Commitment to HSU and Intent to Return Question Analysis
5 Years of data for first-year students (Fall 2013-Fall 2017)
Weeks 3-5 of first semester

Angela Rich
Office of Institutional Effectiveness
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Commitment to completing college vs. commitment to completing college at HSU \((n=3,807)\)
RETENTION BASED ON COMMITMENT TO HSU

To what degree are you committed to completing a degree, certificate or licensure at HSU? (n=3,807)

University Retention Rates | High commitment to HSU | Low to moderate commitment to HSU
---|---|---
Enrolled Year 2: 72% | 79% | 61%
Enrolled Year 3: 61% | 68% | 54%
Enrolled Year 4: 58% | 64% | 49%
Enrolled Year 5: 40% | 43% | 32%
Graduation trickle begins
For the Spring Term

To what degree do you intend to come back to HSU for the spring term? (n=3,770)

For the Next Academic Year

To what degree do you intend to come back to HSU for the next academic year? (n=3,760)
SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN?

If you do not return to HSU, which of the following best describes your plan? (n=783)

- 3% I do not plan to attend any college or university
- 7% I plan to take some time off and come back to HSU in the future
- 49% I plan to transfer to another institution
- 15% I plan to pursue a study abroad opportunity or co-op/internship away from HSU
- 22% I plan to graduate or complete a certificate or licensure
- 4% Other

Mayday!

First-year students who plan to transfer to another institution:

- N=381, which is 10% of total respondents.

- **No** statistically significant differences between:
  - URG/not URG
  - First gen/not first gen
  - Low-income/not low-income
  - Male/female

- **There were** statistically significant differences between low/moderate and high commitment levels to HSU.
WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS WHO WANT TO TRANSFER TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION?

**Low/Moderate Commitment to HSU (n=177)**
- 39% said HSU was their first choice
- 55% intended to transfer when they entered HSU
- Most plan on transferring to another CSU
- 36% said there was a high likelihood of choosing HSU again if they could do it over
- 56% said they would recommend HSU to someone who wants to attend college
- 32% said they would rate their experience at HSU as excellent

**High Commitment to HSU (n=196)**
- 50% said HSU was their first choice
- 74% intended to transfer when they entered HSU
- Most plan on transferring to another CSU
- 61% said there was a high likelihood of choosing HSU again if they could do it over
- 81% said they would recommend HSU to someone who wants to attend college
- 61% said they would rate their experience at HSU as excellent
TOP 5 REASONS FOR WANTING TO TRANSFER TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION

Low/Moderate Commitment to HSU (n=177)
1. Personal reasons
2. Want a different location
3. Financial issues
4. Academic reasons
5. Social reasons

High Commitment to HSU (n=196)
1. Want a different location
2. Personal reasons
3. Financial issues
4. Academic reasons
5. Pursue a degree not at HSU
LISTENING TO THE STUDENT VOICE:
“I NEED TO BE CLOSER TO HOME”

Low/Moderate Commitment to HSU (n=177)

- “I am looking at institutions closer to home due to family needs. I need to take care of my family.”
- “I want to be closer to home. Being away is causing a lot of unnecessary stress in my life.”
- “I don’t think I can manage being miles away from friends and family.”
- “I have come to realize Humboldt is too far from home and too expensive. It was exciting at first, but now it’s lowly tolerable.”
- “I feel lonely here at HSU. I miss home. I’m stressed about exams and being stressed makes me miss home even more. Transferring to a school closer to home might help me and make my learning experience better.”
- “I love the campus and the faculty but Humboldt is 16 hours away from home and I faced some racism in the nearby towns. I am the first one in my family to attend a university and it’s hard for them to understand and it’s hard for us getting used to being separated. Especially my mother who is developing depression because I am not close to her. In Eureka not long ago, I was close to getting hit by a car with a “Trump” supporter sticker in the back, I had to run and the driver laughed. Yet, if things can get better, I would gladly stay in Humboldt.”

High Commitment to HSU (n=196)

- “If I were to leave it would be to go to another institution much closer to my home and be able to have much more things made available to me.”
- “If I leave HSU, I plan to go to another university closer to home to help my parents with my siblings. My family relies on me a lot and I should be closer for them.”
- “Although I am enjoying a new change of scenery, I am missing my hometown and thinking about the next 4 years at Humboldt is hard to envision happening.”
- “It has been very hard for me to be this far away from family and I have more options at Chico State.”
- “I plan to transfer to a university closer to home after I have enough credits. I would like to transfer to SDSU.”
- “I want to go to school closer to home.”
LISTENING TO THE STUDENT VOICE:
“THE AREA IS NOT A GOOD FIT”

Low/Moderate Commitment to HSU (n=177)

- “I can’t see myself being successful here.”
- “I do not feel comfortable here. I do not feel as though I can thrive.”
- “This isn’t what I expected, not what I hoped for.”
- “I want to open up my opportunities to connect with bigger companies and more internship opportunities.”
- “I want to work in my major, but still be able to intern at the place I want to eventually work.”
- “There are no jobs here. I want to find a place where there are more jobs however I know this is the best place for my major, so I’m not sure.”
- “I plan on transferring to another university that has more connections for opportunities. I also plan on finding my career in the city of the university that I plan on transferring to.”
- “There’s not much things to do here to have fun.”
- “I’m disappointed with how I feel about Humboldt and it’s surrounding towns.”
- “It’s too secluded for my comfort.”
- “I don’t know if I can spend 4 years here.”
- “This isn’t the right school for me.”
- “I’m not enjoying my life at HSU.”

