



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

Student enrollments at multiple institutions:

An Analysis Based on Fall 2010 enrollments

As the number of available options for students to enroll at other institutions in the Treasure Valley continues to grow, and as on-line courses are increasingly available across the nation, more Boise State students are likely to “swirl” among institutions and to enroll for courses at multiple institutions for a given semester. The purpose of this study was to identify the number of students who were simultaneously enrolled at Boise State and another institution for the fall 2010 semester and to survey this group about their reasons for co-enrollment and their experiences trying to navigate multiple institutions.

Results from the National Student Clearinghouse

As of the 10th day for fall 2010, 19,993 students were registered at Boise State. This file was sent to the National Student Clearinghouse. The file was returned with the indication that information was not available on 1,312 students (mainly due to FERPA privacy requests), while 455 students (or 2.4% of the “found” students) were enrolled at another institution that also participated in the Clearinghouse. Of these 455 students, 448 were enrolled at one additional institution, and 7 were enrolled at two other institutions besides Boise State.

A large majority of enrollments (74%) were at other Idaho institutions (see the table below). Most of the Idaho enrollments (66%) were associated with the College of Southern Idaho, though it is likely that the students were actually at the College of Western Idaho. A number of students (19% of Idaho enrollments) were also enrolled at Idaho State University.

	Frequency	Percent
Brigham Young University - Idaho	2	.6
College of Southern Idaho (And CWI)	225	66.2
Idaho State University	65	19.1
Lewis-Clark State College	7	2.1
North Idaho College	8	2.4
Northwest Nazarene University	1	.3
Northwest Nazarene University - Grad	3	.9
University Of Idaho	29	8.5
Total	340	100.0

Other states where at least 2% of students were found included: California (19 students), Oregon (17 students), Nevada (16), Washington (15), and Utah (9).

About 85% of the 455 multiple-institution enrollees were undergraduates, and most of those (294/383 or 77%) were degree-seeking. At the graduate level, however, only 30 of the 72 enrollees (or 42%) were graduate degree-seekers at Boise State.

The top majors for undergraduates enrolling at other institutions were:

- Courses of interest (64)
- Pre-nursing (27)
- Social work (27)
- General business management BBA
- Art/Science Undecided (13)
- Criminal Justice BS (12)
- Elementary Education (12)
- Biology (11)
- Health Science studies (10)

At the graduate level, students who were pursuing degrees at Boise State had the following majors:

- On-line teaching GC (5)
- Accounting taxation MST (2)
- Kinesiology (BIO) (2)
- Mechanical engineering MS (2)
- School counselor MST (2)

- School Technology GC (2)
- Social work MST (2)
- Athletic administration MST (1)
- Criminal Justice MA (1)
- History MAHR (1)
- Human performance technology GC (1)
- Hydrosience MS (1)
- K12 secondary GC (1)
- Materials science MST (1)
- MET educational technology (1)
- Music Performance MST (1)
- Technology integration GC (1)
- Workplace E-learning and performance support GC (1)

Survey Results

All 455 students were sent an e-mail asking them to tell us why they were enrolled at other institutions. A total of 111 or 24% responded. A slight majority (52.3%) were taking two or more courses at another institution, with freshmen being most likely to take multiple courses (see Table 1 in the appendix). Most (75%) considered Boise State to be their primary institution, though this was less likely to be the case for freshmen, second degree students, and graduate students (see Table 2).

About 40% indicated that they were also attending the College of Western Idaho (see Table 3). (The overall data from the Clearinghouse indicated that about 49% were registered at CSI, which is currently the accredited institution under which CWI is offering courses.) Of those also attending CWI, 84% indicated that Boise State was their primary institution (see Table 4).

As shown by Table 5, most students chose to attend another institution because it was less costly (53.6%). Other main reasons included better fit for schedule (32.1%), more convenient location (25.9%), and the course wasn't offered at Boise State (24.1%). Students who selected "other" as a reason (30.4%) tended to believe they would do better with a smaller class size and better instructors or the program of study they wanted wasn't offered at Boise State. See the appendix for a full set of comments.

Most students took courses to fulfill general education requirements (42.5%) or fulfill requirements for their major (56.6%). Relatively few took a course for elective credit or to explore the subject matter. See Table 6 for details. A majority of the courses (55.8%) were delivered face-to-face, but almost as many (46.9%) were delivered on-line (Table 7).

While 38% thought the process of enrolling for courses at more than one institution simultaneously was "easy" and 40.5% thought it was "manageable," 22% thought it was "a hassle." Based on the comments from students who thought it was a hassle, the main issue appeared to be financial aid and a consortium agreement with ISU. See the appendix for complete student comments.

