

Executive Summary: Withdrawal Survey Fall 2023

Each term, students who are enrolled during the previous term who do not return for the following semester will be contacted and asked to complete a *UWSP Enrollment Survey*.

- For fall 2023, this includes 687 undergraduate and transfer students from all campuses.
- Total number of surveys recorded – 120 (17%).

Key findings:

- Most students were in good standing (82%)
- We had an increase in the number of first-generation students that withdrew this fall, 37% versus 21% Spring 2023 and 22% Fall 2022.
- Two new academic factors were identified from the survey that were not present in the last survey
 - My academic or career goals have changed
 - The major I want to pursue is not offered at UWSP
- One new financial factor was identified that was not present in the last survey
 - I struggle to balance a full-time course load with the need to work part/full time
- Physical/Mental Health Concerns increased: I am struggling with anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns increased to 58% of respondents versus 37% in Spring 23 and 38% in Fall 22.
- The social experience factor of I felt lonely/isolated increased to 41% of respondents versus 25% in Spring 23 and 27% in Fall 22.

The strategy this academic year of focusing on engagement and belonging should address the mental health and social experience factors. Anecdotal evidence at the time of this writing shows that mental health is still a major concern among the fall 2023 entering class.

Gender Identity of Respondents:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
FEMALE	58%	55%	67%
MALE	40%	39%	30%
NON-BINARY/TRANS	2%	2%	2%

Racial/Ethnic Identity of Respondents:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
WHITE/EURO AMER	85%	86%	83%
URM IDENTITIES	14%	12%	15%
PREFER NOT TO ANS	1%	2%	2%

Other Identities of Respondents:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
FIRST-GENERATION	22%	21%	37%
IND W/A DISABILITY	7%	12%	12%
NON-TRADITIONAL	7%	8%	5%
VET OR CHILD/SPOUSE	6%	5%	6%
HONORS PARTICIPANT	5%	6%	12%
A PARENT	5%	3%	2%
STUDENT ATHLETE	4%	1%	6%

Campus of Enrollment:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
STEVENS POINT	84%	91%	88%
WAUSAU	12%	8%	10%
MARSHFIELD	3%	1%	6%

Student Type:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
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FIRST YEAR	78%	67%	81%
TRANSFER	22%	33%	19%

Of the students who TRANSFERRED TO UWSP, they transferred FROM:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
IN-STATE, 2-YEAR	52%	50%	59%
IN-STATE, 4-YEAR	26%	26%	18%
OUT-OF-STATE, 4-YR	13%	18%	18%
OUT-OF-STATE, 2-YR	10%	6%	6%

Total number of semesters of enrollment:

	Term Assessment was Conducted:		
	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
LEFT DURING OR AFTER THE FIRST YEAR	55%	56%	53%
LEFT DURING OR AFTER THE SECOND YEAR	29%	25%	26%
LEFT DURING OR AFTER THE THIRD YEAR	9%	7%	11%
LEFT DURING OR AFTER THE FOURTH YEAR	6%	13%	9%

Cumulative GPA of Respondents:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
0.00 – 0.49	2%	6%	0%
0.50 – 0.99	2%	7%	1%
1.00 – 1.49	6%	1%	9%
1.50 – 1.99	7%	8%	8%
2.00 – 2.49	16%	11%	16%
2.50 – 2.99	26%	25%	15%
3.00 – 3.49	23%	24%	27%
3.50 – 4.00	19%	19%	23%
PERCENT BELOW 2.0	17%	22%	18%

The top 10 majors of respondents, across Fall term 23 assessed:

- Nursing
- Undecided
- Elementary Education
- Accounting
- Interior Architecture
- Psychology
- Biology
- Finance
- Natural Science Education
- Social Work

Respondents attending full time or part time:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
FULL TIME	88%	86%	95%
PART TIME	12%	14%	5%

Where respondents lived during their last semester of enrollment:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
ON CAMPUS	56%	49%	61%
OFF CAMPUS W/FAMILY	25%	23%	24%
OFF CAMPUS W/FRIENDS OR ALONE	19%	29%	14%

How students classified their TYPE of withdrawal:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
Permanent Withdrawal	67%	48%	58%

Leave of Absence	13%	24%	17%
Term Withdrawal	11%	22%	10%
Academic Suspension	9%	7%	14%

NOTE: a Leave of Absence involves multiple terms away, to distinguish this from a (single) Term Withdrawal.

If students indicated a Permanent Withdrawal from UWSP, they were asked if they plan to transfer:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
YES – Immediately	68%	50%	72%
NO	14%	17%	11%
NOT SURE	10%	19%	11%
YES - Eventually	8%	15%	7%

If students indicated that they WILL or MAY transfer, did they know which institution they would be attending?

