

Student Follow-Up Study

Spring 2009

2007-08 Students: *One Year Later*

Goals and Attainment

Goals and Attainment

Reasons for Choosing Lane

Why did you choose to attend Lane rather than some other college or university?

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ Specific degree or training program was available at Lane
- ☐ Cost is lower at Lane
- ☐ Quality of instruction is higher at Lane
- ☐ Lane is close to home
- ☐ Because of enrollment restrictions at state colleges and universities

- The most frequently reported reason for choosing to attend Lane was lower cost. The percentage of all respondents choosing "Lower Cost" as a reason for choosing Lane Community College was similar in this year's study (60.5%) as in prior year's studies.
- As in prior studies, the high quality of instruction remains an important reason for choosing Lane for 24.6 percent of transfer respondents.
- The percentage of respondents with transfer majors reporting that lower cost at Lane Community College was an important factor in choosing Lane was 74.9 percent.

The following comments highlight some other reasons respondents chose Lane:

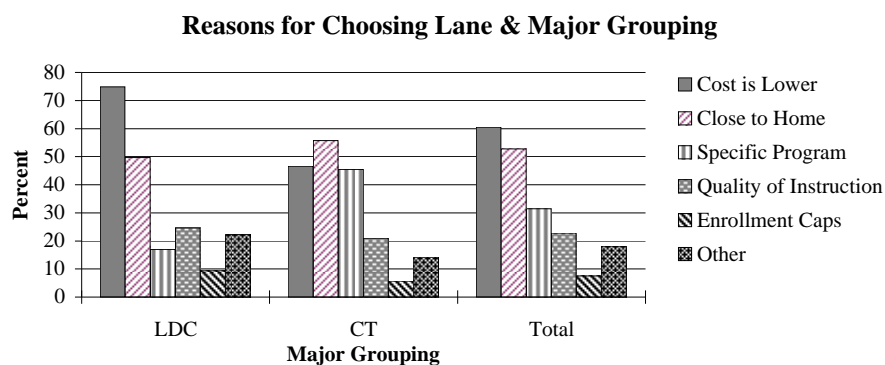
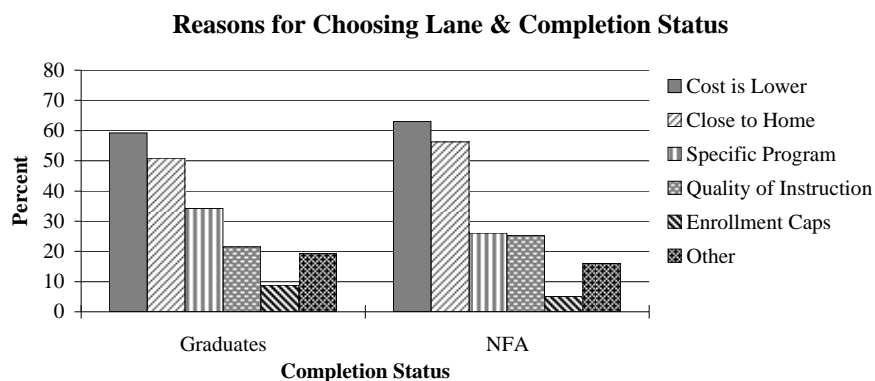
- * *I've heard lots of good things from past students.*
- * *Distance Education Program.*
- * *My mom went through Women of Transitions after husband died and told me about it.*
- * *I hadn't been to school in twenty years, seemed a good place to start.*
- * *I wanted to take night classes because I work full time.*
- * *Agreement with Trade Act 3 party payer.*
- * *Smaller classes and more one on one communication with teachers.*
- * *Track and cross country.*
- * *More relaxed feeling.*
- * *I wasn't sure what I wanted to do academically.*
- * *"Higher quality" due to small class sizes.*
- * *Costs at U of O to obtain gen. ed classes, smaller class size, teacher: student ratio.*

