male Leavers	18 (32.1%)	38 (67.9%)	56 (50.9%)

($X^2 = 5.21$; $df = 1$; $p = .022$; response rate 98.2%)

PREDICTION OF LEAVING USING STEPWISE MULTIPLE REGRESSION

The goal of conducting the stepwise multiple regression analysis with the data from the External Degree surveys was to determine what percent of the variation in leaving/finishing behavior could be accounted for from a set of selected explanatory variables. Stepwise multiple regression is one of several procedures grouped under the broad classification of general linear statistical models. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and discriminant analysis are the more commonly known terms within linear models. For this study, the discriminant analysis function used regression, specifically stepwise multiple regression, as a convenient, computational technique for carrying out the calculations on the nominal data obtained.

Generally the stepwise procedure starts with a simple correlation matrix and enters into regression the predictor variable that is most highly correlated with the outcome variable, in this case, differences between leaving/finishing the External Degree Program. After this step, partial correlation coefficients are computed and a second variable is selected. This procedure continues with the selection of the next largest contributor to the variance in the outcome variable until no more contribution is made or until the researcher decides that the contribution is too small to consider. As described in Chapter I, two criteria (statistical significance at $p < .05$ and independence of time

in Program) had to be met before the questions in this study were selected for regression. The following table displays the explanatory variables used in the present study.

TABLE LXII
PREDICTOR VARIABLES OF STEPWISE
MULTIPLE REGRESSION PROCEDURE

Survey Number	Content	# Response Options
19	Awareness Of Other Programs	2 Yes/No
36	Grade Level Upon Admission	4 Frosh/Soph/Jr/Sr
37	Degree Aspirations	4 O, AS, BS/BA, Grad
27	Career/Degree Req'm't.	3 Yes/No/Not Applic.
50	Time Required in Program	4 Options ranged from "Too Much" to "Very Little"

After eliminating surveys where there were no responses to any one of the five questions cited above, 297 records were analyzed in the stepwise procedure. As the table in Appendix D shows, 31.76% of the variation between leaving and finishing behavior was explained by seven of the question/response possibilities:

TABLE LXIII

BEST SEVEN PREDICTORS OF VARIANCE IN LEAVE/FINISH BEHAVIOR

- Q. 50, Rsp. 1: Degree required more time than I could give.
- Q. 37, Rsp. 2: Aspired to the Associate Degree.
- Q. 27, Rsp. 1: Yes, continuation in career required degree.
- Q. 37, Rsp. 1: Aspired to no degree.
- Q. 50, Rsp. 4: Degree required less time than expected.
- Q. 50, Rsp. 2: Degree required more time than expected, but I found it.
- Q. 50, Rsp. 3: Degree required about the time expected.

Adding the next four largest contributions to variation:

- Q. 36, Rsp. 1: Grade level upon admission: Frosh.
- Q. 36, Rsp. 2: Grade level upon admission: Soph.
- Q. 36, Rsp. 3: Grade level upon admission: Jr.
- Q. 19, Rsp. 1: Awareness of other External Programs

only increased the percentage of explanation of variation by 1.98% (31.76% to 33.64%). Since this contribution was considered minor, the regression procedure was discontinued.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY

Comparisons: Leavers and Finishers

A comparison of the responses from this study showed that both academic and environmental variables have extensive discriminating ability between leavers and finishers in the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree Program. Limited discrimination between leavers and finishers resulted from comparing background and defining variables. All the primary null hypotheses described on pages 122-123 are, therefore, rejected, but with the following explanations.

Defining Variables. Only one of the defining variables, enrollment status, resulted in a statistical difference between leavers and finishers. Overall, a higher percentage of finishers was admitted to the External Degree Program at a more advanced level than leavers. No statistical differences in the other defining variables, age and residency, were found between leavers and finishers.

Background Variables. Likewise, only one background variable, educational goal, resulted in a statistical

difference between leavers and finishers. Again, a larger percentage of finishers aspired to higher levels of education than did the leavers. No statistical differences in the other background variables of high school performance, ethnicity, family educational level, and gender were detected when leavers and finishers were compared.

Academic Variables. The category, academic variables, produced a number of differences between leavers and finishers. Overall, a larger percentage of finishers than of leavers expressed more confidence with their skills and their ability to cope with stress and to find the time to do the Program. As a group, finishers were significantly more satisfied than were the leavers with the quality and quantity of academic advising in the Program and with the frequency and convenience of courses they wished to take to complete their degree. Finishers also indicated, statistically more often than did leavers, that they had an academic focus to their degree. And, with regard to program involvement, the finishers were more likely to produce a portfolio that received academic credit than were the leavers, even though a majority of both groups attended the portfolio workshop. Although leavers may have left before availing themselves of many opportunities to participate in other Program options, (over 50% indicated "they left before they really got started"), a chi-square comparison on the use of correspondence classes also resulted in a significant difference between leavers and finishers. A majority of

finishers (but a minority of leavers) received credits through correspondence. All other program involvement questions resulted, even if significantly different, in either the same trend (i.e., majorities in both groups did not participate) or in no significant difference at all.

Environmental Variables. Five areas within environmental variables were studied: (1) finances, (2) outside employment, (3) outside encouragement, (4) family responsibilities, and (5) perception of one's ability to transfer. All but finances and family responsibilities resulted in significant differences between leavers and finishers. Financing of college expenses was handled similarly by leavers and finishers; i.e., most often by either the subject's or spouse's employment. Neither group cited financial problems as a major hindrance to its participating in college. No difference in marital status between leavers and finishers was observed, nor in the number of children at home while leavers and finishers were participating in the External Degree Program.

A significantly higher percentage of leavers than of finishers reported working over a 40-hour week while attempting to participate in the External Degree Program. Coupled with these self-reported longer working hours, leavers also cited less encouragement from others in their lives to continue with college studies.

Significantly more finishers than leavers reported being aware of similar External Degree Programs at other

institutions. Even though fewer leavers were aware of similar programs, they considered transferring to another institution in a larger percentage than did the finishers.

Academic and Psychological Outcomes. Because a majority of leavers left "before they really got started," summarizing the academic and psychological outcome differences between leavers and finishers must be done cautiously. Though finishers had a significantly higher GPA than did leavers, the finishers' academic interactions were likely distributed over (1) a longer period of time and (2) over more Program options. Likewise, their investment to the end of the Program (graduation) may have been the cause of the finishers' significantly more positive satisfaction levels than was any specific Program feature(s) itself. Finishers were more satisfied with what they perceived as positive impacts on knowing themselves better, using interpersonal skills, and seeing alternative points of view, as well as in their ability to get the kind of prompt feedback from advisors and instructors they needed. Also, perhaps because of their early departure, over half of the leavers were unable to judge the quality of education they received at Eastern, and 45% were unable to describe the overall quality of the College at all.

Leavers and finishers were alike in their motivations for enrolling in the Program. Personal improvement/challenge was cited most often by participants in both categories. Only 2% of finishers, but 20% of leavers,

however, felt their progress in the Program was hindered a great or very great deal by rules and procedures. One psychological outcome difference which probably is independent of length of time in the program is the finishers' significantly more frequent response linking career and degree than that reported by leavers.

Because lack of time appeared as the #1 difficulty for finishers and #1 barrier for leavers to participating in the External Degree, comparing the two groups' time management decisions produced expected results. For example, other than unaltered time spent with children and in paid employment, finishers reported significantly more often than did leavers, that they had cut back on social activities with friends, alone time with their spouse or significant other, time spent on home maintenance, and in civic responsibilities. Further, finishers reported more often than did leavers (99.5% vs. 67.6%) that they were able (perhaps, though, only after cutting back on other responsibilities) to commit the amount of time required in the Program.

Comparisons: Rural and Urban Respondents

Though the primary purpose of this research was to determine if, in general, External Degree leavers differed from finishers on a number of characteristics, a further breakdown of respondents into rural and urban categories was

conducted because of Eastern Oregon State College's regional mission into 10 rural counties of Oregon.

The Eastern Oregon State College External Degree was specifically designed to accommodate the time- and place-bound constraints of adult learners. In so doing, the Program seeks to overcome the barriers that are cited in the literature regarding rural access to educational programs: distance, inadequate finances, and inadequate advice and counseling.

With regard to distance barriers, the Program was designed without requiring any attendance in La Grande. In addition, (1) a liberal transfer policy, (2) information and referral offices in Eastern's six Regional Centers, and (3) extensive outreach opportunities in the form of telecourses, correspondence studies, and regional classes have eliminated the necessity of travel to/from the main campus for External Degree students.

In responding to a potential financial barrier, the External Degree Program features several payment options. First, a portfolio-awarded credit is assessed at about 45% of what is charged for a traditional credit of instruction. This decreased fee recognizes that instruction in academic content is not provided by the institution when a student prepares a prior-learning portfolio essay, though instruction in the process/verification of translating experience into content is. A second feature that decreases the immediate impact on a family of financing college expenses

is a deferred payment plan for tuition (1/3 due at the beginning of each month of the quarter) and/or an installment plan for paying fees incurred in awarding portfolio credit. In addition, improvements in federal guidelines regarding financial aid for part-time learners have broadened educational access to many adults, including the External Degree student.

The establishment of Eastern's Regional Centers in six communities of the 10-county Eastern region, the placement (by Portland State University's invitation) of a branch of the Eastern Oregon External Degree office on the PSU campus, and the availability of a toll-free telephone number for Oregon students have attempted to respond to distance learners' complaints about inadequate advice and counseling. With all these features built into a comprehensive degree-completion plan, it was encouraging to find that rural and urban learners did not differ in their responses to several critical questions on the survey.

For example, time, rather than distance, was the most frequently cited barrier for both rural and urban subjects. Though not statistically significant, distance was, however, the second most frequent response from rural respondents but fifth from urban.

Finances were not considered any more of a burden for rural respondents than they were for urban respondents. In fact, a higher percentage of rural than of urban respondents

indicated that finances were not at all or only a small problem while they were in the Program.

Sufficient and accurate advice and counseling also did not really present any greater barrier for the rural External Degree respondents than it did for urban. Respondents from both groups indicated satisfaction with the quantity and quality of advising. Only when rural was defined to include residents of communities <50,000 population did significantly more rural than urban respondents indicate that degree requirements were not made clear to them by their advisors. Even then, the percentages dissatisfied with degree clarity were small, 15.4% rural and 6.0% urban. Likewise, majorities in both the rural and urban groups indicated that the Program's rules and procedures had not hindered their progress in the degree.

It appears, therefore, that certain aspects of the External Degree design have appropriately responded to barriers that are normally faced by rural adult learners. The absence of significant differences between rural and urban respondents' perceptions of barriers to continuing their studies through the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree will facilitate the implementation of any Program changes that could improve retention of all participants, regardless of geographic residence or isolation.

Comparisons: Gender and Family Status

Most of the significant differences which resulted when family status and leaving/finishing behavior was compared occurred when gender differences entered the equation. That is, male leavers were not statistically different from male finishers on family status questions. Female leavers were similar to female finishers, differing only in marital status; significantly more female finishers than leavers were married.

When family status questions were compared between the sexes, however, numerous differences resulted. Overall, female participants, whether leavers or finishers, reported more often that they had 0-1 child; males, whether leavers or finishers, more often had two or more children. Though the majority of both female and male participants, leavers or finishers, were married, significantly more males were than females.

In conclusion, marriage and families of two or more children were more evident in the lives of the male respondents than of the females. In other words, married females and/or females with two or more children were less likely to be participants in the External Degree Program than were males with the same family responsibilities.

CONCLUSIONS

The dominant factors related to persistence of this non-traditional student group in the Eastern Oregon State

College External Degree Program come from academic and environmental variables. Background and defining variables contributed little to predicting persistence/withdrawal. This conclusion provides exciting opportunities for the College to intervene with corrective Program changes which should enhance the retention/completion rate of participants. (Specific recommendations are shared at the end of this chapter.)

In addition to triggering Program changes, this study helped to create a profile of the "typical" External Degree student. This individual, whether leaver or finisher, is usually Caucasian, married with children, approximately 45 years old and lives in an Oregon community of <50,000 in population close to (within 60 miles) of a post-secondary institution, but not necessarily Eastern Oregon State College. He/she did well in high school, earning between a 3.00 and 3.50 GPA, and enrolled in the External Degree Program primarily for personal, rather than professional, reasons. However, he/she receives little, if any, encouragement to continue college from friends or employers.

The mother of the typical External Degree student has usually received a high school diploma; the father, less than such. The spouse of the External Degree student has probably attended or even graduated from college. The student pays for educational expenses from employment income but is not particularly stressed financially by these added expenses. He/she works at least 30 hours a week, and while

in the Program, may have cut back on other obligations, but did not cut back on hours worked or time spent with children.

Upon entering the Program (most often as a junior), the typical External Degree student is modestly aware of other External Degrees but does not consider transferring to them, is confident of his/her abilities in writing, reading, expressing thoughts verbally, and coping with stress and with academic challenges. Perhaps because he/she feels that degree requirements were clearly explained by his/her advisor, the External Degree student sees no reason to require La Grande campus attendance for periodic meetings. The student was expecting the level of academic rigor in the Program and was satisfied with the timeliness of instructor feedback and with the ease in asking for help from either instructors or advisors. In spite of struggling to devote the necessary time to the Program, the typical External Degree student feels that participation, whether it ended in withdrawal or graduation, did have some impact on getting to know him/herself better, on using their interpersonal skills more, and on seeing alternate points of view. Most frequently, he/she focused on a particular academic area while pursuing the degree, transferred in credit from other institutions, and participated in an assessment-of-prior-learning workshop as part of the External Degree process toward graduation. The student did not receive directly transcribed credit through military evaluations or from any

agency-sponsored training, nor did he/she participate in outreach center classes, cooperative education, course challenges, or day or evening classes at Eastern Oregon State College.

Beyond this common description of External Degree participants in general, leavers differed in several respects from finishers. For example, even though they, like the finishers, voiced satisfaction with the clarity of degree requirements as expressed by their advisors, they were dissatisfied with the overall quality and quantity of the academic advising they received and also felt the rules and procedures of the Program inhibited their progress toward graduation. In contrast to finishers, the leavers generally did not receive credit for any portfolio essays following attendance at a portfolio workshop, nor did they receive much encouragement to continue college studies from anyone in their lives. They tended to work longer hours at their jobs (frequently over 40 hours a week) and did not cut back on other obligations while trying to participate in the Program.

Several conclusions, therefore, on which recommendations for change will be based, may be drawn from the findings of this study:

1. Leavers and finishers alike struggled with finding or managing their time so that progress toward completion of the External Degree could happen.
2. Sizeable numbers in both groups of subjects voiced anxiety over maintaining a balance

in their various responsibilities as spouse, parent, employer, and civic person, as well as student.

3. Though several respondents wholeheartedly endorsed the flexible nature of the Program, large numbers in both groups yearned for more structure, even if self-imposed, in the form of a visible degree completion plan.
4. Little encouragement from people in the External Degree student's environment to continue college studies is received by participants; it is especially lacking in the lives of the leavers, and only strongly felt from spouses of the finishers.
5. Though most respondents from both groups participated in an assessment of prior learning portfolio workshop, only large numbers of finishers managed to earn credits through this option. Large numbers of leavers left the Program quickly without integrating more thoroughly into other Program options.
6. Female participants were less likely than male participants to be married and/or to have children.
7. Rather than perceiving different barriers to education as the literature review asserts, rural External Degree respondents shared with their urban counterparts that the #1 concern was finding enough time to commit to college studies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In response to the preceding summary and conclusions, and in order to enhance the completion rate of the Eastern Oregon State College External Degree participants, the following recommendations are made.

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT CHANGES

1. Develop Two Separate Degree-Completion Tracks

It is apparent from the study findings that many External Degree participants struggle with what they perceive in the portfolio workshop to be an unstructured, intangible, open-ended, process requiring more time, writing ability, and tolerance for ambiguity than they are comfortable with. Although a number of External Degree participants may be able to begin the Program with this option, many should not. Program staff should clearly identify two tracks for degree completion in the Eastern Oregon External Degree Program: one begins with the assessment of prior learning portfolio, the other with more traditional coursework, even if offered in non-traditional formats (correspondence, weekends, evenings).

2. Adult Development/Degree-Planning Seminars

Since early integration into the academic culture is missing for a number of the External Degree leavers (i.e., over 50% claimed to have left the Program without ever really getting started), Program staff should restructure the existing four-credit-hour assessment of prior learning workshop. "If students are not selected/socialized early, they are likely to drop out" (Bean, 1983, p. 53).

To promote earlier, stronger integration and, therefore, enhance retention and completion, it is recommended that guidelines developed by Brookfield (1986) be followed

in restructuring the introductory phase of the External Degree Program. That is, the program should provide for (1) a collaborative spirit within the learning environment, (2) a sense of alteration between activity and reflection, (3) a critical reflection time, and (4) an opportunity for the learners to become self-directed and empowered. Tinto (1987) recommends an orientation program to assist adult learners to integrate. For example, the first part of the revised portfolio workshop, in which all External Degree students would participate, could be a one-credit-hour, one-weekend Adult Learner Seminar which participants would take prior to enrolling in any of the Program options. Although already done on a somewhat informal, one-on-one interview basis (in person or by phone), the seminar format would provide for more efficient use of Program staff time and for the adults to start acknowledging that others, just like themselves, are interested in continuing their education. This group identity may also serve as the emotional support to continue on with college studies that is missing in the lives of many External Degree participants. Several activities should take place during this seminar:

1. Readings/lecturettes about adult development, specifically about transitions that adults experience when beginning a new phase in their lives, and about adults as learners, should be provided to help the External Degree participants place themselves into the larger picture from a theoretical perspective.

The importance of understanding, even if only on a limited basis, some notion about age- and stage-related theories regarding their development and about differences in learning between children and adults, may help the participant affirm the commitment to completing the degree prior to becoming immersed in the paperwork, assignments, and expectations that tend to overwhelm the less-than-committed.

2. Information about all known options for adults to continue their college studies should be provided. Included in this comprehensive information and referral step should be data about other institutions' programs as well as all of the Eastern Oregon State External Degree Program options.
3. The student's writing ability should be assessed with, for example, the Test of Standard Written English. Also, one essay writing assignment, related to the adult development/adult learner literature, should be written and critiqued for writing style as well as content.
4. All transfer credits should be accurately evaluated, petitions filed, military evaluation forms completed, etc. prior to conclusion of the seminar.

The post-weekend assignments should include preparation of the essay on adult development/learning and of a draft for the student's degree-completion plan using options described during the weekend.

The second part of the revised portfolio workshop would occur approximately one month following this seminar, (allowing sufficient time for petitions to be processed, transcripts officially evaluated, and the assignments from the seminar to be sent in for evaluation). At this one-credit hour Degree-Completion Planning seminar, participants

from the first seminar who have decided to pursue the Program would reconvene to (1) discuss their degree-completion plan with an advisor, (2) receive instruction/advice on time management, and (3) meet several of the faculty involved with many of the degree-completion options. The final degree-completion plan should identify (1) the program option(s) that the student will begin with, (2) the term-by-term progress/courses the student intends to take to meet degree requirements, and (3) the follow-up arrangements with Program staff that will be conducted to support/revise the degree-completion plan as the student moves through the Program.

The third part of this revised introductory phase of the Program consists of the actual workshop in which those External Degree students who have decided to begin with the portfolio receive instruction in the portfolio-development process. Others who have opted for a more coursework-oriented beginning to the Program would defer participation in this workshop until a later time or not at all.

This three-part revision recognizes, as Bridges (1980) notes that the process of reaching a goal (i.e., completing the baccalaureate) is as important as the goal itself. Further, the "easing" in to the Program with a more organized, planned approach may especially assist the female participants who, as Belenky (1986) notes, may struggle more than their male classmates with committing themselves to the rigor that being a student, in addition to being wife,

mother, friend, etc. requires. Likewise, because a number of adults may have difficulty backing off somewhat from a self-imposed independency (Kegan, 1982), this revised process would more clearly identify the network of faculty, advisors, and peers available to help the External Degree participant succeed in finishing the Program.

3. Peer Mentoring

A third recommendation which evolved from a review of the study findings is to establish a peer mentor for new students in the Program. Parelius (1979) recognizes the helpful, supportive nature of providing student peer groups as an aid in retention/completion of degree programs.

This mentor should be an adult who graduated in the External Degree Program, preferably lives in or near the same community as the new student, and has volunteered to serve in the capacity of mentor. Numerous responding finishers offered, in the letters/notes they sent in with their completed surveys, to provide this kind of support for others just beginning the Program. Since many leavers indicate a lack of encouragement from others in their lives to continue on with their education, the peer mentor may fill a void that could make the difference between leaving and finishing the Program.

4. Two-Year General Studies Degree

Because significant differences between leavers and finishers were revealed when degree aspiration and entry-

level status questions were asked, a fourth recommendation from this study is to develop an Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies using the same degree-completion options that already exist for the four-year Program. When the non-traditional student enters the current Program with few credits (less than Junior standing) and must, because of environmental responsibilities (family, finances, employment) proceed on a part-time basis, the road to completion looks very long. Providing a two-year degree will meet the needs of those adults who indicate that the Associate is all they aspire to, as well as enabling others to achieve a tangible symbol of success while moving on toward the BS/BA.

5. Decrease Turn-around Time on Assignments/Feedback

Numerous respondents complained of the delays they experienced in awaiting word on the status of their portfolio essays and/or course assignments. On-going efforts, which have already been started, to improve the paperflow from student to instructor should be monitored carefully. For example, "logging in" assignments at the External Degree Program office has reduced the frequency of the lost-paper syndrome. In addition, changes in the way faculty are paid for evaluating and grading the work of External Degree students has improved the turn-around time on Individualized Studies assignments (for which faculty are usually paid overload). However, more improvement in the turn-around time for portfolio essays (for which faculty are

frequently assigned by their Dean to evaluate inload) should be pursued.

6. Follow-up with Responding Leavers

Because a number of the leavers may have left when the Program was in its infancy, and because recent Program changes and an expanded curriculum of correspondence and weekend college courses are now available, the sixth recommendation of this study is to the Program staff. Specifically, they should follow up with those External Degree leavers who cared enough to take the time to complete and return a survey and, in many cases, write additional notes and letters about their specific experiences in the Program. Their willingness to share their opinions and recommendations for change should be seen as a potential sign of renewed interest in pursuing the degree. A phone call or letter from the Program Director offering to assist with updating the status of their educational pursuits would be in order.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

The final recommendation of this study is for more research. Improved advising practices, more articulate publications, more informal mentoring, limiting the number of portfolio-awarded credits that may be used toward graduation, and an expanded curriculum now available to External Degree students, would probably have changed the withdrawal path for a number of leavers who joined the Program in the

early years. Follow-up, longitudinal studies of the current External Degree student body would provide information that would help Program staff continue to improve the program so that even more non-traditional students could pursue their educational goals through non-traditional means. Specific types of research/procedures which may lend themselves to providing enriched data about non-traditional students are:

1. Include social integration variables in the model used to see if there isn't some element of socialization that is related to persist/withdrawal behavior of the non-traditional student.
2. Survey rural potential students to test the hypothesis that indicates this group of students perceives more/different barriers to continuing their education than do their urban counterparts.
3. Incorporate learning style preferences into the study to evaluate any difference in leave/finish behavior from groups of auditory, tactile, and visual learners.
4. Expand the investigation into the motivational factors that lead non-traditional students to participate in programs like the External Degree. For example, do the younger non-traditional participants tie their involvement in educational programs more closely to vocational goals than do the older ones? Are there differences by age between intrinsic and extrinsic goals?
5. Test the path analysis theory of researchers like Bean and Metzner to determine the validity of direct vs. indirect effects on leaving behavior of non-traditional students.