Appendix of Tables and Comments

Table 1. Number of courses by academic level

		How many courses are you taking in addition to the courses you are registered for at Boise State?			Total
		One	Two	Three or more	
Freshman	Count	3	6	7	16
	Percent	18.8%	37.5%	43.8%	100.0%
Sophomore	Count	15	6	7	28
	Percent	53.6%	21.4%	25.0%	100.0%
Junior	Count	12	2	9	23
	Percent	52.2%	8.7%	39.1%	100.0%
Senior	Count	11	5	2	18
	Percent	61.1%	27.8%	11.1%	100.0%
2 nd degree	Count	3	5	1	9
	Percent	33.3%	55.6%	11.1%	100.0%
Graduate	Count	9	5	3	17
	Percent	52.9%	29.4%	17.6%	100.0%
Total	Count	53	29	29	111
	Percent	47.7%	26.1%	26.1%	100.0%

Table 2. Boise State as primary college by academic level

		Do you consider Boise State to be your primary college?			Total
		Yes	No, another college is my primary college	No, I don't think I have a primary college	
Freshman	Count	10	6	0	16
	Percent	62.5%	37.5%	.0%	100.0%
Sophomore	Count	26	1	2	29
	Percent	89.7%	3.4%	6.9%	100.0%
Junior	Count	18	4	2	24
	Percent	75.0%	16.7%	8.3%	100.0%
Senior	Count	16	1	1	18
	Percent	88.9%	5.6%	5.6%	100.0%
2 nd degree	Count	4	4	0	8
	Percent	50.0%	50.0%	.0%	100.0%
Graduate	Count	9	6	1	16
	Percent	56.3%	37.5%	6.3%	100.0%
Total	Count	83	22	6	111
	Percent	74.8%	19.8%	5.4%	100.0%

Table 3. Academic level by attendance at CWI

		Are you also attending the College of Western Idaho (CWI)?		Total
		No	Yes	
Freshman	Count	9	7	16
	Percent	56.3%	43.8%	100.0%
Sophomore	Count	8	21	29
	Percent	27.6%	72.4%	100.0%
Junior	Count	15	9	24
	Percent	62.5%	37.5%	100.0%
Senior	Count	13	5	18
	Percent	72.2%	27.8%	100.0%
2 nd degree	Count	7	1	8
	Percent	87.5%	12.5%	100.0%
Graduate	Count	15	1	16
	Percent	93.8%	6.3%	100.0%
Total	Count	67	44	111
	Percent	60.4%	39.6%	100.0%

Table 4. Boise State as primary college and attendance at CWI

			Are you also attending the College of Western Idaho (CWI)?		Total
			No	Yes	
Do you consider Boise State to be your primary college?	Yes	Count	46	37	83
		Percent	68.7%	84.1%	74.8%
	No, another college is my primary college	Count	19	3	22
		Percent	28.4%	6.8%	19.8%
	No, I don't think I have a primary college	Count	2	4	6
		Percent	3.0%	9.1%	5.4%
Total	Count	67	44	111	
	Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Table 5. Reasons why students took courses at other institutions

	Count	Percent	
Why did you choose to take this course at another institution?	It was a better fit for my schedule	36	32.1%
	It was less costly	60	53.6%
	I'm trying to finish my program at one institution while simultaneously starting one at another institution	14	12.5%
	I thought I would do better in this course at another institution	13	11.6%
	This course was full at Boise State	15	13.4%
	This course wasn't offered at Boise State	27	24.1%
	The location was more convenient	29	25.9%
	I preferred to take the course on-line	12	10.7%
	Other (see below)	34	30.4%

Other reasons:

- Degree program not offered at boise state
- Idaho State doesn't offer sport psychology...
- local singing- not relevant to degree
- The math department there was better
- More pleasant experience to work with other university.
- enrolled elsewhere
- Boise State does not carry my program of study
- Scholarship applied only to Texas schools due to graduating high school early.
- commute time was less
- Some Boise State Departments make it known that they are there to "WEED" people out and I would prefer to be "TAUGHT" not weeded out!!!!
- Avoid large class size and I preferred the professor
- We live in FL
- The course worked well for my research topic.

- I met the pre-req's at BYU, but not at BSU. BSU wouldn't wave the pre-reqs, so I had to take them through BYU
- The program that class is going towards isn't offered at Boise State
- misinformation from my counselor
- Smaller class size
- Review from the teachers were better.
- my professor actually cares if i pass the class.
- I'm always on the waitlist and can never get in, very disappointing!
- I wanted to work on two degrees on once, a second master's and a doctoral EdD, however BSU does not allow enrollment in two programs at one time. This is such a dis-service to your students and alumni-students. So I enrolled at NNU-Northwest Nazarene University for the second master's and am in the doctoral EdD program at BSU.
- cost of parking
- New stimulus grant certification program
- I was involuntarily transferred to CWI when Larry Selland jumped ship - midway into my first part of my degree. so am finishing up with them what needs done to complete that phase.
- Allows me to take more credits without being assessed an "Excessive Course Load Fee"
- The professors at BSU in the Social Work Department and Counseling Department would not allow me to register
- I'm taking a program at ISU and needed a seminar for which BSU's fit the bill
- It was part of the program for ISU
- Different major
- bsu dropped the program I was taking before I could finish
- I'm getting a degree at U of I (Boise site), but I just like to take various classes out of interest and prefer BSU. It's really been easy to sign up for classes, so I do.
- I'm sick of musicians, athletes, and art performers getting to enroll before me--Although I'm a JUNIOR!
- I hate attending a "football school", I hate large classes.
- ISU would not accept BSU nutrition course