Table 10: Reasons for Choosing Lane (All Respondents)

| Reasons for Choosing Lane | Completion Status | | | | Major Grouping | | | | Total | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------|-----|------|----------------|------|-----|------|-------|------|
| | Graduates | | NFA | | LDC | | CT | | | |
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| Cost is Lower | 135 | 59.2 | 75 | 63.0 | 128 | 74.9 | 82 | 46.6 | 210 | 60.5 |
| Close to Home | 116 | 50.9 | 67 | 56.3 | 85 | 49.7 | 98 | 55.7 | 183 | 52.7 |
| Specific Program | 78 | 34.2 | 31 | 26.1 | 29 | 17.0 | 80 | 45.5 | 109 | 31.4 |
| Quality of Instruction | 49 | 21.5 | 30 | 25.2 | 42 | 24.6 | 37 | 21.0 | 79 | 22.8 |
| Enrollment Caps | 20 | 8.8 | 6 | 5.0 | 16 | 9.4 | 10 | 5.7 | 26 | 7.5 |
| Other | 44 | 19.3 | 19 | 16.0 | 38 | 22.2 | 25 | 14.2 | 63 | 18.2 |
| Total Respondents* | 228 | | 119 | | 171 | | 176 | | 347 | |

Example: The percentage of responding graduates who reported lower cost as a reason for choosing Lane was 59.2%.

*Note: Respondents could indicate more than one reason for choosing Lane, therefore the number of responses is greater than the number of respondents.



Respondents are represented three times:

- Once in Completion Status as either a graduate or NFA (no formal award).
- Secondly in Major Grouping as either LDC (lower division collegiate transfer) or CT (career technical).
- A third time in the total.

Primary Reason for Attending Lane

What was your primary reason for attending Lane?

(Choose only one answer)

- ☐ To complete lower division classes for transfer to a four-year college
 - ☐ To prepare for a new job or career
 - ☐ General self-improvement
 - ☐ To earn a one- or two-year certificate/degree (not interested in transfer to four-year school)
 - ☐ To improve/update job skills for current position
 - ☐ Other (please specify)
- As in prior years, no formal award and LDC respondents were most likely to attend Lane *to complete lower division courses for transfer* while career technical respondents were most likely to attend Lane to prepare for a new job or career.
 - In this year's study, the percentage of graduates indicating the primary reason for attending Lane was to transfer (41.2%) was higher compared to the percentage of graduates indicating the primary reason for attending Lane was to prepare for a new job or career (28.5%).
 - Career technical (CT) majors were more likely to attend Lane to prepare for a new job or career (42%) followed by *to earn a degree or certificate* (34.7%).

Further Analysis:

Nearly three-quarters of respondents (72%) *30 years old and under* indicated the primary reason for attending Lane was to transfer while 62 percent of the respondents over *age 30* indicated the primary reason for attending Lane was to prepare for a new job or career.

A majority of students achieved the objective indicated by their primary reason for attending Lane.

| Primary Reason | 2000 Study | 2001 Study | 2002 Study | 2004 Study | 2007 Study | # Responses | 2009 Achievement | |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | # | % Achieved |
| Transfer | 78% | 83% | 81% | 84% | 75% | 170 | 140 | 83% transferred. |
| Earn certificate/degree | 76% | 79% | 71% | 73% | 70% | 72 | 53 | 74% graduated. |
| Prepare for a new job (CT only) | 52% | 57% | 52% | 46% | 61% | 74 | 43 | 58% were working in a related job, and not the same job as before attending Lane. |