6. Enrich the data qualitatively by conducting indepth personal interviews with a randomly selected group of respondents in order to pursue strands of thought that could then be linked more thoroughly to adult development theory.
7. Incorporate multiple measures into a longitudinal study to determine the effect of changes in one's personal circumstances over time that may affect leave/finish behavior; determine where, if appropriate, the institution should be expected to intervene to assist with life transitions.
8. Expand on the stepwise regression procedure after controlling for entry-level characteristics to see if any sizeable variation in leave/finish behavior can be explained from any individual/set of variables.
9. Analyze the leavers in the present study more carefully to determine when they left. Though most indicated it was shortly after they entered the Program, further research into the nature of their specific interactions during their brief stint may add improved/new information that could affect Program interventions. For example, did leavers attempt the College's required exit writing exam earlier in the Program than did finishers and because of an initial failure, leave the Program entirely?
10. Investigate the nature of "encouragement." Does the presence in a non-traditional student's life of disharmony in the home (resentment of the spouse/parent for taking time for school studies) have a bigger influence on leaving a Program than positive vibes do in supporting the student's finishing?

There is still much to be done to enhance the learning environment for today's non-traditional student on America's college and university campuses. The present study has provided information to the Eastern Oregon State

College administration that should improve the setting for such students in that College's External Degree Program. It is the hope of this researcher, however, that the findings from this study will be helpful well beyond this particular program and that the sensitivity and understanding by higher educational personnel about the increasing numbers of adult students on our campuses will have been enhanced by this research.

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APPENDIX A

SURVEY MATERIALS

This appendix includes the survey instruments used by Dr. John Bean from which the Eastern Oregon State College survey instruments (also included) were prepared, and the cover letters which accompanied the Eastern surveys.

STUDENT ATTITUDE OR STUDENT ENTRY LEVEL QUESTIONNAIRE USE

Individuals who wish to use the SAQ or SEL-Q as is or as modified use at their institution may do so at no charge if the information gathered is used in a dissertation or scholarly publication.

If the SAQ and/or SEL-Q as is or as modified are used to gather data for institutional purposes, such as institutional research or policy making, the fee for use is \$25.00.

Please make the check payable to:

John P. Bean

and mail it to him at:

HESA/School of Education

236 Education Building

Third and Jordan

Indiana University

Bloomington, IN 47405

*Dixie -
 Hope this is useful.
 Best of luck w/ your study. I look
 forward to seeing what you've had out.
 J. P. Bean*

NOTE: DR. BEAN'S MATERIALS ARE ONLY TO BE USED AFTER CONTACTING HIM DIRECTLY. THEY ARE NOT TO BE COPIED FROM THE PRESENT STUDY./d1

STUDENT ATTITUDE QUESTIONNAIRE (SAQ)[®]

INSTRUCTIONS

1. If you do not find the exact answer that fits your case, use the one that comes closest to it. Please answer all questions.
2. Please answer the questions in order. Do not skip around.
3. The questions can be answered by putting a circle around the number that corresponds to the answer of your choice, like 1 2 3 **4** 5, or by putting a number in the , like 4.
4. Remember, steps have been taken to assure the confidentiality of respondents. It is important that you be as honest as you can in answering the questions.

In order to study the actual leaving of students in future months, and to see if your attitudes have changed since fall, it must be possible to match the questionnaire you filled out last year with this one. For these reasons, please write your student I.D. number (social security number) in the spaces provided below.

(1) <u>1</u>	(2) <u>2</u>	(3) <u>3</u>	(4) <u>4</u>	(5) <u>5</u>
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Student I.D. Number (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) _____

- (15) How many TOTAL college credits have you **ALREADY** completed at any college or university?
1. None
 2. 1-5
 3. 6-11
 4. 12-15
 5. 16-31
 6. 32 or more
- (16) How many credits are you enrolled for this semester (enter the number)?
- (16) (17)
- (18) This semester, where do you live?
1. Dormitory
 2. Fraternity or sorority
 3. With parents or guardian
 4. Apartment, motel room, rented house
 5. Other (Specify: _____)
- (19) What is the highest degree you expect to receive?
1. Do not expect to receive degree
 2. Associate (AA)
 3. Bachelors (BA or BS)
 4. Masters (MA or MS)
 5. Doctorate (Ph.D. or Ed.D.)
 6. M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M. (medical)
 7. LL.B. OR J.D. (law)
 8. Other _____
- (20) What best describes your intended major?
1. Undecided
 2. Liberal arts or Science
 3. Pre-professional (e.g., education, medicine, law, nursing, engineering, etc.)
 4. Business
- (21) How many semesters in a row do you expect to attend this institution (not counting summer sessions) (including two semesters this year)?
- 9 10 or more
- (22) In a typical week, how many classes did you miss (without a medical or legitimate excuse)?
1. None
 2. About one
 3. About two
 4. About three
 5. More than three

About how many hours per week have you been involved in the following activities?

	None	1-5	6-10	11-20	21 or more
(23) Attending classes	1	2	3	4	5
(24) Studying	1	2	3	4	5
(25) Dating and parties	1	2	3	4	5
(26) Campus organizations (non-sports)	1	2	3	4	5
(27) Sports (varsity)	1	2	3	4	5
(28) Sports (on campus)	1	2	3	4	5
(29) Job to earn money	1	2	3	4	5

- (30) How many of your best friends presently attend this school? 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more
- (31) What was your first semester grade point average here?
1. 3.76 - 4.00
 2. 3.50 - 3.75
 3. 3.00 - 3.49
 4. 2.50 - 2.99
 5. 2.00 - 2.49
 6. 1.50 - 1.99
 7. 1.00 - 1.49
 8. 0.00 - 0.99
- (32) How much time have you studied in college as compared to high school?
1. Much less than high school
 2. Less than high school
 3. About the same
 4. More than high school
 5. Much more than high school
- (33) All in all, how good an education do you think you can get at this institution?
1. Rather poor
 2. Fair
 3. Good
 4. Very good
 5. Excellent
- (34) In your opinion, how high is the quality of this institution?
1. Very low
 2. Fairly low
 3. Neither high or low
 4. Fairly high
 5. Very high
- (35) What is your present marital status?
1. Not married
 2. Married

Be sure to answer questions (23) to (35).

HOW IMPORTANT is it:	Very Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neither Unimportant Nor Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
(36) To you to get a bachelor's degree?	1	2	3	4	5
(37) To you to finish your program of study?	1	2	3	4	5
(38) For you to attend THIS SCHOOL as opposed to some other?	1	2	3	4	5
(39) For you to graduate from THIS SCHOOL as opposed to some other?	1	2	3	4	5
(40) For you to develop a detailed understanding of special field?	1	2	3	4	5
(41) For you to get the training and skills necessary for a job?	1	2	3	4	5

HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO:	Very Unlikely	Fairly Unlikely	Neither	Fairly Likely	Very Likely	Already Married
(42) Get married in the next year?	1	2	3	4	5	6
(43) Get married before graduating?	1	2	3	4	5	6
(44) Leave this institution to be closer to someone you care a great deal about?	1	2	3	4	5	

HOW CERTAIN ARE YOU:	Very Uncertain	Fairly Uncertain	Neither Certain Nor Uncertain	Fairly Certain	Very Certain
(45) Of what you are going to major in?	1	2	3	4	5
(46) Of your career plans?	1	2	3	4	5
(47) That this school was the right choice for you?	1	2	3	4	5
(48) That you will be able to find funds to continue your education next year?	1	2	3	4	5
(49) That you will be able to pay for schooling until you graduate?	1	2	3	4	5

In your opinion, HOW DIFFICULT would it be for you:	Very Easy	Fairly Easy	Neither Difficult Nor Easy	Fairly Difficult	Very Difficult
(50) To transfer to another college, university, or junior college?	1	2	3	4	5
(51) To picture yourself going through life without a college degree?	1	2	3	4	5
(52) To find a job to support yourself and any dependents?	1	2	3	4	5
(53) To ask your college teachers for help when you need it?	1	2	3	4	5
(54) To find your way around here?	1	2	3	4	5
(55) To make friends here?	1	2	3	4	5

DO YOU EXPECT TO:	Definitely Not	Very Slight Chance	Uncertain, Probably Not	Uncertain, Probably Yes	Quite a Good Chance	Definitely Yes
(56) Be enrolled at this institution first semester of next year?	1	2	3	4	5	6
(57) Be enrolled at this institution one year from today?	1	2	3	4	5	6
(58) Graduate from this institution in four years or less?	1	2	3	4	5	6
(59) Graduate from this institution sometime?	1	2	3	4	5	6
(60) Graduate from any institution?	1	2	3	4	5	6
(61) Transfer to another institution?	1	2	3	4	5	6

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your being a student?	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
(62) I find real enjoyment in being a student?	1	2	3	4	5
(63) I consider being a student rather unpleasant?	1	2	3	4	5
(64) I definitely dislike being a student?	1	2	3	4	5

TO WHAT EXTENT:	Not at All	To a Small Extent	To Some Extent	To a Great Extent	To a Very Great Extent	
(65) Does this institution offer courses you want to take?	1	2	3	4	5	
(66) Do you wait to complete academic assignments until the last possible minute?	1	2	3	4	5	
(67) Have you been frustrated by rules and regulations here?	1	2	3	4	5	
(68) Do you feel that the rules and regulations here run your life?	1	2	3	4	5	
(69) Do you feel you think the same way as faculty members here?	1	2	3	4	5	
(70) Do you feel you think the same way as other students here?	1	2	3	4	5	
(71) Do you feel you belong here?	1	2	3	4	5	
(72) Do you feel able to control your academic life here?	1	2	3	4	5	
(73) Do you feel able to control your social life here?	1	2	3	4	5	
(74) Have you had some really new academic experiences?	1	2	3	4	5	
(75) Have you had some really new social experiences?	1	2	3	4	5	
(76) Do you enjoy living away from home?	1	2	3	4	5	Does not Apply 6
(77) Are your parents willing to pay the costs of your attending this institution?	1	2	3	4	5	6
(78) Have you seriously discussed leaving this school with people here?	1	2	3	4	5	
(79) Have you seriously discussed leaving this school with people outside of the school?	1	2	3	4	5	
(15) Do you feel out of place at this school?	1	2	3	4	5	
(16) Do you rebel against authority?	1	2	3	4	5	
(17) Does your family approve of your attending this school?	1	2	3	4	5	
(18) Do you complete homework assignments on time?	1	2	3	4	5	
(19) Do you have outside responsibilities which interfere with your education?	1	2	3	4	5	
(20) Do you feel that your life outside of school is stressful?	1	2	3	4	5	
Are the college courses you have taken here:						
(21) Exciting?	1	2	3	4	5	
(22) Stimulating?	1	2	3	4	5	
(23) More difficult than you like?	1	2	3	4	5	
(24) More competitive than you like?	1	2	3	4	5	
(25) Boring?	1	2	3	4	5	
(26) Dull?	1	2	3	4	5	
HOW MUCH IMPACT do you think attending this school has had in your development in:	Little or No Impact	Some Impact	Quite a Bit of Impact	A Great Deal of Impact	A Very Great Deal of Impact	
(27) Knowing yourself?	1	2	3	4	5	
(28) Using interpersonal skills?	1	2	3	4	5	
(29) Seeing alternative points of view?	1	2	3	4	5	
How useful do you think your education here will be for getting:	Little or no Use	Some Use	Quite A Bit of Use	A Great Deal of Use	A Very Great Deal of Use	
(30) Future employment?	1	2	3	4	5	
(31) A really good job?	1	2	3	4	5	
(32) A well paying job?	1	2	3	4	5	

About how many times per semester have you met with faculty members outside the classroom, or staff advisors, and spoken to them (for ten minutes or more):

	FACULTY MEMBERS					(19)	STAFF ADVISORS				
	None	1	2-3	4-6	7 or more times		None	1	2-3	4-6	7 or more times
(33) For academic advising?	1	2	3	4	5	(19)	1	2	3	4	5
(34) To discuss your career plans?	1	2	3	4	5	(40)	1	2	3	4	5
(35) To help with personal problems?	1	2	3	4	5	(41)	1	2	3	4	5
(36) To discuss intellectual matters?	1	2	3	4	5	(47)	1	2	3	4	5
(37) To discuss a campus issue?	1	2	3	4	5	(43)	1	2	3	4	5
(38) To socialize informally?	1	2	3	4	5	(44)	1	2	3	4	5

How would you **ASSESS YOURSELF** in terms of:

	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
(45) Feeling productive?	1	2	3	4	5
(46) Feeling a sense of accomplishment?	1	2	3	4	5
(47) Being satisfied with your life?	1	2	3	4	5
(48) Looking forward to the future?	1	2	3	4	5
(49) Feeling stuck in a rut?	1	2	3	4	5
(50) A sense of self confidence?	1	2	3	4	5
(51) A sense of self development?	1	2	3	4	5
(52) Being a rebel?	1	2	3	4	5
(53) Wanting to have a good time?	1	2	3	4	5
(54) Being motivated to study?	1	2	3	4	5

To WHAT EXTENT have each of the following persons encouraged you to keep attending this institution?

	Does Not Apply or Not at All	To a Small Extent	To Some Extent	To A Great Extent	To a Very Great Extent
(55) Your best friends?	1	2	3	4	5
(56) Brothers or sisters?	1	2	3	4	5
(57) Parents?	1	2	3	4	5
(58) High school teachers?	1	2	3	4	5
(59) High school staff?	1	2	3	4	5
(60) The person(s) who is (are) most important to you right now?	1	2	3	4	5

To what extent **ARE YOU CONFIDENT** of your:

	Not at All	To a Small Extent	To Some Extent	To A Great Extent	To a Very Great Extent
(61) Study skills?	1	2	3	4	5
(62) Math skills?	1	2	3	4	5
(63) Reading ability?	1	2	3	4	5
(64) Writing ability?	1	2	3	4	5
(65) Social life?	1	2	3	4	5
(66) Ability to become a successful student here?	1	2	3	4	5
(67) Ability to cope with stress?	1	2	3	4	5
(68) Ability to cope with new academic challenges	1	2	3	4	5

Which group of students do you feel closest to? (choose only one)

- (69) 1. Students whose primary purpose in going to college is to get a job, and who don't really care if they go here or to another school.
- 2. Students who feel very positively about ideas and scholarship, and believe this school is a good place for their development in these areas.
- 3. Students who get decent grades but who don't really care very much about ideas or scholarship; to whom getting a job is important; and who like this school because of its social environment: parties, social activities, Greek life, etc.
- 4. Students who don't really care that much for this school or the social life here, but who love ideas, intellectual activities, and scholarship.

PLEASE CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVEN'T SKIPPED ANY QUESTIONS.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in filling out this questionnaire. Please return it in the enclosed envelope.

STUDENT ENTRY LEVEL QUESTIONNAIRE (S.E.L.Q)*

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

This study is being conducted to learn more about why students decide to stay or leave this campus, and their attitudes toward school. Your completing this questionnaire is on a voluntary basis. It is hoped that you will help provide information which will be important in determining what types of services are most useful to students and to better understand student concerns. Your completing this questionnaire will indicate that you have consented to participate in this study. Information from completed questionnaires will be fed into a computer, and comments read, and the questionnaires destroyed. Access to this information will be limited to the study coordinators. Information from individual questionnaires will be combined and reported statistically so that the identity of individuals and small groups will not be revealed. These measures are taken to protect your confidentiality.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. If you do not find the exact answer that fits your case, use the one that comes closest to it. PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.
2. Please answer the questions in order. Do not skip around.
3. The questions can be answered by putting a circle around the number that corresponds to the answer of your choice, like 1 (2) 3 4 5, or by putting a number in the [], like [2] 3 4 5.
4. Feel free to write in any explanations or comments you may have in the margins.
5. Remember, steps have been taken to assure the confidentiality of respondents. It is important that you be as honest as you can in answering the questionnaire.

In order to study the actual leaving of students in future months, and to see if attitudes change, it must be possible to match the questionnaire that a student fills out at this time with the fact that a student stays or leaves this institution and with later surveys of student opinion. For this reason, please write your student I.D. number (social security number) in the spaces provided below.

Leave	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Blank	1													
	Student					I.D. Number								

- (15) What is your sex?
 1. Male
 2. Female
 What was your age at your last birthday?
 (16) [] (17)
- (18) What is your present marital status:
 1. Not married
 2. Married
- (19) Are you a resident of the state where this school is located?
 1. Yes 2. No
- (20) How many miles away is your permanent home from this school?
 1. 0-49 miles 4. 250-499
 2. 50-149 5. 500 miles or more
 3. 150-249
- (21) For the most part, what kind of community have you lived in?
 1. Rural area or farm
 2. Town or small city (under 50,000)
 3. Medium sized city (50,000 to 250,000)
 4. Suburban area near large city
 5. Large city (over 250,000)
- (22) About how many students were in your high school graduating class?
 1. 1 - 9 4. 100 - 199
 2. 10 - 49 5. 200 or more
 3. 50 - 99
- What best describes the religious preference of:
 Your (23) You (24) Mother (25) Father
- | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| Protestant | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Catholic | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Jewish | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Other | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| No Preference | 5 | 5 | 5 |
- (26) When did you graduate from high school?
 1. this year 4. three years ago
 2. 1 year ago 5. four or more years ago
 3. 2 years ago
- (27) How many TOTAL college credits have you ALREADY completed at any college or university?
 1. None 4. 12-15
 2. 1-5 5. 16-31
 3. 6-11 6. 32 or more
- (28) How many credits are you enrolled for this semester?
 (28) [] (29)
- (30) This semester, where will you live?
 1. Dormitory
 2. Fraternity or sorority
 3. With parents or guardian
 4. Apartment, motel room, rented house
 5. Other (Specify: _____)
- (31) Have you ever attended a college or university other than this one?
 1. Yes 2. No
- (32) What is the highest degree you expect to receive?
 1. Do not expect to receive degree
 2. Associate (AA)
 3. Bachelors (BA or BS)
 4. Masters (MA or MS)
 5. Doctorate (Ph.D. or Ed.D.)
 6. M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M. (medical)
 7. LL.B. or J.D. (law)
 8. Other _____
- (33) What best describes your intended major?
 1. Undecided
 2. Liberal arts or Science
 3. Pre-professional (e.g., education, medicine, law, nursing, engineering, etc.)
 4. Business
- (34) How many semesters in a row do you expect to attend this institution (not counting summer sessions)?
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 or more

Be sure to answer questions (27) to (34).

About how many hours per week do you expect to involved in the following activities?

	None	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-10	11-20	21 or more
(35) Attending classes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(36) Studying	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(37) Eating and parties	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(38) Campus organizations (non-sports)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(39) Sports (varsity)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(40) Sports (on campus)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(41) Job to earn money	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- (42) How many of your best friends presently attend this school? 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more (42)
- (43) How many of your acquaintances are planning to attend this institution? 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more (43)
- (44) How many members of your immediate family (parents, brothers, sisters) attended or still attend this institution? 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more (44)
- (45) What was your high school grade point average (on a 4-point scale where A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1)? (guess if you don't know exactly.)
- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. 3.76 - 4.00 | 5. 2.00 - 2.49 |
| 2. 3.50 - 3.75 | 6. 1.50 - 1.99 |
| 3. 3.00 - 3.49 | 7. 1.00 - 1.49 |
| 4. 2.50 - 2.99 | 8. 0.00 - 0.99 |
- (46) What do you think your grade point average will be at this school at the end of first semester?
- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. 3.76 - 4.00 | 5. 2.00 - 2.49 |
| 2. 3.50 - 3.75 | 6. 1.50 - 1.99 |
| 3. 3.00 - 3.49 | 7. 1.00 - 1.49 |
| 4. 2.50 - 2.99 | 8. 0.00 - 0.99 |
- (47) In a typical week in high school, how many classes did you miss (without a medical or legitimate excuse)?
- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. None | 4. About three |
| 2. About one | 5. More than three |
| 3. About two | |

- (48) Were you enrolled in college courses for credit this summer?
1. Yes 2. No
- (49) Were you enrolled in noncredit college-preparatory courses this summer?
1. Yes 2. No
- (50) About when did you first decide to go to college?
1. Before high school 4. High school senior
2. High school freshman/sophomore 5. After high school
3. High school junior
- (51) About when did you first decide to attend THIS INSTITUTION?
1. Before high school 4. High school senior
2. High school freshman/sophomore 5. After high school
3. High school junior
- (52) What was your ACT composite score? (Guess if you don't remember exactly)
1. Did not take ACT 4. 16 to 20
2. 1-9 5. 21 to 25
3. 10 to 15 6. 26 to 36
- (53) What was your combined (math + verbal) SAT score? (Guess if you don't remember exactly)
1. Did not take SAT 4. 1000 to 1200
2. 400 to 699 5. 1300 to 1600
3. 700 to 999
- (54) How much time do you expect to study in college as compared to high school?
1. Much less than high school
2. Less than high school
3. About the same
4. More than high school
5. Much more than high school
- (55) In applying to colleges, was this institution your
1. 1st choice 3. 3rd choice
2. 2nd choice 4. 4th choice or lower

Be sure to answer questions (49) to (54).