High Commitment to HSU (n=196)

- “The big environmental change was a bit too much to bear, as well as the cultural shock.”
- “I just don’t like the fact that the city is so small and kind of conservative.”
- “I do not like the community.”
- “There isn’t enough sun for my comfort ability.”
- “I’m going to see how the winter is here.”
- “Humboldt is far from where I am from and I think my degree would be better exercised in a bigger city.”
- “The school isn’t the right fit for me.”
- “I feel as though this may not be the place for me.”
- “It’s too far away from home and more remote than I originally thought. I didn’t think it would take so much effort to go back home for breaks.”
LISTENING TO THE STUDENT VOICE:
“It’s Related to My Major”

Low/Moderate Commitment to HSU (n=177)

- “HSU doesn’t offer the major I want.”
- “I want to go to a college that is a better fit for my major.”
- “I want to go to an institution located in an environment with more off-campus opportunities pertaining to my future plans.”
- “There are some classes that HSU does not have that I am interested in related to my major and to some of my interests, so I plan to transfer in order to expand my horizons.”
- “I feel like maybe some programs here are not what I need to follow the career path that I wish to pursue.”

High Commitment to HSU (n=196)

- “I plan to leave because I want to attend vet school. I’m just trying to take the required courses here to be able to transfer.”
- “I want to go to a larger program with more research opportunities.”
- “I have a two year warranty on this institution after I get all my GE requirements. I am currently undecided and if I could get good grades, find out what it is that I want to do, find an institution that offers the best program for that career path, then I will transfer accordingly.”
- “I plan to transfer to another college that is more specialized in what I want to do in the future.”
- “I plan on transferring from this institution to pursue my major in mechanical engineering.”
LISTENING TO THE STUDENT VOICE: “THE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IS TOO MUCH”

Low/Moderate Commitment to HSU (n=177)

- “It’s really expensive. I hate loans.”
- “I may not be able to afford to go to a state university anymore and will go to a community college instead.”
- “Taking student loans out here is really going to eat on my future regardless if I graduate or not. Being closer to home would take off some of the loans that go toward housing.”
- “I cannot fund another year here at HSU.”
- “Transfer and attend community college due to financial burden and family issues.”

High Commitment to HSU (n=196)

- “It would be cheaper to attend a college closer to home.”
- “I’ll probably try to get an associates degree back at home or transfer to another Cal State and get my BA.”
- “Living away from home has been really expensive, and I know money has been an issue for my parents right now. I do not want to stress my parents about money, so I’d rather get the same education back at home and save money.”
- “I’m an out-of-state student and don’t have enough money to even make it through the end of this academic year, so unless some miracle happens, I might go back to [home state] to go to school there.”
- “It would probably be due to financial reasons, so I would look to finish my degree somewhere that I could afford without taking out too many loans.”
RETENTION RATES FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS WHO PLANNED ON TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION

- **Graduation trickle begins**
- **University retention rate**
- **Low/moderate commitment to HSU**
- **High commitment to HSU**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrolled year</th>
<th>University retention rate</th>
<th>Low/moderate commitment to HSU</th>
<th>High commitment to HSU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled year 2</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled year 3</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled year 4</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrolled year 5</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Strongest 1 Year Retention Predictors for First-Year Students Who Planned on Transferring

## Low/Moderate Commitment to HSU (n=177)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongest Predictors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Loans $</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Grants $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative 1 yr GPA (not necessarily on probation)</td>
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<td>Homesick: Distressed</td>
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## In Comparison (n=3,426)

- Cumulative 1 year GPA
- Grant total
- Loan total
- Commitment to the Institution
- Financial Factor Score
- EOP
- On-campus living: social aspects
- Time management
- RAMP
- CNRS major (-)
- EOP/RAMP combo

## High Commitment to HSU (n=196)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongest Predictors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative 1 yr GPA (not necessarily on probation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Grants $</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Loans $</td>
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</tbody>
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*There were high levels of correlation between financial aid variables and low-income, first-generation status. Financial aid variables explained a higher percentage of the variance, so low-income and first-generation were removed from the models.*
**Strongest 2 Year Retention Predictors for First-Year Students Who Planned on Transferring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low/Moderate Commitment to HSU (n=177)</th>
<th>In Comparison (n=3,426)</th>
<th>High Commitment to HSU (n=196)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strongest Predictors</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Strongest Predictors</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Grants $</td>
<td>Cumulative 1 year GPA</td>
<td>Total Grants $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Served by RAMP</td>
<td>Grant total</td>
<td><strong>Cumulative 1yr GPA (not necessarily on probation)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Loans $</td>
<td>Loan total</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative 1yr GPA (not necessarily on probation)</td>
<td>Financial Factor score</td>
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<td>Commitment to the Inst.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Time Management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>College Ready (-)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Scholarship total</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Arts Humanities Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EOP/RAMP combo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peer Connection</td>
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<td>Gender (F)</td>
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**Strongest 3 Year Retention Predictors for First-Year Students Who Planned on Transferring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low/Moderate Commitment to HSU (n=177)</th>
<th>High Commitment to HSU (n=196)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongest Predictors</td>
<td>Strongest Predictors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forthcoming</td>
<td>Forthcoming</td>
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WHAT NOW?

- QUESTIONS?

  - Things to consider:
    - How does this information inform recruitment/retention processes?
    - What do we have control over?
    - What groups might we want to put resources toward?
    - Infrastructure for the work

- Institutional ponderings:
  - What kind of school does HSU *WANT* to be?
  - What kind of school does HSU *NEED* to be to serve California’s college students?
  - How do we communicate who we are in a way that sets up congruent expectations between what students need/want and what HSU and the surrounding community can offer?