Ethnicity

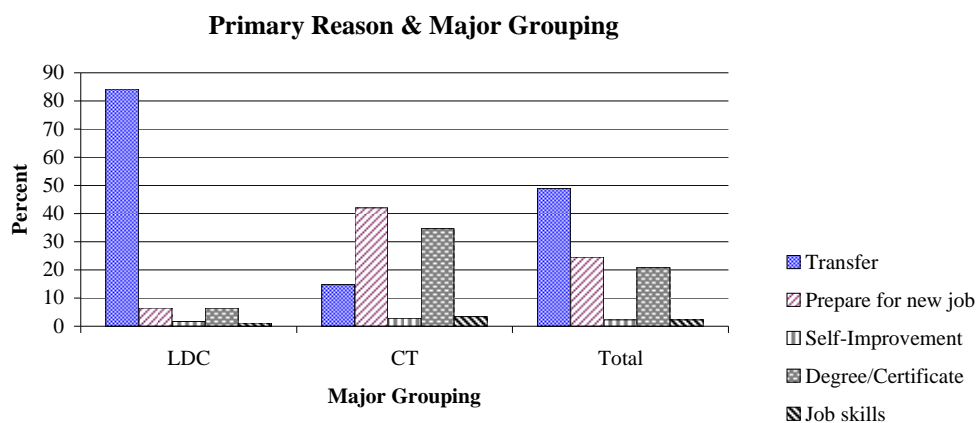
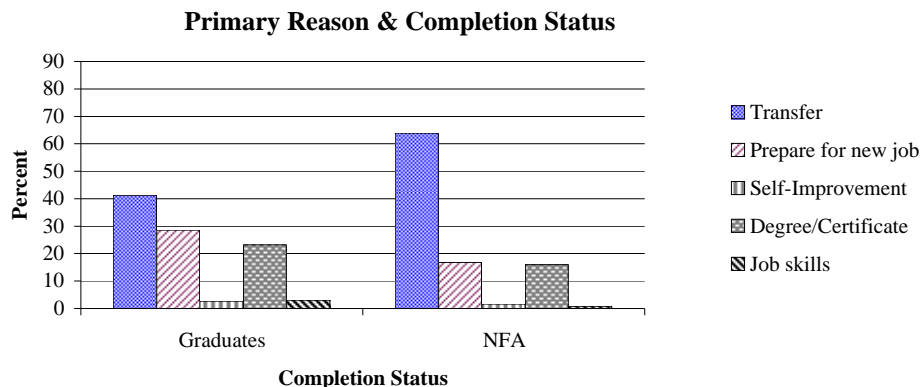
Only one African-American, ten Native American/Alaska Native, ten Hispanic and eight Asian/Pacific Islander respondents answered this question.

Forty-nine percent of Caucasian respondents (134 out of 274) indicated the primary reason for attending Lane was to transfer.

Table 11: Primary Reason for Attending Lane (All Respondents)

| Primary Reason | Completion Status | | | | Major Grouping | | | | Total | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------|-----|-------|----------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| | Graduates | | NFA | | LDC | | CT | | | |
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| Transfer | 94 | 41.2 | 76 | 63.9 | 144 | 84.2 | 26 | 14.8 | 170 | 49.0 |
| Prepare for new job | 65 | 28.5 | 20 | 16.8 | 11 | 6.4 | 74 | 42.0 | 85 | 24.5 |
| Self-Improvement | 6 | 2.6 | 2 | 1.7 | 3 | 1.8 | 5 | 2.8 | 8 | 2.3 |
| Degree/Certificate | 53 | 23.2 | 19 | 16.0 | 11 | 6.4 | 61 | 34.7 | 72 | 20.7 |
| Job skills | 7 | 3.1 | 1 | 0.8 | 2 | 1.2 | 6 | 3.4 | 8 | 2.3 |
| Other | 3 | 1.3 | 1 | 0.8 | | 0.0 | 4 | 2.3 | 4 | 1.2 |
| Total | 228 | 100.0 | 119 | 100.0 | 171 | 100.0 | 176 | 100.0 | 347 | 100.0 |

Example: The percentage of responding graduates whose primary reason for attending Lane was to transfer was 41.2%.



Respondents are represented three times:

- Once in Completion Status as either a graduate or NFA (no formal award).
- Secondly in Major Grouping as either LDC (lower division collegiate transfer) or CT (career technical).
- A third time in the total.

Goal Accomplishment

To what extent did you achieve your goals or obtain what you wanted from your Lane education?

☐ **Very much so** ☐ **Somewhat** ☐ **Not at all**

- Overall, three-fourths of the respondents reported they achieved their goals “very much so.”
- Graduates overwhelmingly indicated they accomplished their goals “very much so” (86.8%). Three out of five NFA respondents (61.3%) also expressed a high level of goal achievement.
- As in recent studies, the percentage of respondents indicating “very much so” and “somewhat” combined was extremely high (97.1%).