	Extremely Unimportant	Very Unimportant	Neither Unimportant Nor Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	
(56) How important is it for you to develop a detailed understanding of special field?	1	2	3	4	5	(56)
(57) How important is it for you to get the training and skills necessary for a job?	1	2	3	4	5	(57)
How useful do you think your education here will be for getting:	Little or no use	Some Use	Quite A Bit of Use	A Great Deal of Use	A Very Great Deal of Use	
(58) Future employment?	1	2	3	4	5	(58)
(59) A really good job?	1	2	3	4	5	(59)
(60) A well paying job?	1	2	3	4	5	(60)
HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO:	Very Unlikely	Fairly Unlikely	Neither	Fairly Likely	Very Likely	Already Married
(61) Get married in the next year?	1	2	3	4	5	6 (61)
(62) Get married before graduating?	1	2	3	4	5	6 (62)
(63) Leave this Institution to be closer to someone you care a great deal about?	1	2	3	4	5	(63)
HOW CERTAIN ARE YOU:	Very Uncertain	Fairly Uncertain	Neither Certain Nor Uncertain	Fairly Certain	Very Certain	
(64) Of what you are going to major in?	1	2	3	4	5	(64)
(65) Of your career plans that this school was the right choice for you?	1	2	3	4	5	(65)
(66) That you will be able to find funds to continue your education next year?	1	2	3	4	5	(66)
(67) That you will be able to pay for schooling until you graduate?	1	2	3	4	5	(67)

In your opinion, HOW DIFFICULT would it be for you:	Very Easy	Fairly Easy	Neither Difficult Nor Easy	Fairly Difficult	Very Difficult	
(69) To transfer to another college, university, or junior college?	1	2	3	4	5	(69)
(70) To picture yourself going through life without a college degree?	1	2	3	4	5	(70)
(71) To find a job to support yourself and any dependents?	1	2	3	4	5	(71)
(72) To ask your college teachers for help when you need it?	1	2	3	4	5	(72)
(73) To find your way around here?	1	2	3	4	5	(73)
(74) To make friends here?	1	2	3	4	5	(74)

DO YOU EXPECT TO:	Definitely Not	Very Slight Chance	Uncertain, Probably Not	Uncertain, Probably Yes	Quite a Good Chance	Definitely Yes	
(75) Be enrolled at this institution second semester of this year?	1	2	3	4	5	6	(75)
(76) Be enrolled at this institution one year from this fall?	1	2	3	4	5	6	(76)
(77) Graduate from this institution in four years or less?	1	2	3	4	5	6	(77)
(78) Graduate from this institution sometime?	1	2	3	4	5	6	(78)
(79) Graduate from any institution?	1	2	3	4	5	6	(79)
(80) Transfer to another institution?	1	2	3	4	5	6	(80)

[Card 2, Col 1 = 2, 2 - 14 = 1.0.]

HOW MUCH IMPACT do you think attending this school will have in your development in:	Little or No Impact	Some Impact	Quite a Bit of Impact	A Great Deal of Impact	A Very Great Deal of Impact	
(15) Knowing yourself	1	2	3	4	5	(15)
(16) Using interpersonal skills	1	2	3	4	5	(16)
(17) Seeing alternative points of view	1	2	3	4	5	(17)

HOW IMPORTANT is it:	Very Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neither Unimportant Nor Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	
(18) To you to get a bachelor's degree?	1	2	3	4	5	(18)
(19) To you to finish your program of study?	1	2	3	4	5	(19)
(20) For you to attend THIS SCHOOL as opposed to some other?	1	2	3	4	5	(20)
(21) For you to graduate from THIS SCHOOL as opposed to some other?	1	2	3	4	5	(21)

TO WHAT EXTENT have each of the following persons encouraged you to attend this institution?	Does Not Apply or Not at All	To a Small Extent	To Some Extent	To a Great Extent	To a Very Great Extent	
(22) Your best friends	1	2	3	4	5	(22)
(23) Brothers or sisters	1	2	3	4	5	(23)
(24) Parents	1	2	3	4	5	(24)
(25) High school teachers	1	2	3	4	5	(25)
(26) High school staff	1	2	3	4	5	(26)
(27) The person(s) who is (are) most important to you right now	1	2	3	4	5	(27)
(28) Does your family approve of your attending this school?	1	2	3	4	5	(28)

To what extent ARE YOU CONFIDENT of your:	Not at All	To a Small Extent	To Some Extent	To A Great Extent	To a Very Great Extent	
(29) Study skills?	1	2	3	4	5	(29)
(30) Math skills?	1	2	3	4	5	(30)
(31) Reading ability?	1	2	3	4	5	(31)
(32) Writing ability?	1	2	3	4	5	(32)
(33) Public speaking ability?	1	2	3	4	5	(33)
(34) Ability to become a successful student here?	1	2	3	4	5	(34)
(35) Ability to cope with stress?	1	2	3	4	5	(35)
(36) Ability to cope with new academic challenges	1	2	3	4	5	(36)

TO WHAT EXTENT:	Not at All	To a Small Extent	To Some Extent	To a Great Extent	To a Very Great Extent	
(37) Did you enroll in college preparatory courses in high school?	1	2	3	4	5	(37)
(38) Did you find the college preparatory courses you have taken boring?	1	2	3	4	5	(38)
(39) Did you find the college preparatory course you have taken dull?	1	2	3	4	5	(39)
(40) Do you think this institution will offer the courses you want to take?	1	2	3	4	5	(40)
(41) Do you wait to complete academic assignments until the last possible minute?	1	2	3	4	5	(41)
(42) Do you think that rules and regulations will run your life at this school?	1	2	3	4	5	(42)
(43) Do you think that your decision to attend this school was really someone else's (e.g., your parents) and not your own?	1	2	3	4	5	(43)
(44) Would you like to have some really new academic experiences?	1	2	3	4	5	(44)
(45) Would you like to have some really new social experiences?	1	2	3	4	5	(45)
(46) Do you look forward to living away from home?	1	2	3	4	5	(46)
(47) Are your parents willing to pay the costs of your attending this institution?	1	2	3	4	5	(47)
(48) Have you lived away from home in the past three years?	1	2	3	4	5	(48)
(49) Do you rebel against authority?	1	2	3	4	5	(49)
(50) Do you think that you will feel out of place at this school?	1	2	3	4	5	(50)
(51) Do you complete homework assignments on time?	1	2	3	4	5	(51)
(52) Do you have outside responsibilities which might interfere with your education?	1	2	3	4	5	(52)
(53) Do you feel that your life outside of school is stressful?	1	2	3	4	5	(53)

How would you ASSESS YOURSELF in terms of:	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High	
(54) Feeling productive	1	2	3	4	5	(54)
(55) Feeling a sense of accomplishment	1	2	3	4	5	(55)
(56) Being satisfied with your life	1	2	3	4	5	(56)
(57) Looking forward to the future	1	2	3	4	5	(57)
(58) Feeling stuck in a rut	1	2	3	4	5	(58)
(59) A sense of self confidence	1	2	3	4	5	(59)
(60) A sense of self development	1	2	3	4	5	(60)
(61) Being a rebel	1	2	3	4	5	(61)
(62) Wanting to have a good time	1	2	3	4	5	(62)
(63) Being motivated to study	1	2	3	4	5	(63)

(64) All in all, how good an education do you think you can get at this institution?

1. Rather poor
2. Fair
3. Good
4. Very good
5. Excellent

What was your parents' highest level of education? (65) Mother _____ Father (66)

Elementary school	1	1
Some high school	2	2
Completed high school	3	3
Some college	4	4
Completed college degree	5	5
Completed graduate degree	6	6

(67) Which of the following phrases best describes your racial/ethnic group?

1. Afro-American/Black
2. Hispanic American
3. Caucasian American/White
4. Asian American/Oriental
5. Other _____

What is the primary occupation of your parents?

(68)	(60) Mother	Father (69)
Business/Professional/Managerial	1	1
Semi-professional/Technical/skilled	2	2
Farm owner or manager	3	3
Semiskilled or unskilled	4	4
Not employed (including unemployed, housewife, retired, deceased)	5	5

Is the total yearly income of your parent(s) before taxes and other deductions, more than (please answer both):

	NO	YES
(70) \$10,000	1	2
(71) \$30,000	1	2

(72) In your opinion, how high is the quality of this institution?

1. Very low
2. Fairly low
3. Neither high or low
4. Fairly high
5. Very high

PLEASE CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVEN'T SKIPPED ANY QUESTIONS.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in filling out this questionnaire.

Be sure to answer questions (63) to (72).

1ST COVER LETTER SENT TO EXTERNAL DEGREE LEAVERS

You and I know what it's like to return to college and to also try to manage a number of other responsibilities in addition to that of student. It's a big challenge! Sometimes our needs and goals match with what the college we choose is offering, but other times, they do not. Eastern Oregon State College's records indicate that although you were admitted to the EOSC External Degree Program, you have not yet graduated in it. As a former student, your opinions and experiences in the External Degree are important to a study about nontraditional students like us. I'm conducting this study about adults as learners in concluding a doctoral program in education from Portland State University. The information you provide will be used to help improve programs for adult students like you and me.

Little information is currently available that provides a way to compare students who finished the External Degree with those who have not. The only way to obtain this information so it can be used to improve the program for you and others is to ask--thus, the enclosed survey. In order for the study results to truly represent the opinions and experiences of External Degree participants in particular, and adult students in general, it is important that each survey be completed and returned. It should only take about 10-15 minutes to answer the questions, and an envelope is provided for your ease in returning the survey to me.

You may be assured of complete confidentiality. The identification number on your survey is used for mailing purposes only. The number simply allows me to check your name off my mailing list when the survey is returned. Your name will never be placed on the survey. If you wish to receive a summary of the study results, write "Copy of Results Requested" on the back of the return envelope and print your name and address below it. If you wish to receive updated information about the External Degree Program, please write "Program Information Requested" on the back of the return envelope, print your name and address below it, and I'll forward your request to the office that will send this information back to you.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have. Please write or call. You may use the EOSC toll-free (in Oregon) number, 1-800-452-8639, Ext. 1378, to leave a message for me to call you back, or you can reach me directly at my home, (503) 963-0678, in La Grande.

Thank you for helping with this study. I'll appreciate your taking the time now to complete and return the survey and will look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dixie Lund
P.O. Box 777
La Grande, OR 97850

1ST COVER LETTER SENT TO EXTERNAL DEGREE FINISHERS

You and I know what it's like to return to college and to also try to manage a number of other responsibilities in addition to that of student. It's a big challenge! Eastern Oregon State College's records indicate that you met the challenge and graduated in the External Degree. Congratulations! As a former External Degree student, your opinions and experiences with the Program are important to a study about nontraditional students like us. I'm conducting this study about adults as learners in concluding a doctoral program in education from Portland State University. The information you provide will be used to help improve programs for adult students like you and me.

Little information is currently available that provides a way to compare students who finished the External Degree with those who have not. The only way to obtain this information so it can be used to improve the program for others like you is to ask--thus, the enclosed survey. In order for the study results to truly represent the opinions and experiences of External Degree participants in particular, and adult students in general, it is important that each survey be completed and returned. It should only take about 10-15 minutes to answer the questions, and an envelope is provided for your ease in returning the survey to me.

You may be assured of complete confidentiality. The identification number on your survey is used for mailing purposes only. The number simply allows me to check your name off my mailing list when the survey is returned. Your name will never be placed on the survey. If you wish, you can receive a summary of the results by writing "Copy of Results Requested" on the back of the return envelope and printing your name and address below it. Please do not put this request on the survey itself.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have. Please write or call. You may use the EOSC toll-free (in Oregon) number, 1-800-452-8639, Ext. 1378, to leave a message for me to call you back or you can reach me directly at my home, (503) 963-0678, in La Grande.

Thank you for helping with this study. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dixie Lund
P.O. Box 777
La Grande, OR 97850

Enclosures

MESSAGE ON FOLLOW-UP POSTCARD SENT TO 469 STUDY SUBJECTS

March 20, 1989

Last week a survey seeking your opinion about the EOSC External Degree Program was mailed to you. If you have already completed and returned it to me, please accept my sincere thanks. If not, please do so today.

Because it was sent to only a small, but representative, sample of External Degree students, it is extremely important that yours also be included in the study so the results can accurately represent the opinions and experiences of all students in the Program.

If by some chance you did not receive the survey, or it was misplaced, please call me right now (503) 963-0678 or toll-free in Oregon, 1-800-452-8639, Ext. 1378, and I'll immediately get another one in the mail to you.

Sincerely,

Dixie Lund
Study Director

2ND COVER LETTER SENT TO NON-RESPONDENTS

About three weeks ago, I wrote to you seeking your opinion on the experiences you had while enrolled in Eastern Oregon State College's External Degree Program. As of today, I've not yet received your completed questionnaire.

Little information is currently available about how adult learners interact with the External Degree Program. I've undertaken this study of External Degree students because I believe that nontraditional students like you and me approach our college studies different from our younger, on-campus, full-time counterparts. For some of us, programs like Eastern's External Degree meet our needs, and we persist until graduation. For others of us, however, our needs/interests/time/access do not match with the degree program options, and thus, we do not finish.

Your opinions and experiences are important to this study and will be incorporated into recommendations for program changes that could assist other adult students like you and me.

I'm writing to you again because of the significance each questionnaire has to the usefulness of this study. In order for the results of this study to truly represent the opinions of all External Degree students, it is essential that each person in the study return the questionnaire.

If your original questionnaire has been misplaced or discarded, a replacement is enclosed along with a stamped envelope for its return. I'll very much appreciate your cooperation and will look forward to receiving your completed questionnaire soon.

Thank you,



Dixie Lund
Study Director
P.O. Box 777
La Grande, OR 97850
(503) 963-0678
Message: (toll-free in Oregon, 1-800-452-8639)

Enclosures

PAGE 1 OF 4-PAGE EXTERNAL DEGREE SURVEY

EASTERN OREGON STATE COLLEGE
EXTERNAL DEGREE STUDENT SURVEY

Survey I.D. No. _____

Instructions

- A. If you do not find the exact answer that fits your case, use the one that comes closest to it.
Please answer all questions by putting a circle around the single number that corresponds with your choice.
- B. Please answer the questions in order. Do not skip around.
- C. Remember, steps have been taken to assure the confidentiality of your responses. Please be as honest and complete as you can in answering the questions. Thank you.

WHILE YOU WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE EXTERNAL DEGREE PROGRAM...

	YES	NO
1. Were you a resident of Oregon all or most of the time?	1	2
2. Was there a regional outreach center provided by either EOSC or another community college or 4-year college/university within 10 miles of your home?	1	2
3. Did you take any classes at an outreach center sponsored by Eastern Oregon State College in either Baker, Burns, Enterprise, John Day, Ontario, or Pendleton?	1	2
Did you receive credit through any of the following program options:		
4. EOSC Portfolio workshop held in La Grande?	1	2
5. EOSC Portfolio workshop held in a location other than La Grande?	1	2
6. EOSC Portfolio course done by tape/workbook correspondence method?	1	2
7. EOSC Portfolio essays?	1	2
8. Individualized/Correspondence Studies through EOSC or another institution?	1	2
9. EOSC Cooperative Education (on-the-job work experience w/faculty supervision)?	1	2
10. CLEP (College Level Examination Program)?	1	2
11. Challenging by exam of any EOSC courses?	1	2
12. Military evaluation by EOSC?	1	2
13. EOSC Weekend College classes held in a location other than La Grande?	1	2
14. EOSC Weekend College classes held in La Grande?	1	2
15. Credits transferred to EOSC from another institution?	1	2
16. Evening/dutyme classes during the week on the La Grande campus of EOSC?	1	2
17. Credits directly transcribed by EOSC for agency-sponsored training not included in a portfolio of prior learning (e.g., American Institute of Banking, National Management Association)?	1	2
18. Did you focus on any particular subject area while accumulating credits toward your degree? (e.g., business, writing, office administration, science, history)	1	2
19. Were you aware of any other External Degree type programs that you could have enrolled in other than the one sponsored by Eastern Oregon State College?	1	2
20. Did you usually complete your college assignments on time?	1	2
21. Did you consider transferring to another institution before completing or leaving the EOSC External Degree Program?	1	2
22. Did you ever discuss leaving the program with anyone other than EOSC personnel?	1	2
23. Did you find the academic expectations more difficult than you liked?	1	2
24. Were degree requirements made clear to you by your advisor?	1	2
25. Do you think any La Grande campus meetings with Program personnel should have been required of you?	1	2
26. Do you think taking any standardized tests (for example, in writing, reading, and/or math) should have been required?	1	2

WHILE YOU WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE EXTERNAL DEGREE ...

	YES	NO	NOT APPLIC.
27. Was a college degree required for continuation in your chosen career?	1	2	3
Did you cut back on any of the following activities:			
28. Paid employment?	1	2	3
29. Social activities with friends?	1	2	3
30. Alone time with spouse or significant other?	1	2	3
31. Housework/home maintenance?	1	2	3
32. Involvement in children's activities?	1	2	3
33. Involvement in civic responsibilities?	1	2	3
34. Was feedback on your assignments from your course instructors timely?	1	2	3
35. What age interval best describes you while you were participating in the External Degree Program?			
1. under 23 years			
2. 24-35 years			
3. 36-44 years			
4. 45-54 years			
5. 55-64 years			
6. over 64 years			
36. Which term best describes the grade level at which you entered the External Degree?			
1. Freshman (0-44 quarter credits)			
2. Sophomore (45-89 quarter credits)			
3. Junior (90-134 quarter credits)			
4. Senior (135 or more credits)			
37. What was the highest degree you expected to receive?			
1. Did not expect to receive degree			
2. Associate Degree			
3. Baccalaureate Degree			
4. Graduate Degree (e.g., Masters, Educational/Medical Doctorate, Law)			
38. For the most part, what type of community did you live in while participating in the External Degree Program?			
1. Rural area or farm, 15+ miles from city			
2. Town or small city under 50,000			
3. Medium-sized city (50,000-250,000)			
4. Suburban area near large city			
5. Large city over 250,000			
39. What was your high school grade point average (on a 4-point scale where A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1)? Guess, if you don't remember exactly.			
1. 3.76-4.00			
2. 3.50-3.75			
3. 3.00-3.49			
4. 2.50-2.99			
5. 2.00-2.49			
6. 1.50-1.99			
7. 1.00-1.49			
8. 0.00-0.99			
9. N/A, received a General Ed. Diploma (GED)			
40. All in all, how good an education do you think you received through Eastern Oregon State College?			
1. unable to judge			
2. rather poor			
3. fair			
4. good			
5. very good			
6. excellent			
41. What ranking in your high school graduating class best describes you?			
1. upper 20% of graduating class			
2. in the middle 60% of my graduating class			
3. lower 20% of graduating class			
4. N/A, received a General Education Diploma			
42. Which statement best describes your progress in the External Degree Program up until the time you stopped progressing toward graduation? (Include credit recommendations on your portfolio essays, if applicable). I earned:			
1. basically 0; I never really got started.			
2. up to about 25 credits before stopping.			
3. between 25 and 75 credits before stopping.			
4. between 76 and 125 credits before stopping.			
5. over 125 credits before stopping.			
43. In your opinion, how high is the quality of EOSC?			
1. Very low			
2. Fairly low			
3. Neither high nor low			
4. Fairly high			
5. Very high			
Using the descriptions below, mark the number that corresponds to the highest educational level of:			
44. Your mother	___	(1) Less than High School	
45. Your father	___	(2) High School/GED Diploma	
46. Your spouse	___	(3) Post High School, non-college vocational school training	
		(4) Some College	
		(5) College Degree	
47. How many hours per week were you employed outside your home while you participated in the External Degree?			
1. 0, did not work outside my home			
2. 1-10 hours			
3. 11-20 hours			
4. 21-30 hours			
5. 31-40 hours			
6. over 40 hours			

48. How many children did you have living at home with you while you participated in the External Degree?
 0. none
 1. 1 child
 2. 2 children
 3. 3 children
 4. 4 or more children
49. What was your marital status while in the Program?
 1. Single
 2. Married
 3. Separated
 4. Divorced
 5. Widowed
50. Which statement best describes your response to the amount of time that was required of you on a weekly basis to participate in the External Degree.
 1. More time than I could possible give.
 2. More time than expected, but I found it.
 3. About the amount I had expected.
 4. Less time than I had expected.
 5. Hardly any time at all.
51. Which factor below best describes the reason you enrolled in the External Degree Program?
 1. Degree was required in my career
 2. To improve myself
 3. To get a job
 4. To get a better job
 5. For the personal challenge
 6. Other _____
52. Which statement best describes how your educational expenses were funded.
 1. By self and/or spouse's employment income
 2. College-provided financial aid
 3. Bank loans
 4. Loans/gifts from family or friends
 5. Employer reimbursement program
 6. GI Bill
 7. Other _____
53. How many miles away from any community or 4-year college/university is the home in which you lived while in the External Degree?
 1. 0-59 miles
 2. 60-149 miles
 3. 150-249 miles
 4. 250-499 miles
 5. 500 or more miles
54. How many miles away from the La Grande campus of EOSC is the home in which you lived while participating in the External Degree?
 1. 0-59 miles
 2. 60-149 miles
 3. 150-249 miles
 4. 250-499 miles
 5. 500 or more miles
55. What was the most difficult barrier you faced to participating in the External Degree?
 1. Lack of Adequate Finances
 2. Too Great a Distance from College(s)
 3. Not Enough Time to Commit to School Assignments
 4. Lack of Encouragement from People in my Life
 5. Unexpected Personal/Family Crisis
 6. Other _____

<u>WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE EXTERNAL DEGREE, TO WHAT EXTENT:</u>	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>To a Small Extent</u>	<u>To Some Extent</u>	<u>To a Great Extent</u>	<u>To a Very Great Extent</u>
56. Were you satisfied with the <u>amount</u> of academic advising you received?	1	2	3	4	5
57. Were you able to find the necessary <u>time</u> to complete your college assignments?	1	2	3	4	5
58. Did you procrastinate until the last minute with doing your college assignments?	1	2	3	4	5
59. Were you satisfied with the <u>quality</u> of academic advising you received?	1	2	3	4	5
Were you confident with:					
60. Your <u>study skills</u> ?	1	2	3	4	5
61. Your <u>reading ability</u> ?	1	2	3	4	5
62. Your <u>writing ability</u> ?	1	2	3	4	5
63. Your <u>ability to express yourself verbally</u> ?	1	2	3	4	5
64. Your <u>ability to cope with stress</u> ?	1	2	3	4	5
65. Your <u>ability to cope with new academic challenges</u> ?	1	2	3	4	5
66. Were finances a problem for you?	1	2	3	4	5

<u>WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE EXTERNAL DEGREE, TO WHAT EXTENT IN GENERAL:</u>	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>To a Small Extent</u>	<u>To Some Extent</u>	<u>To a Great Extent</u>	<u>To a Very Great Extent</u>
67. Was it difficult for you to ask your advisor for help when you needed it?	1	2	3	4	5
68. Was it difficult for you to ask your instructors for help when you needed it?	1	2	3	4	5
69. Do you feel the rules and procedures of the External Degree Program inhibited your progress toward completing the degree?	1	2	3	4	5

TO WHAT EXTENT did each of the following persons encourage you in pursuing your college education:

	<u>Does not Apply</u>	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>To a Small Extent</u>	<u>To Some Extent</u>	<u>To a Great Extent</u>	<u>To a Very Great Extent</u>
70. Spouse/significant other	0	1	2	3	4	5
71. Parents	0	1	2	3	4	5
72. Brothers/Sisters	0	1	2	3	4	5
73. Children	0	1	2	3	4	5
74. Friends	0	1	2	3	4	5
75. Employer	0	1	2	3	4	5

<u>WHILE YOU WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE EXTERNAL DEGREE ...</u>	<u>Does not Apply</u>	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>Some of the Time</u>	<u>Most of the Time</u>	<u>All of the Time</u>
76. How <u>often</u> were courses that you <u>desired to take</u> in order to complete your degree offered to you?	0	1	2	3	4
77. Were the courses you wanted to take offered at <u>convenient times</u> for you?	0	1	2	3	4
<u>How much impact do you think that participating in the BOSC External Degree Program had on:</u>	<u>Little or None</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Quite a Bit</u>	<u>A Great Deal</u>	<u>A Very Great Deal</u>
78. Knowing yourself?	1	2	3	4	5
79. Using interpersonal skills?	1	2	3	4	5
80. Seeing alternative points of view?	1	2	3	4	5

Please use the space below to answer the following question: "If you had it to do all over again, what would you do differently a 'second time around' when returning to college?"