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
YES	89%	56%	88%
NO	11%	44%	12%

Participants identify all the factors that impacted their decision to leave the university. These factors are clustered into five core categories. Here are the TOP THREE FACTORS in each category with the largest IMPACT INDEX, which is defined as the percentage of individuals who selected the item AND rated the impact of this factor as “A GREAT DEAL” or “CONSIDERABLE” on their decision to stop out or leave the university:

Academic Issues

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
I needed to do better in my courses	23%	29%	
I needed to manage my time more effectively	20%	24%	
I found it too difficult to focus on my studies	19%	30%	14%
My academic or career goals have changed (new for fall 23)			30%
The major I want to pursue is not offered at UWSP (new for fall 23)			12%

Financial Situation

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
I need more money for living expenses	23%	32%	48%
I need to work full time to pay tuition and fees, so that I can return to school	12%	26%	31%
I need more money to support my family (incl parents, siblings)	9%		
I struggle to balance a full-time course load with the need to work part/full time (new item spring 23)		28%	29%

Personal Factors

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
I have changed my career plans	27%		
I need a break from school	19%	26%	33%
I want to attend a univ closer to home	19%		19%
I have some family issues that need my attention		17%	22%
I had a death in the family		10%	
UWSP was not my first choice institution, and now I have the opportunity to			17%

Physical/Mental Health Concerns

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23

I am struggling with anxiety, depression, other mental health concerns	38%	37%	58%
I found it difficult to schedule an appt w/mental health prof on campus	9%	11%	8%
I am suffering from a physical illness or injury	6%		12%
I am caring for one or more family members who are dealing with a mental or physical illness		10%	

Social Experience

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
I felt lonely/isolated	27%	25%	41%
I felt like I didn't belong at the univ	23%	24%	30%
Not enough things to do on campus	17%		16%
UWSP did not meet my expectations for what college should be like		15%	23%

Respondents are asked to indicate which overall category was the **PRIMARY** reason for leaving UWSP:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
Personal Factors	35%	29%	28%
Academic Experience	22%	24%	30%
Physical/Mental Health	19%	25%	18%
Financial Situation	12%	19%	17%
Social/Interpersonal	12%	4%	7%

Here are the **FIVE** items across all categories with the largest **IMPACT INDEXES**:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
Struggling with anxiety, depression, or other mental health concerns	38%	37%	58%
I felt lonely/isolated	27%		41%
I have changed my career plans	27%		
I needed to do better in my courses	23%	29%	
I felt like I didn't belong at the university	23%		30%
I needed more money to cover my living expenses	23%	32%	48%
I found it too difficult to focus on my studies		30%	
I struggle to balance a full-time course load with the need to work part/full time		28%	
My academic or career goals have changed (new for fall 23)			30%
I need a break from school			33%

Here are the percentages of different populations of students who **NEVER** did each of the following activities while enrolled:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
Attended athletic events	64%	NA	NA
Met with their academic advisor	4%	5%	4%
Met with a career advisor	55%	65%	64%
Met with a faculty member	28%	36%	26%
Received academic coaching or tutoring	64%	64%	68%
Utilized campus recreation facilities	55%	60%	53%
Used the library	29%	50%	59%
Utilized Student Health Services	57%	62%	67%
Utilized the Counseling Center	74%	70%	74%
Visited a university office for support	64%	51%	48%

Here are the **FIVE** most frequently cited involvement areas for different populations of students:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
Campus activities or event attendance	29%	22%	38%
On-campus employment	21%		20%
An academic or professional organization	19%	14%	15%
Intramurals	11%	10%	15%
Events/Activities in my College	11%		7%
Registered Student Organizations		13%	12%
Attended Athletic Events – NCAA Div III		13%	19%
NONE	27%	44%	30%

Here are the percentages of students who indicated they were MODERATELY OR VERY SATISFIED with the university:

- Fall 22: 58%
- Spring 23: 44%
- Fall 23 66%

Here are the percentages of students who indicated they felt VERY OR EXTREMELY SUPPORTED at UWSP:

- Fall 22: 34%
- Spring 23: 35%
- Fall 23 45%

If they could do it all over again, here is what these students said they would do:

	FALL 22	SPRING 23	Fall 23
Enroll at UWSP	46%	41%	35%
Enroll at a different four-year university	25%	16%	36%
Enroll at a Tech or 2-year institution	19%	25%	19%
Not attend college at all	9%	18%	11%