The following comments are things students wanted to achieve while attending Lane but did not accomplish:

- * *Learning a foreign language.*
- * *Yes, but I am working on additional classes to accomplish my goals.*
- * *I would have liked outside internships.*
- * *I wanted to get into nursing but couldn't so went into another program.*
- Many NFA respondents indicated what they wanted, but did not accomplish at Lane, was to get a degree at Lane.
 - * *Getting a transfer degree.*
 - * *I didn't graduate. I started thinking I was going to transfer to four year and then decided to go for a two-year certificate.*
 - * *I had to take a break because I didn't have funds and also wanted to figure out exactly what I really want to do.*
 - * *I wanted to complete my pre-requisites for pre-med and/or nursing.*

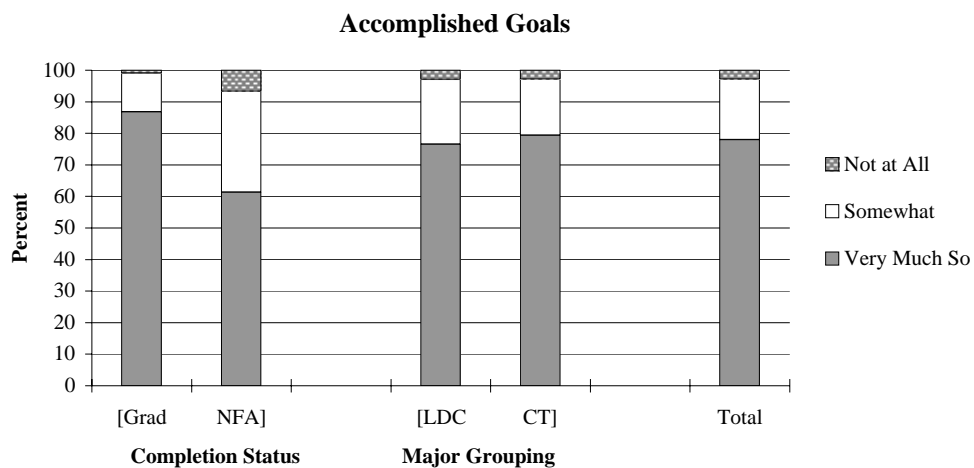
Interpretation/Analysis:

Students' goal achievement is one of Lane's Key Institutional Effectiveness Measures; overall, the majority of Lane's former students expressed a high degree of goal achievement. Findings from the current survey indicate that 97 percent of former students who responded to this question reported they accomplished their goals.

Table 12: Did Students Accomplish Their Goals (All Respondents)

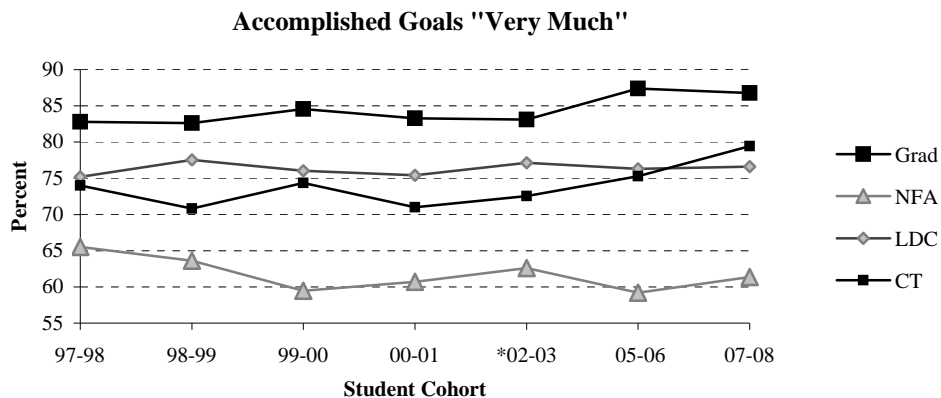
| Accomplished Goals? | Completion Status | | | | Major Grouping | | | | Total | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------|-----|-------|----------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| | Graduates | | NFA | | LDC | | CT | | | |
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| Very Much So | 197 | 86.8 | 73 | 61.3 | 131 | 76.6 | 139 | 79.4 | 270 | 78.0 |
| Somewhat | 28 | 12.3 | 38 | 31.9 | 35 | 20.5 | 31 | 17.7 | 66 | 19.1 |
| Not at All | 2 | 0.9 | 8 | 6.7 | 5 | 2.9 | 5 | 2.9 | 10 | 2.9 |
| Total | 227 | 100.0 | 119 | 100.0 | 171 | 100.0 | 175 | 100.0 | 346 | 100.0 |

Example: The percentage of responding graduates who indicated they accomplished their goals at Lane "very much so" was 86.8%.



Respondents are represented three times:

- Once in Completion Status as either a graduate or NFA (no formal award).
- Secondly in Major Grouping as either LDC (lower division collegiate transfer) or CT (career technical).
- A third time in the total.