PLEASE CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVEN'T SKIPPED ANY QUESTIONS AND HAVE ONLY ONE RESPONSE PER QUESTION.

Thank you very much for completing this survey. Please return it in the enclosed envelope.

EXTERNAL DEGREE SURVEY SHOWING WORDING CHANGE IN QUESTION 42 FOR LEAVERS

WHILE YOU WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE EXTERNAL DEGREE ...

	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
27. Was a college degree required for continuation in your chosen career?	1	2	3
Did you cut back on any of the following activities:			
28. Paid employment?	1	2	3
29. Social activities with friends?	1	2	3
30. Alone time with spouse or significant other?	1	2	3
31. Housework/home maintenance?	1	2	3
32. Involvement in children's activities?	1	2	3
33. Involvement in civic responsibilities?	1	2	3
34. Was feedback on your assignments from your course instructors timely?	1	2	3
35. What age interval best describes you while you were participating in the External Degree Program?			
1. under 23 years			
2. 24-35 years			
3. 36-44 years			
4. 45-54 years			
5. 55-64 years			
6. over 64 years			
36. Which term best describes the grade level at which you entered the External Degree?			
1. Freshman (0-44 quarter credits)			
2. Sophomore (45-89 quarter credits)			
3. Junior (90-134 quarter credits)			
4. Senior (135 or more credits)			
37. What was the highest degree you expected to receive?			
1. Did not expect to receive degree			
2. Associate Degree			
3. Baccalaureate Degree			
4. Graduate Degree (e.g., Masters, Educational/Medical Doctorate, Law)			
38. For the most part, what type of community did you live in while participating in the External Degree Program?			
1. Rural area or farm, 15+ miles from city			
2. Town or small city under 50,000			
3. Medium-sized city (50,000-250,000)			
4. Suburban area near large city			
5. Large city over 250,000			
39. What was your high school grade point average (on a 4-point scale where A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1)? Guess, if you don't remember exactly.			
1. 3.76-4.00		6. 1.50-1.99	
2. 3.50-3.75		7. 1.00-1.49	
3. 3.00-3.49		8. 0.00-0.99	
4. 2.50-2.99		9. N/A, received a General Ed. Diploma (GED)	
5. 2.00-2.49			
40. All in all, how good an education do you think you received through Eastern Oregon State College?			
1. unable to judge		4. good	
2. rather poor		5. very good	
3. fair		6. excellent	
41. What ranking in your high school, graduating class best describes you?			
1. upper 20% of graduating class			
2. in the middle 60% of my graduating class			
3. lower 20% of graduating class			
4. N/A, received a General Education Diploma			
42. Which statement best describes your progress toward graduation in the External Degree Program? (include credit recommendations on your portfolio essays, if applicable). I averaged:			
1. less than 6 credits per term.			
2. between 6 and 8 credits per term.			
3. between 9 and 11 credits per term.			
4. at least 12 credits per term.			
43. In your opinion, how high is the quality of EOSC?			
1. Very low			
2. Fairly low			
3. Neither high nor low			
4. Fairly high			
5. Very high			
Using the descriptions below, mark the number that corresponds to the highest educational level of:			
44. Your mother	___	(1) Less than High School	
45. Your father	___	(2) High School/GED Diploma	
46. Your spouse	___	(3) Post High School, non-college vocational school training	
		(4) Some College	
		(5) College Degree	
47. How many hours per week were you employed outside your home while you participated in the External Degree			
1. 0, did not work outside my home			
2. 1-10 hours			
3. 11-20 hours			
4. 21-30 hours			
5. 31-40 hours			
6. over 40 hours			

APPENDIX B

OFFICIAL STATISTICAL TABLES RELATED TO SIGNIFICANTLY
DIFFERENT COMPARISONS ($p < .05$) DESCRIBED
IN CHAPTERS IV-V

This first section of this appendix includes tables of comparisons between leavers and finishers, presented in the numerical order in which survey questions were asked. The second section includes tables of comparisons between rural and urban respondents, and the third section includes comparisons between males and females.

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #7

----- BY -----
Credit Rec'd. via Portfolio Essays? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I yes	I no	I	
	Row %	I	I	I	
	Column %	I	I	I	Row
	Total %	I	I	I	Totals
		I	I	I	
leavers	1	I 49	I 63	I	
		I 43.8	I 56.3	I	112
		I 21.4	I 73.3	I	35.6
		I 15.6	I 20.0	I	
		I	I	I	
finishers	2	I 180	I 23	I	
		I 88.7	I 11.3	I	203
		I 78.6	I 26.7	I	64.4
		I 57.1	I 7.3	I	
		I	I	I	
Column		I 229	I 86	I	315
Totals		I 72.7	I 27.3	I	100.0

Corrected Chi square = 71.13
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.000
Phi = 0.475
Contingency coeff. = 0.429

Valid cases = 315
Missing cases = 1
Response rate = 99.7 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #8

BY Credit Rec'd by Ind. Stud/Correspondence? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I yes	I no	I	
	Row %	I	I	I	
	Column %	I	I	I	Row
	Total %	I	I	I	Totals
		1	1	2	
leavers	1	1 25	1 86	1 111	
		1 17.6	1 49.7	1 35.2	
		1 7.9	1 27.3	1	
finishers	2	1 117	1 87	1 204	
		1 57.4	1 42.6	1 64.8	
		1 82.4	1 50.3	1	
		1 37.1	1 27.6	1	
	Column	1 142	1 173	1 315	
	Totals	1 45.1	1 54.9	1 100.0	

Corrected Chi square = 33.83
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.000
Phi = 0.328
Contingency coeff. = 0.311

Valid cases = 315
Missing cases = 1
Response rate = 99.7 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #13

----- BY -----
Weekend College: Non-La Grande Sites? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I yes	I no	I	
Row %	I	I	I	I	
Column %	I	I	I	I	Row
Total %	I	I	I	I	Totals
		21	91		
leavers	1	18.8	81.3	112	
		18.6	44.8	35.4	
		6.6	28.8		
		92	112		
finishers	2	45.1	54.9	204	
		81.4	55.2	64.6	
		29.1	35.4		
Column		113	203	316	
Totals		35.8	64.2	100.0	

Corrected Chi square = 20.71
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.000
Phi = 0.256
Contingency coeff. = 0.248

Valid cases = 316
Missing cases = 0
Response rate = 100.0 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #14

----- BY -----
Weekend Colleges: La Grande? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	yes	no	
Row %				
Column %				Row
Total %				Totals

leavers	1	24	88	112
		21.4	78.6	35.6
		20.2	44.9	
		7.6	27.9	

finishers	2	95	108	203
		46.8	53.2	64.4
		79.8	55.1	
		30.2	34.3	

Column	119	196	315	
Totals	37.8	62.2	100.0	

Corrected Chi square	= 18.69	Valid cases	= 315
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 1
Probability of chance	= 0.000	Response rate	= 99.7 %
Phi	= 0.244		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.237		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #15

----- BY -----
Transfer Credits from Other Schools? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1	yes	1	no	1	
Row %	1		1		1		Row
Column %	1		1		1		Totals
Total %	1	1	1	2	1		Totals
leavers	1	1	80	1	31	1	111
		1	72.1	1	27.9	1	35.2
		1	28.8	1	83.8	1	9.8
		1	25.4	1	9.8	1	
finishers	2	1	198	1	6	1	204
		1	97.1	1	2.9	1	64.8
		1	71.2	1	16.2	1	1.9
		1	62.9	1	1.9	1	
Column	1	1	278	1	37	1	315
Totals	1	1	88.3	1	11.7	1	100.0

Corrected Chi square	=	40.91	Valid cases	=	315
Degrees of freedom	=	1	Missing cases	=	1
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	99.7 %
Phi	=	0.360			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.339			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #18

----- BY ----- Focus on Specific Area? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 yes	1 no	1	
Row %		1	1	1	
Column %		1	1	1	Row
Total %		1	1	2	Totals
leavers	1	57	54		
		51.4	48.6	111	
		28.8	46.2	35.2	
		18.1	17.1		
finishers	2	141	63		
		69.1	30.9	204	
		71.2	53.8	64.8	
		44.8	20.0		
Column		198	117	315	
Totals		62.9	37.1	100.0	

Corrected Chi square	=	8.97	Valid cases	=	315
Degrees of freedom	=	1	Missing cases	=	1
Probability of chance	=	0.003	Response rate	=	99.7 %
Phi	=	0.169			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.166			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #19

BY Awareness of other External Degrees? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 yes	1 no	1	1
Row %	1	1	1	1	1
Column %	1	1	1	1	1 Row
Total %	1	1	1	2	1 Totals

leavers	1	57	54	111	
		51.4	48.6	35.2	
		29.1	45.4	35.2	
		18.1	17.1		

finishers	2	139	65	204	
		68.1	31.9	64.8	
		70.9	54.6	64.8	
		44.1	20.6		

Column	1	196	119	315	
Totals	1	62.2	37.8	100.0	

Corrected Chi square = 7.91
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.005
Phi = 0.158
Contingency coeff. = 0.157

Valid cases = 315
Missing cases = 1
Response rate = 99.7 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #20

----- BY ----- Complete Assignments on Time? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I	yes	I	no	I	
	Row %	I		I		I	
	Column %	I		I		I	Row
	Total %	I	1	I	2	I	Totals
		I		I		I	
leavers	1	I	65	I	37	I	
		I	63.7	I	36.3	I	102
		I	24.7	I	86.0	I	33.3
		I	21.2	I	12.1	I	
		I		I		I	
finishers	2	I	198	I	6	I	
		I	97.1	I	2.9	I	204
		I	75.3	I	14.0	I	66.7
		I	64.7	I	2.0	I	
		I		I		I	
Column		I	263	I	43	I	306
Totals		I	85.9	I	14.1	I	100.0

Corrected Chi square	=	59.82	Valid cases	=	306
Degrees of freedom	=	1	Missing cases	=	10
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	96.8 %
Phi	=	0.442			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.404			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #21

----- BY -----
Consider Transferring to Other School? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 yes	1 no	1	
Row %	1	1	1	1	
Column %	1	1	1	2	Row
Total %	1	1	1	2	Totals
		43	68		
leavers	1	38.7	61.3	111	
		82.7	25.9	35.2	
		13.7	21.6		
		9	195		
finishers	2	4.4	95.6	204	
		17.3	74.1	64.8	
		2.9	61.9		
Column	1	52	263	315	
Totals	1	16.5	83.5	100.0	

Corrected Chi square	=	58.99	Valid cases	=	315
Degrees of freedom	=	1	Missing cases	=	1
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	99.7 %
Phi	=	0.433			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.397			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #22

----- BY ----- Discuss Leaving non-EOSC Personnel? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 yes	1 no	1
	Row %	1	1	1
	Column %	1	1	1 Row
	Total %	1 1	1 2	1 Totals
		1	1	1
leavers	1	1 16	1 95	1
		1 14.4	1 85.6	1 111
		1 69.6	1 32.5	1 35.2
		1 5.1	1 30.2	1
		1	1	1
finishers	2	1 7	1 197	1
		1 3.4	1 96.6	1 204
		1 30.4	1 67.5	1 64.8
		1 2.2	1 62.5	1
		1	1	1
	Column	1 23	1 292	1 315
	Totals	1 7.3	1 92.7	1 100.0

Corrected Chi square = 11.24
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.001
Phi = 0.189
Contingency coeff. = 0.186

Valid cases = 315
Missing cases = 1
Response rate = 99.7 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #23

----- BY ----- Academic Expectations too Difficult? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1	yes	1	no	1	
Row %	1		1		1		1
Column %	1		1		1	2	1 Row
Total %	1	1	1	1	2	1	Totals
	-----	1	-----	1	-----	1	-----
	1	26	1	83	1		
leavers	1	23.9	1	76.1	1	109	
	1	70.3	1	30.2	1	34.9	
	1	8.3	1	26.6	1		
	1	-----	1	-----	1	-----	1
	1	11	1	192	1		
finishers	2	5.4	1	94.6	1	203	
	1	29.7	1	69.8	1	65.1	
	1	3.5	1	61.5	1		
	1	-----	1	-----	1	-----	1
Column	1	37	1	275	1	312	
Totals	1	11.9	1	88.1	1	100.0	

Corrected Chi square = 21.32
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.000
Phi = 0.261
Contingency coeff. = 0.253

Valid cases = 312
Missing cases = 4
Response rate = 98.7 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #24

BY
Degree Requirements Clear by Advisor? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	yes	no	
Row %				
Column %				Row
Total %				Totals
leavers	1	84	27	111
		75.7	24.3	35.4
		30.5	69.2	
		26.8	8.6	
finishers	2	191	12	203
		94.1	5.9	64.6
		69.5	30.8	
		60.8	3.8	
Column		275	39	314
Totals		87.6	12.4	100.0

Corrected Chi square = 20.7
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.000
Phi = 0.257
Contingency coeff. = 0.249

Valid cases = 314
Missing cases = 2
Response rate = 99.4 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #25

----- BY ----- Should La Grande meetings be Required? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1	yes	1	no	1	
Row %	1		1		1		1
Column %	1		1		1		1 Row
Total %	1	1	1	2	1		Totals

leavers	1	1	28	1	82	1	
		1	25.5	1	74.5	1	110
		1	26.9	1	39.2	1	35.1
		1	8.9	1	26.2	1	

finishers	2	1	76	1	127	1	
		1	37.4	1	62.6	1	203
		1	73.1	1	60.8	1	64.9
		1	24.3	1	40.6	1	

Column	1	104	1	209	1	313	
Totals	1	33.2	1	66.8	1	100.0	

Corrected Chi square = 4.09
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.043
Phi = 0.114
Contingency coeff. = 0.114

Valid cases = 313
Missing cases = 3
Response rate = 99.1 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #26

----- BY -----
Should Standardized Tests be Required? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I	yes	I	no	I	
	Row %	I		I		I	
	Column %	I		I		I	Row
	Total %	I	1	I	2	I	Totals
		1		1		1	
		1	35	1	75	1	
leavers	1	1	31.8	1	68.2	1	110
		1	24.1	1	44.4	1	35.0
		1	11.1	1	23.9	1	
		1		1		1	
		1	110	1	94	1	
finishers	2	1	53.9	1	46.1	1	204
		1	75.9	1	55.6	1	65.0
		1	35.0	1	29.9	1	
		1		1		1	
	Column	1	145	1	169	1	314
	Totals	1	46.2	1	53.8	1	100.0

Corrected Chi square = 13.17
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.000
Phi = 0.205
Contingency coeff. = 0.201

Valid cases = 314
Missing cases = 2
Response rate = 99.4 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #27

----- BY -----
Degree Required for Career Continuation? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	yes	no	N/A	
Row %	1	1	1	1	1
Column %	1	1	1	1	1
Total %	1	1	2	1	1
					Totals
leavers	1	29	69	9	107
		27.1	64.5	8.4	35.0
		25.2	41.3	37.5	
		9.5	22.5	2.9	
finishers	2	86	98	15	199
		43.2	49.2	7.5	65.0
		74.8	58.7	62.5	
		28.1	32.0	4.9	
Column	1	115	167	24	306
Totals	1	37.6	54.6	7.8	100.0

Chi square	= 7.83	Valid cases	= 306
Degrees of freedom	= 2	Missing cases	= 10
Probability of chance	= 0.020	Response rate	= 96.8 %
Cramer's V	= 0.160		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.158		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
 SURVEY QUESTION #29

----- BY -----
 Reduced Social Activities w/Friends? - (X Axis)
 Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 yes	1 no	1 N/A	1	
	Row %	1	1	1	1	
	Column %	1	1	1	1	Row
	Total %	1	2	3	1	Totals

leavers	1	44	57	8	109	
		40.4	52.3	7.3		
		26.3	41.3	100.0	34.8	
		14.1	18.2	2.6		

finishers	2	123	81	0	204	
		60.3	39.7	0.0		
		73.7	58.7	0.0	65.2	
		39.3	25.9	0.0		

	Column	167	138	8	313	
	Totals	53.4	44.1	2.6	100.0	

Chi square = 22.81 Valid cases = 313
 Degrees of freedom = 2 Missing cases = 3
 Probability of chance = 0.000 Response rate = 99.1 %
 Cramer's V = 0.270
 Contingency coeff. = 0.261

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #30

Reduced Alone Time w/Spouse/Sign. Other?

BY

Leaver or Finisher

	Number	yes	no	N/A	
Row %					
Column %					Row
Total %					Totals

leavers	1	50	47	13	110
		45.5	42.7	11.8	35.0
		30.1	36.4	68.4	15.9
		15.9	15.0	4.1	

finishers	2	116	82	6	204
		56.9	40.2	2.9	65.0
		69.9	63.6	31.6	36.9
		36.9	26.1	1.9	

Column		166	129	19	314
Totals		52.9	41.1	6.1	100.0

Chi square	=	11.17	Valid cases	=	314
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	2
Probability of chance	=	0.004	Response rate	=	99.4 %
Cramer's V	=	0.189			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.185			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #31

----- BY -----
Reduced Housework/Home Maintenance? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	yes	no	N/A	
Row %					Row
Column %					Column
Total %					Totals
leavers	1	46	55	7	108
		42.6	50.9	6.5	34.6
		29.5	37.2	87.5	
		14.7	17.6	2.2	
finishers	2	110	93	1	204
		53.9	45.6	0.5	65.4
		70.5	62.8	12.5	
		35.3	29.8	0.3	
Column		156	148	8	312
Totals		50.0	47.6	2.6	100.0

Chi square	= 12.12	Valid cases	= 312
Degrees of freedom	= 2	Missing cases	= 4
Probability of chance	= 0.002	Response rate	= 98.7 %
Cramer's V	= 0.197		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.193		

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #33

----- BY ----- Reduced Civic Responsibilities - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 yes	1 no	1 N/A	1	
	Row %	1	1	1	1	
	Column %	1	1	1	1	Row
	Total %	1	1	2	3	Totals
		1	21	1	65	1
leavers	1	1	19.1	1	59.1	1
		1	17.8	1	43.0	1
		1	6.7	1	20.7	1
		1	97	1	86	1
finishers	2	1	47.5	1	42.2	1
		1	82.2	1	57.0	1
		1	30.9	1	27.4	1
	Column	1	118	1	151	1
	Totals	1	37.6	1	48.1	1
		1		1	45	1
		1		1	14.3	1
		1		1	100.0	

Chi square	=	26.28	Valid cases	=	314
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	2
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	99.4 %
Cramer's V	=	0.289			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.278			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
 SURVEY QUESTION #34

----- BY -----
 Instructor Feedback on Courses Timely? - (X Axis)
 Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 yes	1 no	1 N/A	1
	Row %	1	1	1	1
	Column %	1	1	1	1 Row
	Total %	1	1	2	3 1 Totals

leavers	1	1 59	1 22	1 28	1 109
		1 54.1	1 20.2	1 25.7	1 35.2
		1 25.5	1 48.9	1 82.4	1 35.2
		1 19.0	1 7.1	1 9.0	1

finishers	2	1 172	1 23	1 6	1 201
		1 85.6	1 11.4	1 3.0	1 64.8
		1 74.5	1 51.1	1 17.6	1 64.8
		1 55.5	1 7.4	1 1.9	1

	Column	1 231	1 45	1 34	1 310
	Totals	1 74.5	1 14.5	1 11.0	1 100.0

Chi square	= 46.31	Valid cases	= 310
Degrees of freedom	= 2	Missing cases	= 6
Probability of chance	= 0.000	Response rate	= 98.1 %
Cramer's V	= 0.387		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.361		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #36

----- BY -----
Grade Level at Entrance to Ext. Degree - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	Frosh	Soph	Junior	Senior	Totals
Row %	0-44	45-89	90-134	135+		
Column %						Row
Total %	1	2	3	4		Totals
leavers	1	23	20	56	10	109
		21.1	18.3	51.4	9.2	34.8
		51.1	40.8	33.1	20.0	34.8
		7.3	6.4	17.9	3.2	
finishers	2	22	29	113	40	204
		10.8	14.2	55.4	19.6	65.2
		48.9	59.2	66.9	80.0	65.2
		7.0	9.3	36.1	12.8	
Column		45	49	169	50	313
Totals		14.4	15.7	54.0	16.0	100.0

Chi square	=	11.08	Valid cases	=	313
Degrees of freedom	=	3	Missing cases	=	3
Probability of chance	=	0.011	Response rate	=	99.1 %
Cramer's V	=	0.188			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.185			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #37

		Highest Degree Expected to Obtain - (X Axis)									
BY		Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)									
	Number	None	Assoc.	BS/BA	Grad.						
Row %						Row					
Column %									Totals		
Total %											
leavers	1	4	6	93	8	111	3.6	5.4	83.8	7.2	35.2
		80.0	100.0	33.7	28.6	1.3	1.9	29.5	2.5		
	2	1	0	183	20	204	0.5	0.0	89.7	9.8	64.8
		20.0	0.0	66.3	71.4	0.3	0.0	58.1	6.3		
Column		5	6	276	28	315	1.6	1.9	87.6	8.9	100.0
Totals											

Chi square	= 16.24	Valid cases	= 315
Degrees of freedom	= 3	Missing cases	= 1
Probability of chance	= 0.001	Response rate	= 99.7 %
Cramer's V	= 0.227		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.221		

Caution: 4 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
 SURVEY QUESTION #40

----- BY -----
 Quality of EOSC Education Received - (X Axis)
 Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	cannot judge	poor/fair	good/exclnt	Totals
leavers	1	60	14	38	112
		53.6	12.5	33.9	100.0
		87.0	66.7	16.8	35.4
		19.0	4.4	12.0	
finishers	2	9	7	188	204
		4.4	3.4	92.2	100.0
		13.0	33.3	83.2	64.6
		2.8	2.2	59.5	
Column Totals		69	21	226	316
		21.8	6.6	71.5	100.0

Chi square = 123.24 Valid cases = 316
 Degrees of freedom = 2 Missing cases = 0
 Probability of chance = 0.000 Response rate = 100.0 %
 Cramer's V = 0.624
 Contingency coeff. = 0.530

