

Summary of 49er Finish Program Survey Findings

The 49er Finish Program targets students who have stopped out of UNC Charlotte, have earned 90 or more credit hours, have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 and have not yet completed their degrees.

In March 2006, 1,232 former UNC Charlotte students who met the criteria above were mailed a 49er Finish Program Survey. One hundred and thirty-three (11%) of the 1,232 former students responded to the survey.

Of the 133 respondents, 58% (77) were female and 42% (56) were male. Eighty percent (107) were Caucasian, 14% (18) were African-American, 3% (4) were Asian/Pacific Islander and 2% (2) were Hispanic. Forty-seven percent (62) were married, 51% (68) had children and 86% (114) were employed.

Sixty-six percent (88) of the survey respondents viewed their withdrawal as temporary. Twenty-seven percent (36) transferred to another college or university. Four percent (5) concluded that college was not for them.

Survey respondents identified the following as factors contributing to their withdrawal from UNC Charlotte:

- Personal issues (79%)
- Employment issues (71%)
- Dissatisfaction with UNC Charlotte (59%)
- A desire for a different educational experience (58%)
- Financial issues (57%)
- Inadequate course and curriculum offerings (56%)
- Active military duty (1%)

Personal

Twenty percent (27) indicated that they were unable to balance school with other life demands. Sixteen percent (21) said that family issues contributed to their withdrawal. Eight percent (11) cited health issues, and 6% (8) cited a change in marital status as contributors. Nine percent (12) said they needed time to reevaluate their educational/career goals.

Employment

Twenty-nine percent (39) said that school conflicted with their work schedule. Seventeen percent (23) said they accepted new employment too far away to commute to UNC Charlotte. Twelve percent (16) decided to pull their college education on hold after receiving a job promotion. Eleven percent (14) indicated that they had lost their job and could no longer afford college.

Dissatisfaction with UNC Charlotte

Eighteen percent (25) cited the quality of advising as the source of their dissatisfaction with UNC Charlotte and 12% (16) cited campus parking. Eight percent (10) were dissatisfied with the quality of instruction and 5% (7) were dissatisfied with the availability of faculty and/or staff.

Desire for a Different Educational Experience

Thirteen percent (17) desired a school closer to home and 8% (10) indicated a desire for on-line courses.

Financial Issues

Fifty-seven percent (76) indicated that lack of money was a contributing factor with 19% (25) indicating that they experienced unanticipated financial difficulties, 17%% (23) indicating an inability to pay for college and 5% (7) indicating they did not want to accrue loan debt to pay for college.

Inadequate Course and Curriculum Offerings

Fifty-six percent (74) indicated that courses were not available when they needed them, or were closed out, or were not offered at all. Eleven percent (14) changed their major to one that UNC Charlotte did not offer at the time of their withdrawal.

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