Table 6. Purpose for taking the course

		Count	Percent
What is the purpose of taking this course?	To fulfill general education (core) requirements	48	42.5%
	To fulfill requirements for my major	64	56.6%
	To fulfill elective credit requirements toward the degree	23	20.4%
	To explore this subject matter	14	12.4%
	Other	20	17.7%

Other reasons:

- degree not at boise state
- fun
- because the math department at boise is not good
- Pursuing an M.A. in ESL
- Prerequisite for the nursing program i am applying for at ISU
- My major is only offered t isu
- The purpose of the courses at the other institution is for obtaining an administrative endorsement for my teaching credential, as well as extra credits in the same focus area for further subject matter.
- Transfer credit to fulfill degree program at the other institution
- Working on multiple degrees
- It is more in line with my research and career goals that courses offered at boise state
- To become licensed as a Counselor
- Different major than what I am enrolled for BSU
- To fulfill requirements for my AA
- Just wanted to learn to play the guitar
- CWI incorporates hands on learning NOT just lecture in Ed-Cifs.
- recieve education and training in an area not offered at BSU
- pre-requisite for nursing
- It is a course in a series that support Adobe certificates.

Table 7. Course delivery method

		Count	Percent
How is this course delivered?	Face-to-face	63	55.8%
	On-line	53	46.9%
	Combination of face-to-face and on-line (Hybrid)	18	15.9%
	Cable TV	1	.9%
	Other	3	2.7%

Table 8. How would you describe the process of enrolling for courses at more than one institution simultaneously?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Percent
easy	42	37.8	37.8
manageable	45	40.5	40.5
a hassle	24	21.6	21.6
Total	111	100.0	100.0

If you answered that it was a “hassle,” please explain what made it a hassle:

- I was told to enroll as a non degree seeking student at Boise State to take my general courses. While being a non degree seeking student it became apparent that trying to register for the classes that I wanted to take would be much harder than I thought.
- I am starting the Social Work program in Twin Falls and had a problem getting someone to help me find classes.
- Having to register at each institution at different times. It was quite difficult for the first time registering for a Boise State class. This class was to be in two parts and I still haven't heard when this second part starts and I worry--I don't want to get behind.
- There was a lot of run around. I couldn't get people to answer my emails without sending them over and over. (mainly the construction management/ civil engineering department.) I ran into problems with getting joint financial aid.
- I had to apply and have my transcripts sent over then set up everything that goes along with school i.e. a new ID, online account, blackboard. I have to remember that my information for my classes is in two places.

- Financial aid through both institutions- since I wasn't fulltime at either I had to make sure I had at least 6 credits at each school to be eligible.
- I am a full time student at ISU in Meridian. I was told that I only had to print out a paper showing that I paid fees to them and that you all wouldn't charge me. You must have lost it the first time, because you charged me a late fee. I turned it al in again, this time it went through. I am at least thankful that the late fee was lifted.
- The financial Aid Consortium agreement was absolutely horrifying. The financial aid office took almost 6 weeks to process my agreement, which is very frustrating when you are supposed to be paying the other institution with your financial aid money. Wouldnot recommend having BSU as the home institution if you receive financial aid.
- The consortium agreement was not available and it had to be pushed through with many phone calls. Streamlining this process would be helpful.
- Coordinating back and forth from schools with information each needed.
- In all honesty, it seems that even though there is an agreement between the schools, no one working in the financial aid or records or advising knows what is going on. Therefore, I have to navigate and work hard to find what will work.
- Parking fees are outrageous for a school I don't even go to.
- The changes to fasfa were easy, but required a great amount of time. BSU councilors and advisers have no idea of what it means to be dual enrolled, or how to help when I have questions about my major. ISU Meridian campus has only one adviser for the wholeplace! She is great! But it is hard to get things done because she has to help all of the ISU Meridian students.
- The schools are in different states making things difficult if a problem arises.
- I had to wait until the Spring semester because BSU didn't have the Consortium available until after classes began. This would entail enrolling late at CWI, beginning classes late, then paying "drop" fees from BSU.
- It took three months to get accepted to Boise State. At which point I was put on Academic probation. (I graduated from TVCC in June with a 3.92 GPA). I was denied the transfer scholarship because of the delay in the admissions process. Then it took over 1 phone calls to find an advisor. I have truly hated EVERY attempt at registering at BSU. ISU, easy. TVCC, easy. I am now trying to transfer to Weber State because of the hassle at BSU and so far... even that is easy. When I call, I get a person, not a macine, and they treat me like a human being instead of bank account.
- Because BSU has no clue what to do when a student is enrolling at another school. For example ISU has some type of agreement with BSU that if the student is enrolled full time at one of these schools then the student will not have to pay tuition at the oter. Well, BSU always tells me no such agreement exist. In the Administration BLDG. On the 2nd floor (the other financial aid dept..I forget what it is called, they disperse the money), anyway the guy that sits on the left hand side as you walk in is the mn that says no such agreement exist between the schools! I know this is incorrect because I'm enrolled at both and have not had to pay tuition at both!

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