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #43

		How High Is Quality of EOSC - (X Axis)					
BY		Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)					
Number		1 very/	1 not hi	1 fairly	1 very		
Row Z		1 fairly	1 or low	1 high	1 high	1	
Column Z		1 low	1	1	1	1	1 Row
Total Z		1	2	3	4	1	Totals
leavers	1	6	50	45	11		
		5.4	44.6	40.2	9.8		112
		85.7	62.5	26.3	19.0		35.4
		1.9	15.8	14.2	3.5		
finishers	2	1	30	126	47		
		0.5	14.7	61.8	23.0		204
		14.3	37.5	73.7	81.0		64.6
		0.3	9.5	39.9	14.9		
Column		7	80	171	58		316
Totals		2.2	25.3	54.1	18.4		100.0

Chi square	=	46.43	Valid cases	=	316
Degrees of freedom	=	3	Missing cases	=	0
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	100.0 %
Cramer's V	=	0.383			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.358			

Caution: 2 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #47

----- BY -----

Hours/Week Employed Outside Home - (X Axis)

Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	0	1-10hr	11-20	21-30	31-40	> 40hr	Total
Row 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Column 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total 2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
leavers	1	3	2	3	2	25	76	111
		2.7	1.8	2.7	1.8	22.5	68.5	35.2
		18.8	28.6	20.0	16.7	26.0	45.0	35.2
		1.0	0.6	1.0	0.6	7.9	24.1	1
finishers	7	13	5	12	10	71	93	204
		6.4	2.5	5.9	4.9	34.8	45.6	64.8
		81.1	71.4	80.0	83.3	74.0	55.0	64.8
		4.1	1.6	3.8	3.2	22.5	29.5	1
Column	1	16	7	15	12	96	169	315
Totals	1	5.1	2.2	4.8	3.8	30.5	53.7	100.0

Chi square = 15.95 Valid cases = 315
 Degrees of freedom = 5 Missing cases = 1
 Probability of chance = 0.007 Response rate = 99.7 %
 Cramer's V = 0.225
 Contingency coeff. = 0.220

Caution: 3 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #50

----- BY -----
Amount of Time Required for Program - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	> had more,	as expected	< had hardly						
	Row %	available	but not	expected	expected	at all				Row
	Column %	1	2	3	4	5				Total
	Total %									
leavers	1	34	25	42	0	4				105
		32.4	23.8	40.0	0.0	3.8				34.1
		97.1	22.1	28.0	0.0	80.0				34.1
		11.0	8.1	13.6	0.0	1.3				
finishers	2	1	88	108	5	1				203
		0.5	43.3	53.2	2.5	0.5				65.9
		2.9	77.9	72.0	100.0	20.0				65.9
		0.3	28.6	35.1	1.6	0.3				
Column		35	113	150	5	5				308
Totals		11.4	36.7	48.7	1.6	1.6				100.0

Chi square = 78.88 Valid cases = 308
 Degrees of freedom = 4 Missing cases = 8
 Probability of chance = 0.000 Response rate = 97.5 %
 Cramer's V = 0.506
 Contingency coeff. = 0.452

Caution: 4 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #56

Satisfaction w/Amount of Academic Advice

BY

Leaver or Finisher

	Number	none	small/ some	great/ >great	Totals
leavers	1	14	54	41	109
		12.8	49.5	37.6	34.9
		4.5	17.3	13.1	
finishers	2	4	44	155	203
		2.0	21.7	76.4	65.1
		1.3	14.1	49.7	
Column Totals		18	98	196	312
		5.8	31.4	62.8	100.0

Chi square	= 49.01	Valid cases	= 312
Degrees of freedom	= 2	Missing cases	= 4
Probability of chance	= 0.000	Response rate	= 98.7 %
Cramer's V	= 0.396		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.368		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #57

----- BY -----
Able to Find Time to do Assignments? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none	1 small/	1 great/	1	
	Row %	1	1 some	1 great	1	Row
	Column %	1	1	1	1	Totals
	Total %	1	1 2	1 3	1	Totals
leavers	1	1 22	1 57	1 28	1	107
		1 20.6	1 53.3	1 26.2	1	34.6
		1 95.7	1 53.3	1 15.6	1	34.6
		1 7.1	1 18.6	1 9.1	1	
finishers	2	1 1	1 50	1 151	1	202
		1 0.5	1 24.8	1 74.8	1	65.4
		1 4.3	1 46.7	1 64.4	1	65.4
		1 0.3	1 16.2	1 43.9	1	
Column	1	1 23	1 107	1 179	1	309
Totals	1	1 7.4	1 34.6	1 57.9	1	100.0

Chi square	=	82.76	Valid cases	=	309
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	1
Probability of chance	=	0.000	response rate	=	97.8 %
Cramer's V	=	0.518			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.360			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #58

----- BY -----
Prcrastinate with doing Work? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none	1 small/ 1 some	1 great/ 1 >great	1	1	1	1	1	Row Totals
Row %										
Column %										
Total %										
leavers	1	26	55	22						103
		25.2	53.4	21.4						33.7
		8.5	18.0	7.2						
finishers	2	76	113	14						203
		37.4	55.7	6.9						66.3
		24.8	36.9	4.6						
Column		102	168	36						306
Totals		33.3	54.9	11.8						100.0

Chi square	=	15.26	Valid cases	=	306
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	10
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	96.8 %
Cramer's V	=	0.223			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.218			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #59

----- BY -----
Satisfaction w/Quality of Academic Advice - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none	1 small/ 1 some	1 great/ 1 2great	1	Row
	Column %	1	1	1	1	Totals
	Total %	1	1	1	1	1
leavers	1	13	41	52	106	
		12.3	38.7	49.1	34.3	
		76.5	50.0	24.8	16.8	
		4.2	11.3	16.8		
finishers	2	4	41	158	203	
		2.0	20.2	77.8	69.7	
		23.5	50.0	75.2	51.1	
		1.3	13.3	51.1		
Column	1	17	82	210	309	
Totals	1	5.5	26.5	68.0	100.0	

Chi square	=	30.86	Valid cases	=	309
degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	7
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	97.8 %
Cramer's V	=	0.310			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.301			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #60

----- BY ----- Confidence with Study Skills - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none	1 small/ 1 some	1 great/ 1 >great	1	1	1	1
Row Z								
Column Z								Row
Total Z		1	2	3				Totals
leavers	1	8	42	59				
		7.3	38.5	54.1				109
		88.9	42.4	28.8				34.8
		2.6	13.4	18.8				
finishers	2	1	57	146				
		0.5	27.9	71.6				204
		11.1	57.6	71.2				65.2
		0.3	18.2	46.6				
Column		9	99	205				313
Totals		2.9	31.6	65.5				100.0

Chi square	=	17.4	Valid cases	=	313
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	3
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	99.1 %
Cramer's V	=	0.236			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.229			

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #61

----- BY -----
Confidence with Reading Ability - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	small/ some	great extent	>great extnt		Row Total
	Column %					
	Total %	1	2	3		Totals
leavers	1	24	53	32		109
		22.0	48.6	29.4		34.8
		44.4	41.4	24.4		
		7.7	16.9	10.2		
finishers	2	30	75	99		204
		14.7	36.8	48.5		65.2
		55.6	58.6	75.6		
		9.6	24.0	31.6		
Totals		54	128	131		313
		17.3	40.9	41.9		100.0

Chi square	=	10.88	Valid cases	=	313
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	3
Probability of chance	=	0.004	Response rate	=	99.1 %
Cramer's V	=	0.186			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.183			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #63

----- BY ----- Confidence with Verbal Expression - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1	small/ some	1	great extent	1	>great extent	1	Row Totals	
Row Z	Column Z	1	1	2	3					
Total Z	-----									
leavers	1	1	27	1	57	1	25	1	109	
		1	24.8	1	52.3	1	22.9	1	109	
		1	42.9	1	39.6	1	23.6	1	34.8	
		1	8.6	1	18.2	1	8.0	1		

finishers	2	1	36	1	87	1	81	1	204	
		1	17.6	1	42.6	1	39.7	1	204	
		1	57.1	1	60.4	1	76.4	1	65.2	
		1	11.5	1	27.8	1	25.9	1		

Column	1	63	1	144	1	106	1	313		
Totals	1	20.1	1	46.0	1	33.9	1	100.0		

Chi square	=	9.12	Valid cases	=	313
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	3
Probability of chance	=	0.010	Response rate	=	99.1 %
Cramer's V	=	0.171			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.168			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #64

----- BY ----- Confidence with Coping, with Stress - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none	1 small/ 1 some	1 great/ 1 >great	1	1	1	1	1
Row %									
Column %									
Total %									
		3	39	66					
leavers	1	2.8	36.1	61.1	108				
		75.0	45.3	29.9	35.7				
		1.0	12.5	21.2					
		1	57	155					
finishers	2	0.5	23.2	76.4	203				
		25.6	54.7	70.1	65.3				
		0.3	15.1	49.8					
Column		4	86	221	311				
Totals		1.3	27.7	71.1	100.0				

Chi square = 9.64 Valid cases = 311
 Degrees of freedom = 2 Missing cases = 5
 Probability of chance = 0.009 Response rate = 98.4 %
 Cramer's V = 0.174
 Contingency coeff. = 0.172

Caution: 2 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #65

----- BY -----
Confidence with Coping w/Academics - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none	1 small/	1 great/	1	
Row %			some	>great		
Column %						Row
Total %		1	2	3		Totals
leavers	1	3	48	57		
		2.8	44.4	52.8		108
		100.0	57.1	25.4		34.7
		1.0	15.4	18.3		
finishers	2	0	36	167		
		0.0	17.7	82.3		203
		0.0	42.9	74.6		65.3
		0.0	11.6	53.7		
Column		3	84	224		311
Totals		1.0	27.0	72.0		100.0

Chi square = 32.77 Valid cases = 311
degrees of freedom = 2 Missing cases = 5
Probability of chance = 0.000 Response rate = 98.4 %
Cramer's V = 0.325
Contingency coeff. = 0.309

Caution: 2 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #67

Difficulty w/Asking Advisor for Help - (X Axis)

BY

Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none	1 small/ 1 some	1 great/ 1 >great	1	1	1	1
Row 2		1		1		1		1
Column 2		1		1		1		1
Total 2		1	1	2	1	3	1	Totals
leavers		1	37	1	51	1	21	1
	1	1	33.9	1	46.8	1	19.3	1
	1	1	26.7	1	48.6	1	72.4	1
	1	1	11.8	1	16.3	1	6.7	1
finishers		1	142	1	54	1	8	1
	2	1	69.6	1	26.5	1	3.9	1
	1	1	79.3	1	51.4	1	27.6	1
	1	1	45.4	1	17.3	1	2.6	1
Column	1	179	1	105	1	29	1	313
Totals	1	57.2	1	33.5	1	9.3	1	100.0

Chi square	=	42.59	Valid cases	=	313
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	3
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	99.1 %
Cramer's V	=	0.369			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.346			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #68

----- BY ----- Difficulty w/asking Instructors for Help - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none	1 small/ 1 some	1 great/ 1 >great	1	1	1	1
Row %								
Column %								Row
Total %		1	1	2	1	3	1	Totals
leavers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
		39	41	24				
		37.5	39.4	23.1				104
		26.4	35.0	60.0				34.1
		12.8	13.4	7.9				
finishers	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	
		109	76	16				
		54.2	37.8	8.0				201
		73.6	65.0	40.0				65.9
		35.7	24.9	5.2				
Column		148	117	40				305
Totals		48.5	38.4	13.1				100.0

Chi square	=	15.94	Valid cases	=	305
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	11
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	96.5 %
Cramer's V	=	0.229			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.223			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #69

BY Rules/Procedures Inhibited Progress - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none	1 small/ 1 some	1 great/ 1 >great	1	Row
Column %	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total %	1	1	1	1	1	1
		52	43	21		
Leavers	1	29.6	40.6	19.8		100
		20.3	55.1	84.0		14.2
		13.5	13.9	6.8		
		165	35	4		
Finishers	2	80.9	17.2	2.0		204
		79.7	44.9	16.0		65.8
		53.2	11.3	1.3		
Column	1	207	78	25		310
Totals	1	66.8	25.2	8.1		100.0

Chi square = 60.53 Valid cases = 310
 Degrees of freedom = 2 Missing cases = 6
 Probability of chance = 0.000 Response rate = 98.1 %
 Cramer's V = 0.442
 Contingency coeff. = 0.404

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #70

----- BY -----
Encouragement from: Spouse/sign. other. - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 n/a	1 none	1 small/ 1 some	1 great/ 1 >great	1	Row	Totals
Row %								
Column %								
Total %		0	1	2	3			
leavers	1	20	9	34	46		109	
		18.3	8.3	31.2	42.2			
		55.6	64.3	45.3	24.5		34.8	
		6.4	2.9	10.9	14.7			
finishers	2	16	5	41	142		204	
		7.8	2.5	20.1	69.6			
		44.4	35.7	54.7	75.5		65.2	
		5.1	1.6	13.1	45.4			
Column		36	14	75	188		311	
Totals		11.5	4.5	24.0	60.1		100.0	

Chi square = 24.7 Valid cases = 313
 Degrees of freedom = 3 Missing cases = 3
 Probability of chance = 0.000 Response rate = 99.1 %
 Cramer's V = 0.281
 Contingency coeff. = 0.270

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #71

----- BY -----
Encouragement from Parents - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	n/a	none	small/ some	great/ >great	Totals
leavers	1	45	16	28	18	107
		42.1	15.0	26.2	16.8	107
		45.5	29.1	32.2	25.7	34.4
		14.5	5.1	9.0	5.8	
finishers	2	54	39	59	52	204
		26.5	19.1	28.9	25.5	204
		54.5	70.9	67.8	74.3	65.6
		17.4	12.5	19.0	16.7	
Totals		99	55	87	70	311
		31.8	17.7	28.0	22.5	100.0

Chi square	= 8.57	Valid cases	= 311
Degrees of freedom	= 3	Missing cases	= 5
Probability of chance	= 0.035	Response rate	= 98.4 %
Cramer's V	= 0.166		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.164		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #73

----- BY -----
Encouragement from: Children - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1	n/a	1	none	1	small/ some	1	great/ >great	1	Row Totals
		1	0	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	
leavers	1	32	1	21	1	35	1	22	1		
		29.1	1	19.1	1	31.8	1	20.0	1		110
		19.0	1	50.0	1	31.7	1	25.9	1		35.1
		10.2	1	6.7	1	11.2	1	7.0	1		
finishers	2	50	1	21	1	69	1	63	1		
		24.6	1	10.3	1	34.0	1	31.0	1		203
		61.0	1	50.0	1	66.3	1	74.1	1		64.9
		16.0	1	6.7	1	22.0	1	20.1	1		
Column		82	1	42	1	104	1	85	1		313
Totals		26.2	1	13.4	1	33.2	1	27.2	1		100.0

Chi square	=	7.9	Valid cases	=	313
Degrees of freedom	=	3	Missing cases	=	3
Probability of chance	=	0.048	Response rate	=	99.1 %
Cramer's V	=	0.159			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.157			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #74

----- BY -----
Encouragement from: Friends - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	n/a	none	small/ some	great/ >great	Totals
leavers	1	21	21	46	21	109
		19.3	19.3	42.2	19.3	34.9
		63.6	55.3	32.4	21.2	6.7
		6.7	6.7	14.7	6.7	
finishers	2	12	17	96	78	203
		5.9	8.4	47.3	38.4	65.1
		36.4	44.7	67.6	78.8	3.8
		3.8	5.4	30.8	25.0	
Column Totals		33	38	142	99	312
		10.6	12.2	45.5	31.7	100.0

Chi square	= 27.47	Valid cases	= 312
Degrees of freedom	= 3	Missing cases	= 4
Probability of chance	= 0.000	Response rate	= 98.7 %
Cramer's V	= 0.297		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.284		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #75

Encouragement from: Employer - (X Axis)
BY Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	n/a	none	small/ some	great/ >great	Total
leavers	1	26	27	39	17	109
		23.9	24.8	35.8	15.6	34.9
		8.3	8.7	12.5	5.4	
finishers	2	31	31	72	69	203
		15.3	15.3	35.5	34.0	65.1
		9.9	9.9	23.1	22.1	
Totals		57	58	111	86	312
		18.3	18.6	35.6	27.6	100.0

Chi square	=	15	Valid cases	=	312
Degrees of freedom	=	3	Missing cases	=	4
Probability of chance	=	0.002	Response rate	=	98.7 %
Cramer's V	=	0.219			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.214			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #76

Frequency of Desired Courses Offered - (X Axis)

BY

Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	N/A	none	some	most	all			
Row %									
Column %									
Total %		0	1	2	3	4			Total
leavers	1	40	13	39	16	1			
		36.7	11.9	35.8	14.7	0.9			109
		50.0	92.9	43.3	14.2	6.3			34.8
		12.8	4.2	12.5	5.1	0.3			
finishers	2	40	1	51	97	15			
		19.6	0.5	25.0	47.5	7.4			204
		50.0	7.1	56.7	85.8	93.8			65.2
		12.8	0.3	16.3	31.0	4.8			
Column		80	14	90	113	16			313
Totals		25.6	4.5	28.8	36.1	5.1			100.0

Chi square	=	58.77	Valid cases	=	313
Degrees of freedom	=	4	Missing cases	=	3
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	99.1 %
Cramer's V	=	0.433			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.398			

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #77

----- BY -----
Were Courses at Convenient Times for You - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	N/A	none	some	most	all	Totals
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	0	1	2	3	4	Totals

leavers	1	39	22	36	10	1	108
	1	36.1	20.4	33.3	9.3	0.9	108
	1	49.4	88.0	39.1	9.7	7.7	34.6
	1	12.5	7.1	11.5	3.2	0.3	

finishers	2	40	3	56	93	12	204
	1	19.6	1.5	27.5	45.6	5.9	204
	1	50.6	12.0	60.9	90.3	92.3	65.4
	1	12.8	1.0	17.9	29.8	3.8	

Column	1	79	25	92	103	13	312
Totals	1	25.3	8.0	29.5	33.0	4.2	100.0

Chi square = 72.29 Valid cases = 312
 Degrees of freedom = 4 Missing cases = 4
 Probability of chance = 0.000 Response rate = 98.7 %
 Cramer's V = 0.481
 Contingency coeff. = 0.434

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #78

----- BY -----
Impact on Knowing Yourself - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1	little	1	some	1	much	1	
Row %		1	none	1		1		1	
Column %		1		1		1		1	Row
Total %		1	1	1	2	1	3	1	Totals
leavers	1	1	36	1	36	1	37	1	
		1	33.0	1	33.0	1	33.9	1	109
		1	73.5	1	41.4	1	20.9	1	34.8
		1	11.5	1	11.5	1	11.8	1	
finishers	2	1	13	1	51	1	140	1	
		1	6.4	1	25.0	1	68.6	1	204
		1	26.5	1	58.6	1	79.1	1	65.2
		1	4.2	1	16.3	1	44.7	1	
Column	1	1	49	1	87	1	177	1	313
Totals	1	1	15.7	1	27.8	1	56.5	1	100.0

Chi square	=	49	Valid cases	=	313
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	3
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	99.1 %
Cramer's V	=	0.396			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.368			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
 SURVEY QUESTION #79

----- BY ----- Impact on Interpersonal Skills - (X Axis)
 Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 little	1 some	1 much	1
Row %	1	none	1	1	1
Column %	1	1	1	1	1 Row
Total %	1	1	1 2	1 3	1 Totals

leavers	1	41	33	35	1
	1	37.6	30.3	32.1	109
	1	80.4	36.3	20.5	34.8
	1	13.1	10.5	11.2	1

finishers	2	10	58	136	1
	1	4.9	28.4	66.7	204
	1	19.6	63.7	79.5	65.2
	1	3.2	18.5	43.5	1

Column	1	51	91	171	313
Totals	1	16.3	29.1	54.6	100.0

Chi square	=	62.26	Valid cases	=	313
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	3
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	99.1 %
Cramer's V	=	0.446			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.407			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #80

----- BY ----- Impact on Seeing Alternative Pts of View - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1	little	1	some	1	much	1	
Row %		1	none	1		1		1	
Column %		1		1		1		1	Row
Total %		1	1	1	2	1	3	1	Totals
leavers	1	1	40	1	30	1	38	1	
		1	37.0	1	27.8	1	35.2	1	108
		1	78.4	1	34.5	1	22.1	1	34.8
		1	12.9	1	9.7	1	12.3	1	
finishers	2	1	11	1	57	1	134	1	
		1	5.4	1	28.2	1	66.3	1	202
		1	21.6	1	65.5	1	77.9	1	65.2
		1	3.5	1	18.4	1	43.2	1	
Column		1	51	1	87	1	172	1	310
Totals		1	16.5	1	28.1	1	55.5	1	100.0

Chi square	=	55	Valid cases	=	310
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	6
Probability of chance	=	0.000	Response rate	=	98.1 %
Cramer's V	=	0.421			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.388			

A COMPARISON OF LEAVERS AND FINISHERS ON
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: GPA

Variable used to group cases - Leaver or Finisher

Group 1 1/
1=leavers

```
-----
Number of cases      = 57
Mean                 = 2.91
Variance             = 0.56
Standard deviation   = 0.75
Standard error of the mean = 0.10
```

Group 2 2/
2=finishers

```
-----
Number of cases      = 150
Mean                 = 3.38
Variance             = 0.27
Standard deviation   = 0.52
Standard error of the mean = 0.04
```

T-Test statistics

```
-----
Difference (Mean X - Mean Y)      = -0.470
Standard error of the difference  = 0.092
t - statistic                      = 5.087
Degrees of freedom                 = 205
Probability of t (One tailed test) = 0.000
Probability of t (Two tailed test) = 0.000
```

ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE ON LEAVER/FINISHER GPA DIFFERENCES

Anova Summary Table

Source of Variation	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Squares	F	Significance Level
Between groups	1	9.123	9.123	25.882	0.000
Within groups	205	72.258	0.352		
Total	206	81.381			

Group Statistics

Group	Codes & Labels	N	Mean	SD
Group 1	- 1/ 1=leavers	57	2.913	0.754
Group 2	- 2/ 2=finishers	150	3.383	0.521

T-Test Between Group Means - (Values of p are for a two-tailed test)
Note: Statistics are only printed if p is less than or equal to .050

```
-----
t = 5.087      Group 1
p = .000      Group 2
```

RURAL(<50,000) vs URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #24

----- BY ----- Degree Requirements Clear by Advisor? - (X Axis)
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	I yes	I no	I
Row %	I	I	I	I
Column %	I	I	I	I Row
Total %	I	1	I	2 I Totals
		-----	-----	-----
		I 181	I 33	I
Rural & Town	1	I 84.6	I 15.4	I 214
		I 65.8	I 84.6	I 68.2
		I 57.6	I 10.5	I
		-----	-----	-----
		I 94	I 6	I
Urban	2	I 94.0	I 6.0	I 100
		I 34.2	I 15.4	I 31.8
		I 29.9	I 1.9	I
		-----	-----	-----
Column	I	275	I 39	I 314
Totals	I	87.6	I 12.4	I 100.0