*Studies were not conducted for '01-02, '03-04 or '04-05 students.

Reasons for Leaving Lane Before Completing a Degree

If you left Lane before receiving a degree or certificate, why did you leave?

(Check all that apply—see choices in Table 13 on the next page).

- No formal award (NFA) respondents (those who did not complete a degree or certificate) indicated they left Lane because they *transferred* (31.1%), had *financial problems* (14.3%), or *accomplished their goals* (6.7%).
- Two-fifths (42.7%) of the lower division collegiate (LDC) respondents who did not complete a degree or certificate indicated they left Lane because they *transferred*, 8.5 percent indicated they left because they *accomplished their goals*, 9.8 percent indicated they left because of *financial problems* and another 9.8 percent indicated they left Lane before completing a degree or certificate because they *moved out of the area*.
- Nearly a quarter (24.3%) of career technical (CT) respondents who did not complete a degree or certificate indicated they left Lane because of *financial problems*.

Interpretation/Analysis:

Reasons students leave are not always controlled by the college. In a study published in the *Community College Journal of Research and Practice* (December 1997), Conklin lists the top five reasons students cited for dropping classes: work schedule conflicts, bad time/inconvenient, personal problems, too hard/bad grades, and disliked instructor. In her study, these top five reasons remained consistent over five years.

As in past Lane studies, few NFA respondents left because they were dissatisfied with the quality of teaching at Lane.

Table 13b: Reasons Career technical NFA Students Left Lane

| Student Cohort | 96-97 | 97-98 | 98-99 | 99-00 | 00-01 | 02-03 | 05-06 | 07-08 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Financial problems | 21.8 | 24.1 | 27.9 | 16.7 | 18.8 | 19.7 | 14.1 | 24.3 |
| Accepted a job | 23.5 | 21.7 | 18.6 | 13.9 | 20.3 | 6.1 | 4.7 | 2.7 |
| Accomplished goals | 8.4 | 24.1 | 14.0 | 11.1 | 10.1 | 9.1 | 2.4 | 2.7 |
| Transfer | 4.2 | 2.4 | 9.3 | 20.8 | 18.8 | 12.1 | 5.9 | 5.4 |

Table 13c: Reasons Lower Division Collegiate NFA Students Left Lane

| Student Cohort | 96-97 | 97-98 | 98-99 | 99-00 | 00-01 | 02-03 | 05-06 | 07-08 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Transfer | 56.9 | 51.0 | 54.2 | 52.2 | 51.2 | 45.5 | 26.7 | 42.7 |
| Accomplished goals | 22.0 | 36.3 | 18.1 | 27.3 | 22.6 | 10.9 | 11.9 | 8.5 |