Corrected Chi square	= 4.72	Valid cases	= 314
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 2
Probability of chance	= 0.030	Response rate	= 99.4 %
Phi	= 0.123		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.122		

FEMALE FINISHERS vs MALE FINISHERS
 REVISED SURVEY QUESTION #48

----- BY ----- No. Children at Home while in Program - (X Axis)
 Sex - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none-1	1 2+chld	1	
	Row %	1	1	1	
	Column %	1	1	1	Row
	Total %	1	0	1	1
					Totals

Female finishers	1	1	71	1	38
		1	65.1	1	34.9
		1	61.2	1	43.2
		1	34.8	1	18.6
		1		1	109
		1		1	53.4

Male finishers	2	1	45	1	50
		1	47.4	1	52.6
		1	38.8	1	56.8
		1	22.1	1	24.5
		1		1	95
		1		1	46.6

Column	1	1	116	1	88
Totals	1	1	56.9	1	43.1
		1		1	204
		1		1	100.0

Corrected Chi square = 5.82
 Degrees of freedom = 1
 Probability of chance = 0.016
 Phi = 0.169
 Contingency coeff. = 0.167

Valid cases = 204
 Missing cases = 0
 Response rate = 100.0 %

FEMALE LEAVERS vs MALE LEAVERS
REVISED SURVEY QUESTION #48

----- BY -----
No. Children at Home while in Program - (X Axis)
Sex - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none-1	I 2+chld	I
Row %	I	I	I	I
Column %	I	I	I	I Row
Total %	I	0	I 1	I Totals
-----I-----I-----I-----				
Female leavers	1	I 30	I 24	I
		I 55.6	I 44.4	I 54
		I 62.5	I 38.7	I 49.1
		I 27.3	I 21.8	I
-----I-----I-----I-----				
Male leavers	2	I 18	I 38	I
		I 32.1	I 67.9	I 56
		I 37.5	I 61.3	I 50.9
		I 16.4	I 34.5	I
-----I-----I-----I-----				
Column	I	48	I 62	I 110
Totals	I	43.6	I 56.4	I 100.0

Corrected Chi square	= 5.21	Valid cases	= 110
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 2
Probability of chance	= 0.022	Response rate	= 98.2 %
Phi	= 0.218		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.213		

FEMALE LEAVERS vs FEMALE FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #49

----- BY -----
Marital Status While in Program - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	single	marr'd	Totals
female leavers	1	24	30	54
	Row %	44.4	55.6	100.0
	Column %	50.0	26.1	33.1
	Total %	14.7	18.4	
female finishers	2	24	85	109
	Row %	22.0	78.0	100.0
	Column %	50.0	73.9	66.9
	Total %	14.7	52.1	
	Column	48	115	163
	Totals	29.4	70.6	100.0

Corrected Chi square	=	7.69	Valid cases	=	163
Degrees of freedom	=	1	Missing cases	=	1
Probability of chance	=	0.006	Response rate	=	99.4 %
Phi	=	0.217			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.212			

FEMALE FINISHERS vs MALE FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #49

----- BY -----
Marital Status While in Program - (X Axis)
Sex - (Y Axis)

	Number	single	marr'd	Totals
Female finishers	1	24	85	109
Male finishers	2	8	87	95
Column Totals		32	172	204
Row %		11.8	41.7	53.4
Column %		15.7	84.3	100.0

Corrected Chi square	= 6.1	Valid cases	= 204
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 0
Probability of chance	= 0.013	Response rate	= 100.0 %
Phi	= 0.173		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.170		

FEMALE LEAVERS vs MALE LEAVERS
SURVEY QUESTION #49

----- BY -----
Marital Status While in Program - (X Axis)
Sex - (Y Axis)

	Number	single	marr'd	Totals
Female leavers	1	24	30	54
		44.4	55.6	49.1
		82.8	37.0	21.8
		21.8	27.3	
Male leavers	2	5	51	56
		8.9	91.1	50.9
		17.2	63.0	4.5
		4.5	46.4	
Column Totals		29	81	110
		26.4	73.6	100.0

Corrected Chi square = 16.07
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.000
Phi = 0.382
Contingency coeff. = 0.357

Valid cases = 110
Missing cases = 2
Response rate = 98.2 %

APPENDIX C

OFFICIAL STATISTICAL TABLES OF ALL NON-SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT COMPARISONS

The first section of this appendix includes tables of comparisons between respondents and non-respondents. The second section, comparisons between leavers and finishers. The third section includes comparisons between rural and urban respondents; and the fourth, comparisons between male and female respondents.

ALL RESPONDENTS vs ALL NON-RESPONDENTS
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: SEX

	Number	Female	Male	Totals
respondents	1	164	152	316
		51.9	48.1	82.3
nonrespondents	3	34	34	68
		50.0	50.0	17.7
		17.2	18.3	8.9
		8.9	8.9	
Column Totals		198	186	384
		51.6	48.4	100.0

Corrected Chi square = .02
 Degrees of freedom = 1
 Probability of chance = 0.880
 Phi = 0.007
 Contingency coeff. = 0.007

Valid cases = 384
 Missing cases = 0
 Response rate = 100.0 %

RESPONDING vs NON-RESPONDING FINISHERS
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: SEX

	Number	Female	Male	Totals
responding fnshrs.	2	109	95	204
		53.4	46.6	100.0
		89.3	93.1	91.1
		48.7	42.4	91.1
nonrespond. fnshrs.	4	13	7	20
		65.0	35.0	100.0
		10.7	6.9	17.6
		5.8	3.1	8.9
Column Totals		122	102	224
		54.5	45.5	100.0

Corrected Chi square	=	.57	Valid cases	=	224
Degrees of freedom	=	1	Missing cases	=	0
Probability of chance	=	0.450	Response rate	=	100.0 %
Phi	=	0.050			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.050			

RESPONDING vs NON-RESPONDING LEAVERS
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION SEX

	Number	Female	Male	Totals
responding lvrs. 1	112	55	57	112
nonrespond. lvrs. 3	48	21	27	48
Column Totals	160	76	84	160
Row %		49.1	50.9	70.0
Column %		47.5	52.5	100.0
Total %		47.5	52.5	100.0

Corrected Chi square = .2
 Degrees of freedom = 1
 Probability of chance = 0.653
 Phi = 0.035
 Contingency coeff. = 0.035

Valid cases = 160
 Missing cases = 0
 Response rate = 100.0 %

ALL RESPONDENTS vs ALL NON-RESPONDENTS
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: RACE

----- BY ----- Ethnicity - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	Black	Indian	Asian/	Hispanc	White,	Intn'l	NoRes
Row %		noHspn	Alaskn	PacIsl		noHspn		
Column %								
Total %		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
respondents	1	3	9	2	1	274	1	24
		1.0	2.9	0.6	0.3	87.3	0.3	7.6
		60.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	82.0	100.0	82.8
		0.8	2.4	0.5	0.3	71.7	0.3	6.3
nonrespondents	3	2	0	1	0	60	0	5
		2.9	0.0	1.5	0.0	88.2	0.0	7.4
		40.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	18.0	0.0	17.2
		0.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	15.7	0.0	1.3
Column		5	9	3	1	334	1	29
Totals		1.3	2.4	0.8	0.3	87.4	0.3	7.6

Chi square	= 4.57	Valid cases	= 382
Degrees of freedom	= 6	Missing cases	= 2
Probability of chance	= 0.600	Response rate	= 99.5 %
Cramer's V	= 0.109		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.109		

Caution: 9 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

RESPONDING vs NON-RESPONDING FINISHERS
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: RACE

Number	Black	Indian	Asian/ Pacifc	Hispanic	White,	Intn'l	NoRes
Row %	noHspn	Alaskan	Island		noHspn		
Column %							
Total %	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
responding fnshrs.	1	6	2	0	175	1	17
2	0.5	3.0	1.0	0.0	86.6	0.5	8.4
	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	90.7	100.0	89.5
	0.5	2.7	0.9	0.0	78.8	0.5	7.7
nonrespond. fnshrs.	0	0	0	0	18	0	2
4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	90.0	0.0	10.0
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.3	0.0	10.5
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.1	0.0	0.9
Column	1	6	2	0	193	1	19
Totals	0.5	2.7	0.9	0.0	86.9	0.5	8.6

Chi square = 1.06 Valid cases = 222
 Degrees of freedom = 5 Missing cases = 2
 Probability of chance = 0.957 Response rate = 99.1 %
 Cramer's V = 0.069
 Contingency coeff. = 0.069

Caution: 8 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

RESPONDING vs NON-RESPONDING LEAVERS
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: RACE

Number	Black	Indian	Asian/	Hispanic	White,	Intn'l	NoRes
Row %	noHspn	Alaskan	Pacifc		noHspn		
Column %							
Total %	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
responding lvrs. 1	2	3	0	1	99	0	7
	1.8	2.7	0.0	0.9	88.4	0.0	6.3
	50.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	70.2	0.0	70.0
	1.3	1.9	0.0	0.6	61.9	0.0	4.4
nonrespond. lvrs. 3	2	0	1	0	42	0	3
	4.2	0.0	2.1	0.0	87.5	0.0	6.3
	50.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	29.8	0.0	30.0
	1.3	0.0	0.6	0.0	26.3	0.0	1.9
Column	4	3	1	1	141	0	10
Totals	2.5	1.9	0.6	0.6	88.1	0.0	6.3

Chi square	= 4.81	Valid cases	= 160
Degrees of freedom	= 5	Missing cases	= 0
Probability of chance	= 0.439	Response rate	= 100.0 %
Cramer's V	= 0.173		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.171		

Caution: 9 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

ALL RESPONDENTS vs ALL NON-RESPONDENTS
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: GPA

Group 1 1/
1=respondents

Number of cases	= 207
Mean	= 3.25
Variance	= 0.39
Standard deviation	= 0.63
Standard error of the mean	= 0.04

Group 2 3/
3=nonrespondents

Number of cases	= 38
Mean	= 3.07
Variance	= 0.51
Standard deviation	= 0.71
Standard error of the mean	= 0.12

T-Test statistics

Difference (Mean X - Mean Y)	= 0.187
Standard error of the difference	= 0.114
t - statistic	= 1.642
Degrees of freedom	= 243
Probability of t (One tailed test)	= 0.049
Probability of t (Two tailed test)	= 0.098

RESPONDING vs NON-RESPONDING FINISHERS
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: GPA

Group 1 2/
2=responding fnshrs.

```
-----
Number of cases      = 150
Mean                 = 3.38
Variance             = 0.27
Standard deviation   = 0.52
Standard error of the mean = 0.04
```

Group 2 4/
4=nonrespond.fnshrs.

```
-----
Number of cases      = 15
Mean                 = 3.16
Variance             = 0.31
Standard deviation   = 0.56
Standard error of the mean = 0.15
```

T-Test statistics

```
-----
Difference (Mean X - Mean Y) = 0.225
Standard error of the difference = 0.142
t - statistic                 = 1.577
Degrees of freedom           = 163
Probability of t (One tailed test) = 0.056
Probability of t (Two tailed test) = 0.113
```

RESPONDING vs NON-RESPONDING LEAVERS
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: GPA

Group 1 1/
1=responding lvrs.

```
-----
Number of cases      = 57
Mean                 = 2.91
Variance             = 0.56
Standard deviation   = 0.75
Standard error of the mean = 0.10
```

Group 2 3/
3=nonrespond.lvrs.

```
-----
Number of cases      = 23
Mean                 = 3.01
Variance             = 0.63
Standard deviation   = 0.79
Standard error of the mean = 0.17
```

T-Test statistics

```
-----
Difference (Mean X - Mean Y) = -0.094
Standard error of the difference = 0.190
t - statistic                 = 0.495
Degrees of freedom           = 78
Probability of t (One tailed test) = 0.314
Probability of t (Two tailed test) = 0.628
```

ALL RESPONDENTS vs ALL NON-RESPONDENTS
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: AGE

Group 1 1/
1=respondents

Number of cases	= 316
Mean	= 45.45
Variance	= 85.15
Standard deviation	= 9.23
Standard error of the mean	= 0.52

Group 2 3/
3=nonrespondents

Number of cases	= 68
Mean	= 45.01
Variance	= 79.72
Standard deviation	= 8.93
Standard error of the mean	= 1.09

T-Test statistics

Difference (Mean X - Mean Y)	= 0.438
Standard error of the difference	= 1.230
t - statistic	= 0.356
Degrees of freedom	= 382
Probability of t (One tailed test)	= 0.361
Probability of t (Two tailed test)	= 0.723

RESPONDING vs NON-RESPONDING FINISHERS
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: AGE

Group 1 2/
2=responding fnshrs.

Number of cases = 204
Mean = 44.94
Variance = 79.27
Standard deviation = 8.90
Standard error of the mean = 0.62

Group 2 4/
4=nonrespond.fnshrs.

Number of cases = 20
Mean = 45.15
Variance = 68.73
Standard deviation = 8.29
Standard error of the mean = 1.90

T-Test statistics

Difference (Mean X - Mean Y) = -0.214
Standard error of the difference = 2.083
t - statistic = 0.103
Degrees of freedom = 222
Probability of t (One tailed test) = 0.458
Probability of t (Two tailed test) = 0.915

RESPONDING vs NON-RESPONDING LEAVERS
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: AGE

Group 1 1/
1=responding lvrs.

Number of cases = 112
Mean = 46.39
Variance = 94.51
Standard deviation = 9.72
Standard error of the mean = 0.92

Group 2 3/
3=nonrespond.lvrs.

Number of cases = 48
Mean = 44.96
Variance = 84.29
Standard deviation = 9.18
Standard error of the mean = 1.34

T-Test statistics

Difference (Mean X - Mean Y) = 1.435
Standard error of the difference = 1.660
t - statistic = 0.864
Degrees of freedom = 158
Probability of t (One tailed test) = 0.303
Probability of t (Two tailed test) = 0.607

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #1

----- BY ----- Resident of Oregon All/Most of Time? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1	yes	1	no	1	
	Row Z	1		1		1	
	Column Z	1		1		1	Row
	Total Z	1	1	1	2	1	Totals
leavers	1	1	60	1	48	1	108
		1	55.6	1	44.4	1	34.6
		1	34.5	1	34.8	1	19.2
		1	19.2	1	15.4	1	
finishers	2	1	114	1	90	1	204
		1	55.9	1	44.1	1	65.4
		1	65.5	1	65.2	1	36.5
		1	36.5	1	28.8	1	
Column	1	1	174	1	138	1	312
Totals	1	1	55.8	1	44.2	1	100.0

Corrected Chi square	=	0	Valid cases	=	312
Degrees of freedom	=	1	Missing cases	=	4
Probability of chance	=	0.949	Response rate	=	98.7 %
Phi	=	0.000			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.000			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #2

Presence of Regional Outreach Near You?

BY

Leaver or Finisher

	Number	1	yes	1	no	1	
	Row %	1		1		1	
	Column %	1		1		1	Row
	Total %	1	1	1	2	1	Totals
		1	55	1	55	1	
leavers	1	1	50.0	1	50.0	1	110
		1	33.3	1	37.2	1	35.1
		1	17.6	1	17.6	1	
		1	110	1	93	1	
finishers	2	1	54.2	1	45.8	1	203
		1	66.7	1	62.8	1	64.9
		1	35.1	1	29.7	1	
		1	165	1	148	1	313
		1	52.7	1	47.3	1	100.0

Corrected Chi square = .34
 Degrees of freedom = 1
 Probability of chance = 0.555
 Phi = 0.033
 Contingency coeff. = 0.033

Valid cases = 313
 Missing cases = 3
 Response rate = 99.1 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #3

----- BY -----
Participation in Outreach Center Classes?
Leaver or Finisher

	Number	yes	no	Totals
leavers	1	19	90	109
		17.4	82.6	34.9
		6.1	28.8	
finishers	2	53	150	203
		26.1	73.9	65.1
		73.6	62.5	
		17.0	48.1	
Column		72	240	312
Totals		23.1	76.9	100.0

Corrected Chi square = 2.53
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.111
Phi = 0.090
Contingency coeff. = 0.090

Valid cases = 312
Missing cases = 4
Response rate = 98.7 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #4

----- BY ----- EOSC Portfolio Workshop: La Grande? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	yes	no	
Row %				Row
Column %				Totals
Total %				
-----I-----I-----I-----				
		21	90	
leavers	1	18.9	81.1	111
		29.2	37.2	35.4
		6.7	28.7	
-----I-----I-----I-----				
		51	152	
finishers	2	25.1	74.9	203
		70.8	62.8	64.6
		16.2	48.4	
-----I-----I-----I-----				
Column		72	242	314
Totals		22.9	77.1	100.0

Corrected Chi square	=	1.23	Valid cases	=	314
Degrees of freedom	=	1	Missing cases	=	2
Probability of chance	=	0.267	Response rate	=	99.4 %
Phi	=	0.063			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.062			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #5

----- BY -----
EOSC Portfolio Workshop: Other Locations? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 yes	1 no	1	1
	Row %	1	1	1	1
	Column %	1	1	1	1 Row
	Total %	1	1	2	1 Totals
		-----	-----	-----	-----
leavers	1	1 67	1 44	1	1
		1 60.4	1 39.6	1	1 111
		1 33.5	1 38.3	1	1 35.2
		1 21.3	1 14.0	1	1
		-----	-----	-----	-----
finishers	2	1 133	1 71	1	1
		1 65.2	1 34.8	1	1 204
		1 66.5	1 61.7	1	1 64.8
		1 42.2	1 22.5	1	1
		-----	-----	-----	-----
	Column	1 200	1 115	1	1 315
	Totals	1 63.5	1 36.5	1	1 100.0

Corrected Chi square	= .53	Valid cases	= 315
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 1
Probability of chance	= 0.466	Response rate	= 99.7 %
Phi	= 0.041		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.041		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #6

----- BY -----
EOSC Portfolio Workshop: Correspondence? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I yes	I no	I	
	Row %	I	I	I	I
	Column %	I	I	I	Row
	Total %	I	I	I	Totals
		I	I	I	I
		I	I	I	I
leavers	1	I 14	I 98	I	I 112
		I 12.5	I 87.5	I	I 35.7
		I 25.5	I 37.8	I	I
		I 4.5	I 31.2	I	I
		I	I	I	I
		I	I	I	I
finishers	2	I 41	I 161	I	I 202
		I 20.3	I 79.7	I	I 64.3
		I 74.5	I 62.2	I	I
		I 13.1	I 51.3	I	I
		I	I	I	I
	Column	I 55	I 259	I	I 314
	Totals	I 17.5	I 82.5	I	I 100.0

Corrected Chi square	= 2.51	Valid cases	= 314
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 2
Probability of chance	= 0.113	Response rate	= 99.4 %
Phi	= 0.089		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.089		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #9

----- BY -----
Credit Rec'd. by Cooperative Education? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I yes	I no	I	
	Row %	I	I	I	
	Column %	I	I	I Row	
	Total %	I 1	I 2	I Totals	
		I-----I-----I-----			
		I 10 I 101 I			
leavers	1	I 9.0 I 91.0 I 111			
		I 26.3 I 36.5 I 35.2			
		I 3.2 I 32.1 I			
		I-----I-----I-----			
		I 28 I 176 I			
finishers	2	I 13.7 I 86.3 I 204			
		I 73.7 I 63.5 I 64.8			
		I 8.9 I 55.9 I			
		I-----I-----I-----			
	Column	I 38 I 277 I 315			
	Totals	I 12.1 I 87.9 I 100.0			

Corrected Chi square = 1.09
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.295
Phi = 0.059
Contingency coeff. = 0.059

Valid cases = 315
Missing cases = 1
Response rate = 99.7 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #10

----- BY -----
Credit Rec'd. by CLEP? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1	yes	1	no	1	
	Row %	1		1		1	
	Column %	1		1		1	Row
	Total %	1	1	1	2	1	Totals
		1		1		1	
		1	7	1	105	1	
leavers	1	1	6.3	1	93.8	1	112
		1	21.2	1	37.1	1	35.4
		1	2.2	1	33.2	1	
		1		1		1	
		1	26	1	178	1	
finishers	2	1	12.7	1	87.3	1	204
		1	78.8	1	62.9	1	64.6
		1	8.2	1	56.3	1	
		1		1		1	
	Column	1	33	1	283	1	316
	Totals	1	10.4	1	89.6	1	100.0

Corrected Chi square	= 2.6	Valid cases	= 316
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 0
Probability of chance	= 0.107	Response rate	= 100.0 %
Phi	= 0.091		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.090		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #11

----- BY -----
Credit Rec'd. by Course Challenges? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	yes	no	Totals
leavers	1	3	109	112
		2.7	97.3	
		33.3	35.6	35.6
		1.0	34.6	
finishers	2	6	197	203
		3.0	97.0	
		66.7	64.4	64.4
		1.9	62.5	
Column		9	306	315
Totals		2.9	97.1	100.0

Corrected Chi square	=	.04	Valid cases	=	315
Degrees of freedom	=	1	Missing cases	=	1
Probability of chance	=	0.832	Response rate	=	99.7 %
Phi	=	0.011			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.011			

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #12

BY
Credit Rec'd by Military Evaluation? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I yes	I no	I	
	Row %	I	I	I	
	Column %	I	I	I	Row
	Total %	I	I	I	Totals
		I	I	I	
leavers	1	I 13	I 98	I	
		I 11.7	I 88.3	I	111
		I 25.5	I 37.3	I	35.4
		I 4.1	I 31.2	I	
		I	I	I	
finishers	2	I 38	I 165	I	
		I 18.7	I 81.3	I	203
		I 74.5	I 62.7	I	64.6
		I 12.1	I 52.5	I	
		I	I	I	
	Column	I 51	I 263	I	314
	Totals	I 16.2	I 83.8	I	100.0

Corrected Chi square = 2.1
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.147
Phi = 0.082
Contingency coeff. = 0.082

Valid cases = 314
Missing cases = 2
Response rate = 99.4 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #16

Evening/Daytime Classes at La Grande? - (X Axis)

BY

Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I yes	I no	I	
	Row %	I	I	I	I
	Column %	I	I	I	I Row
	Total %	I	I	I	I Totals
		1	1	2	
leavers	1	5	106	111	
		4.5	95.5	100.0	
		17.2	37.1	35.2	
		1.6	33.7		
finishers	2	24	180	204	
		11.8	88.2	100.0	
		82.8	62.9	64.8	
		7.6	57.1		
Column		29	286	315	
Totals		9.2	90.8	100.0	

Corrected Chi square	= 3.7	Valid cases	= 315
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 1
Probability of chance	= 0.054	Response rate	= 99.7 %
Phi	= 0.108		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.108		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #17

----- BY ----- Agency-Sponsored Training on Transcript?
Leaver or Finisher

	Number	I yes	I no	I	
Row %	I	I	I	I	I
Column %	I	I	I	I	I Row
Total %	I	I	I	I	I Totals
		1	2		
		10	96		
leavers	1	9.4	90.6	106	34.4
		25.6	35.7		
		3.2	31.2		
		29	173		
finishers	2	14.4	85.6	202	65.6
		74.4	64.3		
		9.4	56.2		
Column		39	269	308	
Totals		12.7	87.3	100.0	

Corrected Chi square = 1.11
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.292
Phi = 0.060
Contingency coeff. = 0.060

Valid cases = 308
Missing cases = 8
Response rate = 97.5 %

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #28

----- BY -----
Reduced Paid Employment? - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 yes	1 no	1 N/A	1	
	Row %	1	1	1	1	1
	Column %	1	1	1	1	1 Row
	Total %	1	1	2	1	3 1 Totals

leavers	1	1 6	1 95	1 7	1	1 108
		1 5.6	1 88.0	1 6.5	1	1 34.8
		1 20.0	1 35.6	1 53.8	1	1 34.8
		1 1.9	1 30.6	1 2.3	1	1

finishers	2	1 24	1 172	1 6	1	1 202
		1 11.9	1 85.1	1 3.0	1	1 65.2
		1 80.0	1 64.4	1 46.2	1	1 65.2
		1 7.7	1 55.5	1 1.9	1	1

	Column	1 30	1 267	1 13	1	1 310
	Totals	1 9.7	1 86.1	1 4.2	1	1 100.0

Chi square = 5.04 Valid cases = 310
 Degrees of freedom = 2 Missing cases = 6
 Probability of chance = 0.080 Response rate = 98.1 %
 Cramer's V = 0.128
 Contingency coeff. = 0.126

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #32

Reduced Involvement w/Children? - (X Axis)

BY

Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	yes	no	N/A	Totals
leavers	1	28	58	24	110
		25.5	52.7	21.8	35.3
		9.0	18.6	7.7	
finishers	2	62	102	38	202
		30.7	50.5	18.8	64.7
		19.9	32.7	12.2	
Column Totals		90	160	62	312
		28.8	51.3	19.9	100.0

Chi square	= 1.07	Valid cases	= 312
Degrees of freedom	= 2	Missing cases	= 4
Probability of chance	= 0.585	Response rate	= 98.7 %
Cramer's V	= 0.059		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.058		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #35

----- BY -----
Age Interval While Participating in Degree
Leaver or Finisher

	Number	24-35	36-44	45-54	55 & older	Totals
Row %	years	years	years	older		Row
Column %	1	2	3	4		Totals
Total %	1	2	3	4		Totals
leavers	1	29	37	30	14	110
		26.4	33.6	27.3	12.7	35.0
		38.2	27.6	41.7	43.8	35.0
		9.2	11.8	9.6	4.5	
finishers	2	47	97	42	18	204
		23.0	47.5	20.6	8.8	65.0
		61.8	72.4	58.3	56.3	65.0
		15.0	30.9	13.4	5.7	
Column	1	76	134	72	32	314
Totals	1	24.2	42.7	22.9	10.2	100.0

Chi square	= 6.02	Valid cases	= 314
Degrees of freedom	= 3	Missing cases	= 2
Probability of chance	= 0.110	Response rate	= 99.4 %
Cramer's V	= 0.138		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.137		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #39

		High School GPA - (X Axis)							
BY		Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)							
		3.76-	3.50-	3.00-	2.50-	2.00-	1.50-	NA/GE	
Number		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Row Z		4.00	3.75	3.49	2.99	2.49	1.99		
Column Z		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Total Z		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Leavers	1	22	16	35	22	12	1	3	
		19.8	14.4	31.5	19.8	10.8	0.9	2.7	
		44.9	27.6	33.7	36.7	33.3	33.3	75.0	
		7.0	5.1	11.1	7.0	3.8	0.3	1.0	
Finishers	2	27	42	69	38	24	2	1	
		13.3	20.7	34.0	18.7	11.8	1.0	0.5	
		55.1	72.4	66.3	61.3	66.7	66.7	25.0	
		8.6	13.4	22.0	12.1	7.6	0.6	0.3	
Column	49	58	104	60	36	3	4		
Totals	15.6	18.5	33.1	19.1	11.5	1.0	1.3		

Chi square	= 6.48	Valid cases	= 314
Degrees of freedom	= 6	Missing cases	= 2
Probability of chance	= 0.371	Response rate	= 99.4 %
Cramer's V	= 0.144		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.142		

Caution: 4 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #41

----- BY ----- High School Ranking - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	upper	middle	lower	NA/GED	
Row %	20%	60%	20%			
Column %						Row
Total %	1	2	3	4		Totals
leavers	1	58	44	4	5	111
		52.3	39.6	3.6	4.5	35.4
		34.1	35.2	44.4	50.0	
		18.5	14.0	1.3	1.6	
finishers	2	112	81	5	5	203
		55.2	39.9	2.5	2.5	64.6
		65.9	64.8	55.6	50.0	
		35.7	25.8	1.6	1.6	
Column		170	125	9	10	314
Totals		54.1	39.8	2.9	3.2	100.0

Chi square	= 1.37	Valid cases	= 314
Degrees of freedom	= 3	Missing cases	= 2
Probability of chance	= 0.710	Response rate	= 99.4 %
Cramer's V	= 0.066		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.066		

Caution: 2 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #44

Highest Educational Level: Mother - (X Axis)

BY

Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	< H.S.	HS/GED	Post	Some	College	Row
	Z			HStrng	College	Degree	
	Column	Z					Row
	Total	Z					Totals
leavers	1	29	41	10	12	17	109
		26.6	37.6	9.2	11.0	15.6	34.8
		36.7	32.3	29.4	37.5	41.5	34.8
		9.3	13.1	3.2	3.8	5.4	
finishers	2	50	86	24	30	24	204
		24.5	42.2	11.8	9.8	11.8	65.2
		63.3	67.7	70.6	62.5	58.5	65.2
		16.0	27.5	7.7	6.4	7.7	
Column		79	127	34	32	41	313
Totals		25.2	40.6	10.9	10.2	13.1	100.0

Chi square	= 1.82	Valid cases	= 313
Degrees of freedom	= 4	Missing cases	= 3
Probability of chance	= 0.769	Response rate	= 99.1 %
Cramer's V	= 0.076		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.076		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #45

----- BY ----- Highest Educational Level: Father - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	< H.S.	HS/GED	Post	Some	College	College Degree	Row
Row %	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Column %	1	1	2	3	4	5	1	Total
Total %	1	1	2	3	4	5	1	Total
leavers	1	45	32	11	13	10	111	
		40.5	28.8	9.9	11.7	9.0	35.4	
		37.5	33.0	52.4	37.1	24.4	35.4	
		14.3	10.2	3.5	4.1	3.2		
finishers	2	75	65	10	22	31	203	
		36.9	32.0	4.9	10.8	15.3	64.6	
		62.5	67.0	47.6	62.9	75.6	64.6	
		23.9	20.7	3.2	7.0	9.9		
Column	1	120	97	21	35	41	314	
Totals	1	38.2	30.9	6.7	11.1	13.1	100.0	

Chi square	=	5.34	Valid cases	=	314
Degrees of freedom	=	4	Missing cases	=	2
Probability of chance	=	0.253	Response rate	=	99.4 %
Cramer's V	=	0.130			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.129			

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #46

----- BY -----
Highest Educational Level: Spouse - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	< H.S.	HS/GED	Post	Some	College	College Degree	Total
Row %	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Column %	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total %	1	1	2	3	4	5	1	Total
leavers	1	3	21	8	32	31		95
		3.2	22.1	8.4	33.7	32.6		
		42.9	42.0	38.1	34.4	27.7		33.6
		1.1	7.4	2.8	11.3	11.0		
finishers	2	4	29	13	61	81		188
		2.1	15.4	6.9	32.4	43.1		
		57.1	58.0	61.9	65.6	72.3		66.4
		1.4	10.2	4.6	21.6	28.6		
Column	7	50	21	93	112			283
Totals	2.5	17.7	7.4	32.9	39.6			100.0

Chi square = 3.82 Valid cases = 283
 Degrees of freedom = 4 Missing cases = 33
 Probability of chance = 0.430 Response rate = 89.6 %
 Cramer's V = 0.116
 Contingency coeff. = 0.115

Caution: 2 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #48

----- BY -----
No. Children at Home while in Program - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none	1 1 chld	1 2 chld	1 3 chld	1 4+chld	1	
	Row %	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Column %	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 Row
	Total %	1	0	1	1	2	1	3
		1	4	1	1	1	1	1 Totals
leavers	1	1	30	1	18	1	35	1
		1	27.3	1	16.4	1	31.8	1
		1	29.7	1	28.6	1	36.1	1
		1	9.6	1	5.7	1	11.1	1
		1		1		1	17	1
		1		1		1	10	1
		1		1		1	15.5	1
		1		1		1	9.1	1
		1		1		1	55.6	1
		1		1		1	35.0	1
finishers	2	1	71	1	45	1	62	1
		1	34.8	1	22.1	1	30.4	1
		1	70.3	1	71.4	1	63.9	1
		1	22.6	1	14.3	1	19.7	1
		1		1		1	18	1
		1		1		1	8	1
		1		1		1	3.9	1
		1		1		1	44.4	1
		1		1		1	65.0	1
		1		1		1	2.5	1
Column		1	101	1	63	1	97	1
Totals		1	32.2	1	20.1	1	30.9	1
		1		1		1	11.1	1
		1		1		1	5.7	1
		1		1		1	100.0	1

Chi square	= 8.61	Valid cases	= 314
Degrees of freedom	= 4	Missing cases	= 2
Probability of chance	= 0.072	Response rate	= 99.4 %
Cramer's V	= 0.166		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.163		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #49

BY -----
Marital Status While in Program - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	single	marr'd	seprtd	dvorcd	widowed	Totals
Row %	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Column %	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total %	1	1	2	3	4	5	Totals

leavers	1	9	81	2	17	1	110
		8.2	73.6	1.8	15.5	0.9	110
		42.9	32.0	40.0	53.1	33.3	35.0
		2.9	25.8	0.6	5.4	0.1	

finishers	2	12	172	3	15	2	204
		5.9	84.3	1.5	7.4	1.0	204
		57.1	68.0	60.0	46.9	66.7	65.0
		3.8	54.8	1.0	4.8	0.6	

Column	1	21	253	5	32	3	314
Totals	1	6.7	80.6	1.6	10.2	1.0	100.0

Chi square = 6.23 Valid cases = 314
 Degrees of freedom = 4 Missing cases = 2
 Probability of chance = 0.182 Response rate = 99.4 %
 Cramer's V = 0.141
 Contingency coeff. = 0.139

Caution: 4 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #51

----- BY ----- Reason Enrolled in External Degree - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	Work	Self	To Get	To get	Prsonl	other	
	Row %	Req'd	Impvmt	A Job	BtrJob	Chllng		Row
	Column %							Total
	Total %							
leavers	1	11	34	0	26	31	6	108
		10.2	31.5	0.0	24.1	28.7	5.6	34.7
		24.4	36.2	0.0	42.6	37.8	23.1	34.7
		3.5	10.9	0.0	8.4	10.0	1.9	
finishers	2	34	60	3	35	51	20	203
		16.7	29.6	1.5	17.2	25.1	9.9	65.3
		75.6	63.8	100.0	57.4	62.2	76.9	65.3
		10.9	19.3	1.0	11.3	16.4	6.4	
Column		45	94	3	61	82	26	311
Totals		14.5	30.2	1.0	19.6	26.4	8.4	100.0

Chi square = 7.35 Valid cases = 111
 Degrees of freedom = 5 Missing cases = 5
 Probability of chance = 0.195 Response rate = 98.4 %
 Cramer's V = 0.154
 Contingency coeff. = 0.152

Caution: 2 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #52

		How Educational Expenses Funded - (X Axis)										
BY		Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)										
Number		1 self/ 1 spouse	1 college 1 FinAid	1 bank 1 loans	1 family 1 friend	1 emplyr 1 reimb.	1 GI 1 bill	1 other				
Row Z		1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
Column %		1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
Total %		1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
leavers	1	71.1	1.0	0.0	5.1	16.1	1.0	3.1				
		73.2	1.0	0.0	5.2	16.5	1.0	3.1				
		35.3	20.0	0.0	62.5	30.8	50.0	50.0				
		25.3	0.4	0.0	1.8	5.7	0.4	1.1				
finishers	2	30.1	4.1	7.1	3.1	36.1	1.1	3.1				
		70.7	2.2	3.8	1.6	19.6	0.5	1.6				
		64.7	80.0	100.0	37.5	69.2	50.0	50.0				
		46.3	1.4	2.5	1.1	12.8	0.4	1.1				
Column		20.1	5.1	7.1	8.1	52.1	2.1	6.1				
Totals		71.5	1.8	2.5	2.8	18.5	0.7	2.1				

Chi square = 8.15 Valid cases = 281
Degrees of freedom = 6 Missing cases = 35
Probability of chance = 0.227 Response rate = 88.9 %
Cramer's V = 0.170
Contingency coeff. = 0.168

Caution: 9 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #53

----- BY ----- Distance From any Post-Secondary School - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 0-59	1 60-149	1 150-	1 250-	1 500+m1	1	
Row %	1 miles	1 miles	1 249 ml	1 499 ml	1	1	1	1
Column %	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 Row
Total %	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 Totals
		82	14	2	2	0		
leavers	1	82.0	14.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	100	
		33.3	43.8	28.6	66.7	0.0	34.7	
		28.5	4.9	0.7	0.7	0.0		
		164	18	5	1	0		
finishers	2	87.2	9.6	2.7	0.5	0.0	188	
		66.7	56.3	71.4	33.3	0.0	65.3	
		56.9	6.3	1.7	0.3	0.0		
Column	1	246	32	7	3	0	288	
Totals	1	85.4	11.1	2.4	1.0	0.0	100.0	

Chi square = 2.82 Valid cases = 288
 Degrees of freedom = 3 Missing cases = 28
 Probability of chance = 0.419 Response rate = 91.1 %
 Cramer's V = 0.099
 Contingency coeff. = 0.098

Caution: 4 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5
 Note: 1 column not included in Chi square calculations

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #54

----- BY -----
Miles From La Grande Campus - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	0-59	60-149	150-	250-	500+ml	
Row %	miles	miles	249 ml	499 ml			
Column %							Row
Total %							Total
leavers	1	14	25	27	28	5	
		14.1	25.3	27.3	28.3	5.1	99
		40.0	31.3	37.0	33.3	35.7	34.6
		4.9	8.7	9.4	9.8	1.7	
finishers	2	21	55	46	56	9	
		11.2	29.4	24.6	29.9	4.8	187
		60.0	68.8	63.0	66.7	64.3	65.4
		7.3	19.2	16.1	19.6	3.1	
Column	35	80	73	84	14	286	
Totals	12.2	28.0	25.5	29.4	4.9	100.0	

Chi square = 1.09 Valid cases = 286
 Degrees of freedom = 4 Missing cases = 30
 Probability of chance = 0.895 Response rate = 90.5 %
 Cramer's V = 0.062
 Contingency coeff. = 0.062

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #55

----- BY ----- Most Difficult Barrier to Participating - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	money	dstnce	time	noSprt	crises	other	Total
leavers	1	6	11	36	4	17	21	95
		6.3	11.6	37.9	4.2	17.9	22.1	
		31.6	26.2	36.0	26.7	53.1	36.8	35.8
		2.3	4.2	13.6	1.5	6.4	7.9	
finishers	2	13	31	64	11	15	36	170
		7.6	18.2	37.6	6.5	8.8	21.2	
		68.4	73.8	64.0	71.1	46.9	63.2	64.2
		4.9	11.7	24.2	4.2	5.7	13.6	
Column Totals		19	42	100	15	32	57	265
Totals		7.2	15.8	37.7	5.7	12.1	21.5	100.0

Chi square	= 6.58	Valid cases	= 265
Degrees of freedom	= 5	Missing cases	= 51
Probability of chance	= 0.254	Response rate	= 83.9 %
Cramer's V	= 0.158		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.156		

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #62

----- BY -----
Confidence with Writing Ability - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none	1 small/	1 great/	1	
Row %	1	1	1 some	1 >great	1	1 Row
Column %	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total %	1	1	1 2	1 3	1	1 Totals
leavers	1	1 2	1 31	1 76	1	1 109
	1	1 1.8	1 28.4	1 69.7	1	1 34.8
	1	1 66.7	1 37.3	1 33.5	1	1
	1	1 0.6	1 9.9	1 24.3	1	1
finishers	2	1 1	1 52	1 151	1	1 204
	1	1 0.5	1 25.5	1 74.0	1	1 65.2
	1	1 33.3	1 62.7	1 66.5	1	1
	1	1 0.2	1 16.6	1 48.2	1	1
Column	1	1 3	1 83	1 227	1	1 313
Totals	1	1 1.0	1 26.5	1 72.5	1	1 100.0

Chi square = 1.75 Valid cases = 313
Degrees of freedom = 2 Missing cases = 3
Probability of chance = 0.416 Response rate = 99.1 %
Cramer's V = 0.075
Contingency coeff. = 0.075

Caution: 2 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #66

----- BY -----
Problem with finances - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	1 none	1 small	1 some	1 great	1 Dgreat	1	1	1	1	1
	Row %	1	1 extent	1 extent	1 extent	1 extent	1	1	1	1	1
	Column %	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 Row
	Total %	1	1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5	1	1	1	1	1 Totals
leavers	1	1 38	1 26	1 31	1 11	1 10	1	1	1	1	1 110
		1 34.5	1 18.2	1 28.2	1 10.0	1 9.1	1	1	1	1	1 35.1
		1 12.1	1 6.4	1 9.9	1 3.5	1 3.2	1	1	1	1	1
finishers	2	1 82	1 49	1 49	1 16	1 7	1	1	1	1	1 209
		1 40.4	1 24.1	1 24.1	1 7.9	1 3.4	1	1	1	1	1 64.9
		1 68.3	1 71.0	1 61.3	1 59.3	1 41.2	1	1	1	1	1 64.9
		1 26.2	1 15.7	1 15.7	1 5.1	1 2.2	1	1	1	1	1
Column		1 120	1 69	1 86	1 27	1 17	1	1	1	1	1 313
Totals		1 38.3	1 22.0	1 25.6	1 8.6	1 5.4	1	1	1	1	1 100.0

Chi square = 6.79 Valid cases = 313
 Degrees of freedom = 4 Missing cases = 3
 Probability of chance = 0.147 Response rate = 99.1 %
 Cramer's V = 0.147
 Contingency coeff. = 0.146

LEAVERS vs FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #72

Encouragement from: Siblings - (X Axis)
BY
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	n/a	none	small/ some	great/ >great	Row	Totals
	1	0	1	2	3	%	
leavers	1	49	21	23	12	105	34.2
		46.7	20.0	21.9	11.4		
		42.6	27.6	31.1	28.6		
		16.0	6.8	7.5	4.9		
finishers	2	66	55	51	30	202	65.8
		32.7	27.2	25.2	14.9		
		57.4	72.4	68.9	71.4		
		21.5	17.9	16.6	9.8		
Column Totals	1	115	76	74	42	307	100.0
		37.5	24.8	24.1	13.7		

Chi square	= 5.98	Valid cases	= 307
Degrees of freedom	= 3	Missing cases	= 9
Probability of chance	= 0.113	Response rate	= 97.2 %
Cramer's V	= 0.140		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.138		

A COMPARISON BETWEEN LEAVERS AND FINISHERS ON
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: SEX

Sex - (X Axis)

BY

Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	Female	Male	
Row %	1	1	1	1
Column %	1	1	1	1 Row
Total %	1	1	2	1 Totals

leavers	1	55	57	112
		49.1	50.9	
		33.5	37.5	35.4
		17.4	18.0	

finishers	2	109	95	204
		53.4	46.6	
		66.5	62.5	64.6
		34.5	30.1	

Column	1	164	152	316
Totals	1	51.9	48.1	100.0

Corrected Chi square = .38
 Degrees of freedom = 1
 Probability of chance = 0.536
 Phi = 0.035
 Contingency coeff. = 0.035

Valid cases = 316
 Missing cases = 0
 Response rate = 100.0 %

A COMPARISON BETWEEN LEAVERS AND FINISHERS ON
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: AGE

Variable under analysis - Age

Variable used to group cases - Leaver or Finisher

Group 1 1/
1=leavers

Number of cases	= 112
Mean	= 46.39
Variance	= 94.51
Standard deviation	= 9.72
Standard error of the mean	= 0.92

Group 2 2/
2=finishers

Number of cases	= 204
Mean	= 44.94
Variance	= 79.27
Standard deviation	= 8.90
Standard error of the mean	= 0.62

T-Test statistics

Difference (Mean X - Mean Y)	= 1.457
Standard error of the difference	= 1.086
t - statistic	= 1.342
Degrees of freedom	= 314
Probability of t (One tailed test)	= 0.089
Probability of t (Two tailed test)	= 0.177

A COMPARISON BETWEEN LEAVERS AND FINISHERS ON
STUDENT DATA BASE INFORMATION: RACE

BY		Ethnicity - (X Axis)												
		Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)												
	Number	Black	Indian	Asian/	Hispanic	White,	Int'l	NoResp						
Row Z	1	noHspn	Alaskan	Pacific	1	noHspn	1	1						
Column Z	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Total Z	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	4	1	5	1	6	1	7
leavers														
	1	2	3	0	1	99	0	7						
	1	1.8	2.7	0.0	0.9	88.4	0.0	6.3						
	1	66.7	33.3	0.0	100.0	36.1	0.0	29.2						
	1	0.6	1.0	0.0	0.3	31.5	0.0	2.2						
finishers														
	2	1	6	2	0	175	1	17						
	1	0.5	3.0	1.0	0.0	86.6	0.5	8.4						
	1	33.3	66.7	100.0	0.0	63.9	100.0	70.8						
	1	0.3	1.9	0.6	0.0	55.7	0.3	5.4						
Column	1	3	9	2	1	274	1	24						
Totals	1	1.0	2.9	0.6	0.3	87.3	0.3	7.6						
Chi square		= 5.21		Valid cases = 314										
Degrees of freedom		= 6		Missing cases = 2										
Probability of chance		= 0.517		Response rate = 99.4 %										
Cramer's V		= 0.129												
Contingency coeff.		= 0.128												