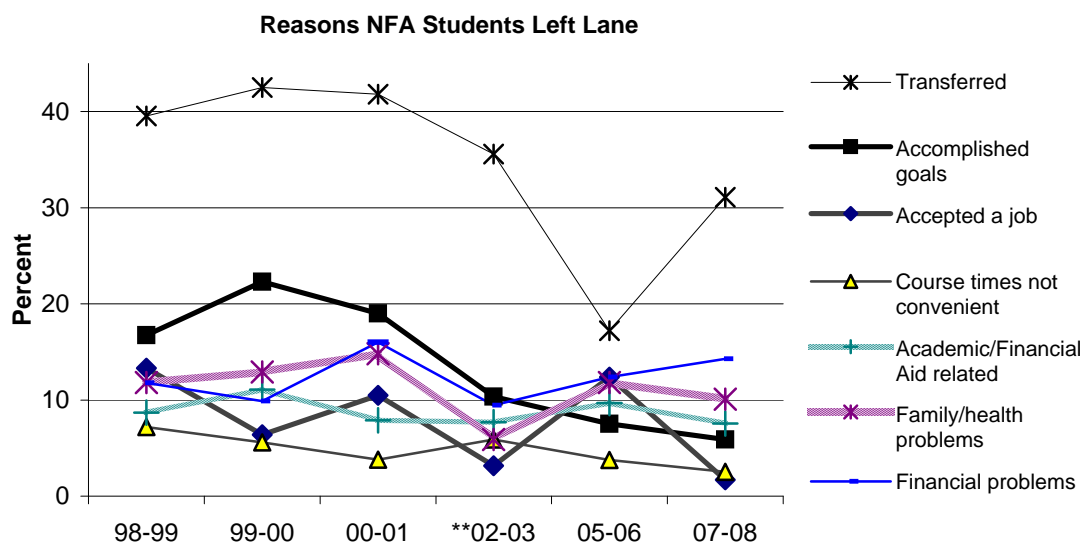
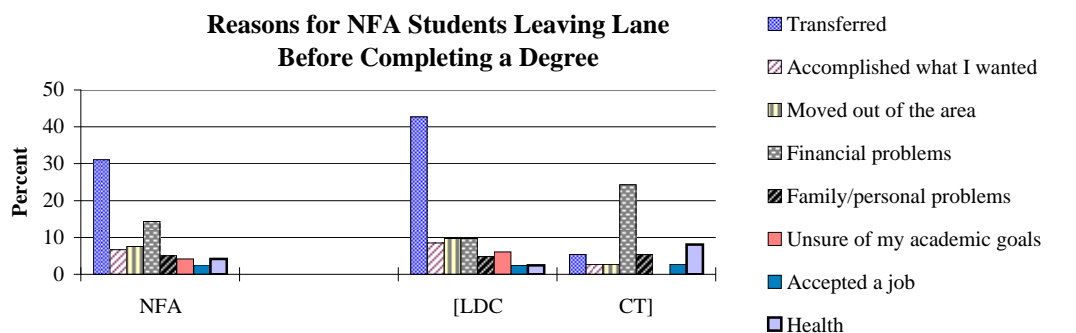
Table 13d: Left Because Courses Were Not Offered at a Convenient Time

| Student Cohort | 96-97 | 97-98 | 98-99 | 99-00 | 00-01 | 02-03 | 05-06 | 07-08 |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Transfer major NFA respondents | 7.3 | 8.3 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 3.8 | 6.4 | 2.0 | 1.2 |
| CT major NFA respondents | 8.4 | 22.9 | 10.5 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 5.9 | 5.4 |
| All NFA respondents | 7.9 | 12.5 | 7.2 | 5.6 | 3.8 | 5.9 | 3.8 | 2.5 |

Table 13: Reasons for Leaving Lane Before Completing a Degree (NFA Only)

| Reasons for Leaving Lane Before Completing a Degree | Major Grouping | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------|-----|-------|----|-------|
| | NFA | | LDC | | CT | |
| | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| 1 Transferred to another college/university | 37 | 31.1 | 35 | 42.7 | 2 | 5.4 |
| 2 Accomplished what I wanted | 8 | 6.7 | 7 | 8.5 | 1 | 2.7 |
| 3 Moved out of the area | 9 | 7.6 | 8 | 9.8 | 1 | 2.7 |
| 4 Financial problems | 17 | 14.3 | 8 | 9.8 | 9 | 24.3 |
| 5 Family/personal problems | 6 | 5.0 | 4 | 4.9 | 2 | 5.4 |
| 6 Unsure of my academic goals | 5 | 4.2 | 5 | 6.1 | 0 | - |
| 7 Accepted a job | 3 | 2.5 | 2 | 2.4 | 1 | 2.7 |
| 8 Needed a break before returning to school | 5 | 4.2 | 2 | 2.4 | 3 | 8.1 |
| 9 Courses not offered at convenient time | 3 | 2.5 | 1 | 1.2 | 2 | 5.4 |
| 10 Health problems | 5 | 4.2 | 2 | 2.4 | 3 | 8.1 |
| 11 Child care problems | 2 | 1.7 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 2.7 |
| 12 Poor academic preparation | 1 | 0.8 | - | - | 1 | 2.7 |
| 13 Lost my financial aid | 3 | 2.5 | 1 | 1.2 | 2 | 5.4 |
| 14 Dissatisfied with the quality of teaching | 1 | 0.8 | 1 | 1.2 | 0 | - |
| 15 Transportation problems | 0 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16 Other | 19 | 16.0 | 10 | 12.2 | 9 | 24.3 |
| Total respondents* | 119 | 100.0 | 82 | 100.0 | 37 | 100.0 |

*Note: Respondents could indicate more than one reason for leaving Lane, therefore the number of responses is greater than the number of respondents.



**Studies were not conducted for '01-02, '03-04, '04-05 or '06-07 students.