Caution: 9 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

RURAL (<50,000) vs URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #23

----- BY ----- Academic Expectations too Difficult? - (X Axis)
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	I yes	I no	I	
Row %	I	I	I	I	
Column %	I	I	I	I	Row
Total %	I	1	2	I	Totals
		-----I-----	-----I-----	-----I-----	
		I 26	I 185	I	
Rural & Town	1	I 12.3	I 87.7	I 211	
		I 70.3	I 67.3	I 67.6	
		I 8.3	I 59.3	I	
		-----I-----	-----I-----	-----I-----	
		I 11	I 90	I	
Urban	2	I 10.9	I 89.1	I 101	
		I 29.7	I 32.7	I 32.4	
		I 3.5	I 28.8	I	
		-----I-----	-----I-----	-----I-----	
Column	I	I 37	I 275	I 312	
Totals	I	I 11.9	I 88.1	I 100.0	

Corrected Chi square = .03
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.858
Phi = 0.010
Contingency coeff. = 0.010

Valid cases = 312
Missing cases = 4
Response rate = 98.7 %

RURAL (<50,000) vs URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #55

----- BY ----- Most Difficult Barrier to Participating - (X Axis)
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	money	distance	time	noSprt	crises	other	Totals
Row %								
Column %								
Total %	1	2	3	4	5	6		
Rural & Town	1	12	36	63	10	24	34	179
		6.7	20.1	35.2	5.6	13.4	19.0	
		63.2	85.7	63.0	66.7	75.0	59.6	67.5
		4.5	13.6	23.8	3.8	9.1	12.8	
Urban	2	7	6	37	5	8	23	86
		8.1	7.0	43.0	5.8	9.3	26.7	
		36.8	14.3	37.0	33.3	25.0	40.4	32.5
		2.6	2.3	14.0	1.9	3.0	8.7	
Column		19	42	100	15	32	57	265
Totals		7.2	15.8	37.7	5.7	12.1	21.5	100.0

Chi square	= 9.87	Valid cases	= 265
Degrees of freedom	= 5	Missing cases	= 51
Probability of chance	= 0.079	Response rate	= 83.9 %
Cramer's V	= 0.193		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.189		

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

RURAL (<50,000) vs URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #56

----- BY -----
Satisfaction w/Amount of Academic Advice - (X Axis)
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none	I small/ I some	I great/ I >great	I	I
Row %						Row
Column %						Totals
Total %		1	2	3		
Rural & Town	1	15	62	134		
		7.1	29.4	63.5		211
		83.3	63.3	68.4		67.6
		4.8	19.9	42.9		
Urban	2	3	36	62		
		3.0	35.6	61.4		101
		16.7	36.7	31.6		32.4
		1.0	11.5	19.9		
Column Totals		18	98	196		312
		5.8	31.4	62.8		100.0

Chi square	= 2.92	Valid cases	= 312
Degrees of freedom	= 2	Missing cases	= 4
Probability of chance	= 0.231	Response rate	= 98.7 %
Cramer's V	= 0.097		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.096		

RURAL (<50,000) vs URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #59

----- BY -----
Satisfaction w/Quality of Academic Advic - (X Axis)
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none	I small/ I some	I great/ I >great	I	I	I
Row %							
Column %							
Total %		1	2	3			Totals
Rural & Town	1	14	51	145			210
		6.7	24.3	69.0			68.0
		82.4	62.2	69.0			68.0
		4.5	16.5	46.9			
Urban	2	3	31	65			99
		3.0	31.3	65.7			32.0
		17.6	37.8	31.0			21.0
		1.0	10.0	21.0			
Column		17	82	210			309
Totals		5.5	26.5	68.0			100.0

Chi square	=	2.98	Valid cases	=	309
Degrees of freedom	=	2	Missing cases	=	7
Probability of chance	=	0.225	Response rate	=	97.8 %
Cramer's V	=	0.098			
Contingency coeff.	=	0.098			

RURAL (<50,000) vs URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #66

----- BY -----
Problem with Finances - (X Axis)
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none	I small	I some	I great	I >great	I	I	I	I	I
Row %	I	I	I extent	I extent	I extent	I extent	I	I	I	I	I
Column %	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I Row
Total %	I	1	I 2	I 3	I 4	I 5	I	I	I	I	I Totals
		I 83	I 50	I 48	I 19	I 13	I	I	I	I	I
Rural & Town	1	I 39.0	I 23.5	I 22.5	I 8.9	I 6.1	I	I	I	I	I 213
		I 69.2	I 72.5	I 60.0	I 70.4	I 76.5	I	I	I	I	I 68.1
		I 26.5	I 16.0	I 15.3	I 6.1	I 4.2	I	I	I	I	I
		I 37	I 19	I 32	I 8	I 4	I	I	I	I	I
Urban	2	I 37.0	I 19.0	I 32.0	I 8.0	I 4.0	I	I	I	I	I 100
		I 30.8	I 27.5	I 40.0	I 29.6	I 23.5	I	I	I	I	I 31.9
		I 11.8	I 6.1	I 10.2	I 2.6	I 1.3	I	I	I	I	I
Column		I 120	I 69	I 80	I 27	I 17	I	I	I	I	I 313
Totals		I 38.3	I 22.0	I 25.6	I 8.6	I 5.4	I	I	I	I	I 100.0

Chi square	= 3.69	Valid cases	= 313
Degrees of freedom	= 4	Missing cases	= 3
Probability of chance	= 0.449	Response rate	= 99.1 %
Cramer's V	= 0.109		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.108		

RURAL (<50,000) vs URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #69

Rules/Procedures Inhibited Progress - (X Axis)
BY
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none	I small/ I some	I great/ I >great	I	I Row
Row %						
Column %						
Total %		1	2	3		Totals
Rural & Town	1	135	56	19		210
		64.3	26.7	9.0		67.7
		65.2	71.8	76.0		
		43.5	18.1	6.1		
Urban	2	72	22	6		100
		72.0	22.0	6.0		32.3
		34.8	28.2	24.0		
		23.2	7.1	1.9		
Column		207	78	25		310
Totals		66.8	25.2	8.1		100.0

Chi square	= 1.97	Valid cases	= 310
Degrees of freedom	= 2	Missing cases	= 6
Probability of chance	= 0.373	Response rate	= 98.1 %
Cramer's V	= 0.080		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.079		

RURAL FARM vs TOWN/URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #23

----- BY ----- Academic Expectations too Difficult? - (X Axis)
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	I yes	I no	I
Row %	I	I	I	I
Column %	I	I	I	I Row
Total %	I	1	2	I Totals
		10	41	
Rural Farm	1	19.6	80.4	51
		27.0	14.9	16.3
		3.2	13.1	
		27	234	
Town & Cities	2	10.3	89.7	261
		73.0	85.1	83.7
		8.7	75.0	
Column		37	275	312
Totals		11.9	88.1	100.0

Corrected Chi square = 2.67
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.102
Phi = 0.093
Contingency coeff. = 0.092

Valid cases = 312
Missing cases = 4
Response rate = 98.7 %

RURAL FARM vs TOWN/URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #24

----- BY ----- Degree Requirements Clear by Advisor? - (X Axis)
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	I yes	I no	I	
Row %	I	I	I	I	
Column %	I	I	I	I	Row
Total %	I	1	I	2	I Totals
		I 43	I 9	I	
Rural Farm	1	I 82.7	I 17.3	I	52
		I 15.6	I 23.1	I	16.6
		I 13.7	I 2.9	I	
		I 232	I 30	I	
Town & Cities	2	I 88.5	I 11.5	I	262
		I 84.4	I 76.9	I	83.4
		I 73.9	I 9.6	I	
Column	I	275	I 39	I	314
Totals	I	87.6	I 12.4	I	100.0

Corrected Chi square = .88
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.347
Phi = 0.053
Contingency coeff. = 0.053

Valid cases = 314
Missing cases = 2
Response rate = 99.4 %

RURAL FARM vs TOWN/URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #55

Most Difficult Barrier to Participating - (X Axis)

----- BY -----
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	money	dstnce	time	noSprt	crises	other	Total
Row X	1	2	3	4	5	6		
Column X	1	2	3	4	5	6		Row
Total X	1	2	3	4	5	6		Total
Rural Farm	1	4.4	26.7	33.3	2.2	8.9	24.4	45
		10.5	28.6	15.0	6.7	12.5	19.3	17.0
		0.8	4.5	5.7	0.4	1.5	4.2	
Town & Cities	2	7.7	13.6	38.6	6.4	12.7	20.9	220
		89.5	71.4	85.0	93.3	87.5	80.7	83.0
		6.4	11.3	32.1	5.3	10.6	17.4	
Column	1	19	42	100	15	32	57	265
Totals	1	7.2	15.8	37.7	5.7	12.1	21.5	100.0

Chi square	= 6.64	Valid cases	= 265
Degrees of freedom	= 5	Missing cases	= 51
Probability of chance	= 0.248	Response rate	= 83.9 %
Cramer's V	= 0.158		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.156		

Caution: 2 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

RURAL FARM vs TOWN/URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #38

Rules/Procedures Inhibited Progress - (X Axis)
BY
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none	I small/	I great/	I	
Row %	I	I	I some	I >great	I	I Row
Column %	I	I	I	I	I	I
Total %	I	I 1	I 2	I 3	I	I Totals
		I 33	I 11	I 7	I	
Rural Farm	1	I 64.7	I 21.6	I 13.7	I	I 51
		I 15.9	I 14.1	I 28.0	I	I 16.5
		I 10.6	I 3.5	I 2.3	I	
		I 174	I 67	I 18	I	
Town & Cities	2	I 67.2	I 25.9	I 6.9	I	I 259
		I 84.1	I 85.9	I 72.0	I	I 83.5
		I 56.1	I 21.6	I 5.8	I	
Column		I 207	I 78	I 25	I	I 310
Totals		I 66.8	I 25.2	I 8.1	I	I 100.0

Chi square	= 2.77	Valid cases	= 310
Degrees of freedom	= 2	Missing cases	= 6
Probability of chance	= 0.249	Response rate	= 98.1 %
Cramer's V	= 0.095		
Contingency coeff,	= 0.094		

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

RURAL FARM vs TOWN/URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #56

----- BY ----- Satisfaction w/Amount of Academic Advice - (X Axis)
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none	I small/ I some	I great/ I >great	I	I Row
Row X	I	I	I	I	I	I
Column X	I	I	I	I	I	I
Total X	I	1	2	3	I	Totals
		4	14	34		
Rural Farm	1	7.7	26.9	65.4		52
		22.2	14.3	17.3		16.7
		1.3	4.5	10.9		
		14	84	162		
Town & Cities	2	5.4	32.3	62.3		260
		77.8	85.7	82.7		83.3
		4.5	26.9	51.9		
Column		18	98	196		312
Totals		5.8	31.4	62.8		100.0

Chi square	= .86	Valid cases	= 312
Degrees of freedom	= 2	Missing cases	= 4
Probability of chance	= 0.649	Response rate	= 98.7 %
Cramer's V	= 0.053		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.052		

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

RURAL FARM vs TOWN/URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #59

----- BY ----- Satisfaction w/Quality of Academic Advic - (X Axis)
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none	I small/ I some	I great/ I >great	I	I Row
Row X	I	I	I	I	I	I
Column X	I	I	I	I	I	I
Total X	I	1	2	3	I	Totals
		4	10	38		
Rural Farm	1	7.7	19.2	73.1		52
		23.5	12.2	18.1		16.8
		1.3	3.2	12.3		
		13	72	172		
Town & Cities	2	5.1	28.0	66.9		257
		76.5	87.8	81.9		83.2
		4.2	23.3	55.7		
Column		17	82	210		309
Totals		5.5	26.5	68.0		100.0

Chi square	= 2.04	Valid cases	= 309
Degrees of freedom	= 2	Missing cases	= 7
Probability of chance	= 0.360	Response rate	= 97.8 %
Cramer's V	= 0.081		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.081		

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

RURAL FARM vs TOWN/URBAN
SURVEY QUESTION #66

----- BY -----
Problem with Finances - (X Axis)
Type of Community Lived In - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none	I small	I some	I great	I >great	I	I	I	I	I
Row %	I	I	I extent	I extent	I extent	I extent	I	I	I	I	I
Column %	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I Row
Total %	I	1	I 2	I 3	I 4	I 5	I	I	I	I	I Totals
		21	9	13	4	5					
Rural Farm	1	40.4	17.3	25.0	7.7	9.6	52				
		17.5	13.0	16.3	14.8	29.4	16.6				
		6.7	2.9	4.2	1.3	1.6					
		99	60	67	23	12					
Town & Cities	2	37.9	23.0	25.7	8.8	4.6	261				
		82.5	87.0	83.8	85.2	70.6	83.4				
		31.6	19.2	21.4	7.3	3.8					
Column		120	69	80	27	17	313				
Totals		38.3	22.0	25.6	8.6	5.4	100.0				

Chi square = 2.78 Valid cases = 313
 Degrees of freedom = 4 Missing cases = 3
 Probability of chance = 0.595 Response rate = 99.1 %
 Cramer's V = 0.094
 Contingency coeff, = 0.094

Caution: 2 cells contain an expected frequency less than 5

FEMALE FINISHERS vs MALE FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #48

----- BY ----- No. Children at Home while in Program - (X Axis)
Sex - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none	I 1+chld	I	
	Row %	I	I	I	
	Column %	I	I	I	Row
	Total %	I 0	I 1	I	Totals
-----I-----I-----I-----					
Female finishers 1	I	45	I 64	I	
	I	41.3	I 58.7	I	109
	I	63.4	I 48.1	I	53.4
	I	22.1	I 31.4	I	
-----I-----I-----I-----					
Male finishers 2	I	26	I 69	I	
	I	27.4	I 72.6	I	95
	I	36.6	I 51.9	I	46.6
	I	12.7	I 33.8	I	
-----I-----I-----I-----					
Column	I	71	I 133	I	204
Totals	I	34.8	I 65.2	I	100.0

Corrected Chi square = 3.74
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.053
Phi = 0.135
Contingency coeff. = 0.134

Valid cases = 204
Missing cases = 0
Response rate = 100.0 %

FEMALE LEAVERS vs MALE LEAVERS
SURVEY QUESTION #48

----- BY ----- No. Children at Home while in Program - (X Axis)
Sex - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none	I 1+chld	I	
Row %	I	I	I	I	
Column %	I	I	I	I	Row
Total %	I	0	I	1	I Totals
-----I-----I-----I-----					
Female leavers	1	I 18	I 36	I	
		I 33.3	I 66.7	I	54
		I 60.0	I 45.0	I	49.1
		I 16.4	I 32.7	I	
-----I-----I-----I-----					
Male leavers	2	I 12	I 44	I	
		I 21.4	I 78.6	I	56
		I 40.0	I 55.0	I	50.9
		I 10.9	I 40.0	I	
-----I-----I-----I-----					
Column	I	30	I 80	I	110
Totals	I	27.3	I 72.7	I	100.0

Corrected Chi square = 1.4
Degrees of freedom = 1
Probability of chance = 0.235
Phi = 0.113
Contingency coeff. = 0.112

Valid cases = 110
Missing cases = 2
Response rate = 98.2 %

MALE LEAVERS vs MALE FINISHERS
REVISED SURVEY QUESTION #48

----- BY ----- No. Children at Home while in Program - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none-1	I 2+chld	I	
Row %	I	I	I	I	
Column %	I	I	I	I	Row
Total %	I	1	I	2	I Totals
		I	I	I	I
male leavers	1	I 18	I 38	I	
		I 32.1	I 67.9	I	56
		I 28.6	I 43.2	I	37.1
		I 11.9	I 25.2	I	
		I	I	I	I
male finishers	2	I 45	I 50	I	
		I 47.4	I 52.6	I	95
		I 71.4	I 56.8	I	62.9
		I 29.8	I 33.1	I	
		I	I	I	I
Column		I 63	I 88	I	151
Totals		I 41.7	I 58.3	I	100.0

Corrected Chi square	= 2.76	Valid cases	= 151
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 1
Probability of chance	= 0.097	Response rate	= 99.3 %
Phi	= 0.135		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.134		

FEMALE LEAVERS vs FEMALE FINISHERS
REVISED SURVEY QUESTION #48

----- BY ----- No. Children at Home while in Program - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none-1	I 2+chld	I	
Row %	I	I	I	I	
Column %	I	I	I	I	Row
Total %	I	0	I	1	I Totals
-----I-----I-----I-----					
female leavers 1	I	30	I	24	I
	I	55.6	I	44.4	I 54
	I	29.7	I	38.7	I 33.1
	I	18.4	I	14.7	I
-----I-----I-----I-----					
female finishers 2	I	71	I	38	I
	I	65.1	I	34.9	I 109
	I	70.3	I	61.3	I 66.9
	I	43.6	I	23.3	I
-----I-----I-----I-----					
Column	I	101	I	62	I 163
Totals	I	62.0	I	38.0	I 100.0

Corrected Chi square	= 1.02	Valid cases	= 163
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 1
Probability of chance	= 0.310	Response rate	= 99.4 %
Phi	= 0.079		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.079		

MALE LEAVERS vs MALE FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #48

----- BY -----
No. Children at Home while in Program - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none	I 1+chld	I
Row %	I	I	I	I
Column %	I	I	I	I Row
Total %	I	0	1	I Totals
	-----I-----I-----I-----			
	I 12 I 44 I			
male leavers 1	I 21.4 I 78.6 I 56			
	I 31.6 I 38.9 I 37.1			
	I 7.9 I 29.1 I			
	-----I-----I-----I-----			
	I 26 I 69 I			
male finishers 2	I 27.4 I 72.6 I 95			
	I 68.4 I 61.1 I 62.9			
	I 17.2 I 45.7 I			
	-----I-----I-----I-----			
Column	I 38 I 113 I 151			
Totals	I 25.2 I 74.8 I 100.0			

Corrected Chi square	= .38	Valid cases	= 151
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 1
Probability of chance	= 0.536	Response rate	= 99.3 %
Phi	= 0.050		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.050		

FEMALE LEAVERS vs FEMALE FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #48

----- BY ----- No. Children at Home while in Program_ (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	I none	I 1+chld	I	
Row %	I	I	I	I	I
Column %	I	I	I	I	I Row
Total %	I	0	I	1	I Totals
	I	I	I	I	I
female leavers 1	I 18	I 33.3	I 36	I 66.7	I 54
	I 28.6	I 36.0	I 33.1	I	I
	I 11.0	I 22.1	I	I	I
	I	I	I	I	I
female finishers 2	I 45	I 41.3	I 64	I 58.7	I 109
	I 71.4	I 64.0	I 66.9	I	I
	I 27.6	I 39.3	I	I	I
	I	I	I	I	I
Column Totals	I 63	I 100	I 163	I	I
	I 38.7	I 61.3	I 100.0	I	I

Corrected Chi square	= .65	Valid cases	= 163
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 1
Probability of chance	= 0.418	Response rate	= 99.4 %
Phi	= 0.063		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.063		

MALE LEAVERS vs MALE FINISHERS
SURVEY QUESTION #49

----- BY ----- Marital Status While in Program - (X Axis)
Leaver or Finisher - (Y Axis)

	Number	single	marr'd	Totals
male leavers	1	5	51	56
		8.9	91.1	37.1
		38.5	37.0	33.8
		3.3	33.8	
male finishers	2	8	87	95
		8.4	91.6	62.9
		61.5	63.0	57.6
		5.3	57.6	
Column		13	138	151
Totals		8.6	91.4	100.0

Corrected Chi square	= .03	Valid cases	= 151
Degrees of freedom	= 1	Missing cases	= 1
Probability of chance	= 0.847	Response rate	= 99.3 %
Phi	= 0.014		
Contingency coeff.	= 0.014		

Caution: 1 cell contains an expected frequency less than 5

APPENDIX D

STEPWISE MULTIPLE REGRESSION

The table in the following section shows the results of regressing responses from the External Degree Survey to five questions that were deemed less dependent on the length of time the participants had spent in the Program:

Question 19: Awareness of other External Degrees

Question 27: Linkage of Degree with Career Requirement

Question 36: Grade Level upon Admission to Program

Question 37: Highest Degree Aspirations

Question 50: Amount of Time to Commit to Program

PRINTOUT OF MULTIPLE STEPWISE REGRESSION PROCEDURE

```

1
MTB > step c6 c10 c12 c13 c15-c17 c19-c21 c23-c26;
MTB > fremove 0;
MTB > fenter 1.
STEPWISE REGRESSION OF C6 ON 13 PREDICTORS, WITH N = 297

STEP      1      2      3      4      5      6      7
CONSTANT  1.746  1.756  1.705  1.716  1.712  1.680  1.151
C23      -0.716 -0.707 -0.697 -0.705 -0.701 -0.670 -0.140
T-RATIO  -9.33  -9.36  -9.32  -9.48  -9.42  -8.68  -0.74
C20              -0.61 -0.57 -0.58 -0.57 -0.56 -0.57
T-RATIO              -3.33 -3.08 -3.16 -3.14 -3.08 -3.19
C12                    0.131 0.120 0.120 0.123 0.123
T-RATIO                    2.68  2.47  2.47  2.53  2.56
C19                          -0.47 -0.46 -0.47 -0.48
T-RATIO                          -2.29 -2.27 -2.30 -2.38
C26                                0.24  0.27  0.80
T-RATIO                                1.33  1.49  3.20
C24                                  0.072 0.601
T-RATIO                                  1.42  3.33
C25                                    0.56
T-RATIO                                    3.05
S          0.416  0.409  0.405  0.402  0.401  0.400  0.395
R-SQ      22.78  25.58  27.36  28.65  29.08  29.57  31.76

```

```

1
STEP      8      9      10     11
CONSTANT  1.152  1.153  1.195  1.169
C23      -0.12  -0.10  -0.05  -0.03
T-RATIO  -0.63  -0.52  -0.26  -0.16
C20      -0.53  -0.51  -0.51  -0.51
T-RATIO  -2.89  -2.84  -2.81  -2.80
C12       0.121  0.118  0.119  0.116
T-RATIO   2.53  2.47  2.50  2.43
C19      -0.41  -0.42  -0.41  -0.40
T-RATIO  -2.03  -2.05  -2.02  -1.96
C26       0.82  0.82  0.84  0.85
T-RATIO   3.29  3.31  3.38  3.43
C24       0.62  0.63  0.68  0.68
T-RATIO   3.41  3.51  3.72  3.72
C25       0.56  0.57  0.61  0.61
T-RATIO   3.12  3.20  3.39  3.39
C15      -0.102 -0.120 -0.204 -0.214
T-RATIO  -1.53  -1.76  -2.40  -2.51
C16              -0.090 -0.174 -0.182
T-RATIO              -1.39  -2.11  -2.20
C17                    -0.107 -0.114
T-RATIO                    -1.64  -1.74
C10                          0.051
T-RATIO                          1.03
S          0.394  0.393  0.392  0.392
R-SQ      32.32  32.77  33.39  33.64
MTB > outfile

LEGEND
COMPUTER SURVEY RESPONSE
VARIABLE QUESTION NUMBER
C23      50      1
C20      37      2
C12      27      1
C19      37      1
C26      50      4
C24      50      2
C25      50      3
C15      36      1
C16      36      2
C17      36      3
C10      19      1

```