Admitted Student Survey

Results of the Fall 2011 Web-Survey

Data Compiled by

Office of Academic Assessment

September 2011
Students who were admitted, but had **not** responded about attending USM in the fall 2011 (N=1998) were emailed a letter, including a link to a brief web-survey. There were 127 students who responded to the survey, for a response rate of 6.4%. This report consists of their survey responses.

Total Number of Survey Responses = 127

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are you registered for Orientation?</td>
<td>5 (4.0%)</td>
<td>119 (93.7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are you planning to attend USM this fall?</td>
<td>2 (1.6%)</td>
<td>125 (98.4%)</td>
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*If Yes….. *(planning to attend USM)*

Would you like additional assistance registering? *(no responses)*

Would you like to be contacted? *(no responses)*

*If No……*(reasons not attending USM)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>(%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attending college elsewhere</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>(88.9)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desired program not available</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>(9.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USM financial aid insufficient</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>(23.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decided not to attend college this fall</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>(5.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other factors</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>(22.0%)</td>
</tr>
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### Open-ended Responses

*(If more than one response, the number of responses are in parenthesis)*

#### Attending college elsewhere; where? (N=113)

| In-state                     |  |
|------------------------------|  |
| *Univ of Maine (Orono)       | (23) | *Univ of Maine at Machias |
| *Univ of Maine at Farmington | (6)  | *Univ of Maine at Presque Isle |
| *Univ of New England         | (4)  | *Univ of Maine at Augusta |
| *Colby-Sawyer College        | (3)  | *Husson College |
| *St. Joseph’s College        | (2)  | *Thomas College |
| *Southern Maine Comm Coll    | (2)  |  |

| Out-of-state                  |  |
|------------------------------|  |
| *Univ of Mass-Amherst         | (5)  | *Mass Institute of Health Professions |
| *Univ of New Hampshire        | (2)  | *New England College |
| *Univ of South New Hampshire  | (2)  | *Northeastern University |
| *Univ of Vermont              | (2)  | *Pasendena City College |
| *Castleton State College      | (2)  | *Plattsburg State NY College |
| *Clarkson College             | (2)  | *Plymouth College |
| *Keene State College          | (2)  | *Rochester Institute of Technology |
| *Rhode Island College         | (2)  | *Salem State University |
| *Bryant College               |  | *Springfield College |
| *Clark University             |  | *St Michael’s College |
| *Clinton Comm College         |  | *Suffolk College |
| *Coastal Carolina College     |  | *SUNY Buffalo |
| *Crown College                |  | *SUNY Freconia |
| *Curry College                |  | *SUNY Potsdam |
| *Dalhousie University         |  | *Univ of Mass Darmouth |
| *Drew University              |  | *Univ of Mass Lowell |
| *East Conn State University   |  | *Univ of Rhode Island |
| *Elmira College               |  | *Univ of Wisconsin |
| *Elon University NC            |  | *Washington Univ -St Louis |
| *Emmanual College             |  | *Westfield College |
| *Endicott College             |  | *Wheaton College |
| *Florida Southern Univ        |  | *Wheelock College |
| *Ithaca College               |  |  |
Desired Program Not Available at USM; what program? (N=12)

- Pre-Vet
- Athletic Training
- Civil Engineering in the Pioneer Program
- Wild life Ecological
- Chemical Engineering
- Medical Lab Tech
- BFA degree in Acting
- Comp. Eng. & MBA
- Pro Golf Management
- Marine Science
- Pre-Pharmacy
- Aeronautical Eng

Decided Not to Attend College; explain. (N=7)

*I decided not to attend college this fall  (3 responses)
*My parents can’t help me financially this year
*UNE offered a better financial package
*Out-of-state resident
*Wheelock was my top choice, USM was more of a “safe” (second choice) school
USM Financial Aid Insufficient; explain. (N=30)

- Less expensive to go to UMASS
  - I was offered $6,000 more a year at the University of Maine.
  - More aid given from out-of-state colleges.
  - The financial package USM gave me was $14,000 in loans. On average, I received only $7,500 in loans, but $14,000 was a little outrageous.
  - No other aid was offered other than a Stafford loan
  - More Fin Aid elsewhere
    - I have a tight budget and Thomas turned out to have what I wanted for a lesser price.
    - My parents could not come up with the difference - I needed 95-100% financial aid coverage
    - Needed more help? Took the best package I had.
    - Proportionally, USM itself offered to cover roughly 20% cost of attendance, RIT offered nearly 50%.
  - Received a better package with more aid
    - I received a significantly larger amount of financial aid from Wheaton.
    - I was not awarded enough to attend and could not pay back loans
    - Husson offered me many more merit scholarships.
    - I applied at other schools that were much more expensive and any way you put it, I'd be spending $20,000 in personal loans to go to any of them.
    - Even with a scholarship, it was still much too expensive for me to afford going to college at USM
    - UMO offered a lot more scholarships and grants than USM, USM gave me a lot of federal loans
    - It didn't let me attend for free.
    - The grants, scholarships, etc. were not on par with those I received in offers from other institutions.
    - It was my #1 pick - just didn't get enough Financial Aid!
    - It was 30K+ for USM left after grants vs. 18 or so UMass
    - You didn't give me a dime. I've got an $8,000 a year scholarship at UMO for maintaining a 3.0 GPA.
    - Received more merit scholarships from UNE making it more affordable
    - No aid given
Other Factors? (N=28)

- Baby
  - I wanted to be admitted into the nursing program as a transfer student, not just into the school with an undeclared major
  - I wanted to be closer to home.
  - Money, I can't leave home yet, too far away, etc.
  - I need to earn money for school
  - I know some people at SUNY Potsdam, while I don't know anyone at USM.
  - Too expensive
  - St Joe's felt right
  - RIT felt like a better place for me when I visited, and I perceived it as a much better value.
  - Wheaton was closer to big landmarks like Boston and Providence.
  - The professor who runs the Laboratory program could not be bothered to talk to me about the program when I asked him questions
  - UMO seemed to have a better pre-vet program
  - I did not get into the nursing program at USM
  - The split campus and them being so far away from each other
  - I have a job in Wilton
  - I really liked USM, but I wanted to go to college outside of the state of Maine.

- Distance
  - Students were no more intelligent or mature than in high school.
  - Your school did a very poor job during my visit to an open house last spring.
  - Didn't like having to take a bus to and from door to class.
  - It was small and I didn't like the atmosphere
  - My husband was going to take a job transfer but accepted a promotion to stay in MN instead.
  - Wanted to be in Portland as a freshman
  - Did not get my major of Sport Management
Additional Comments (N=27)

USM did not admit me to their accelerated 2nd bachelor’s program in nursing, so I am attending the accelerated program at UMASS instead. I was very disappointed that USM gave the unconventional nature of my undergrad transcript from Hampshire College as a reason that they did not admit me to the accelerated program.

USM admissions staff was not welcoming. They treated me like a number....not very interested in me as a student...seemed bothered. Out-of-state college admissions staffs were very personable and interested in my qualifications. They provided individual information to me.

USM was too close to home for me.

Wanted to begin as a Sport Management major but was unable to, according to USM. I will begin a 5-year Sport Management major at Dalhousie starting from day 1.

It's not that I don't think USM wouldn't be a great school; it's mostly that I can't afford it. I missed many deadlines that would have been very useful too me (i.e. FAFSA, dorm residency applications, etc.), and I just wasn't ready to pick up and leave home yet. Maine is so far away from everyone I know and love and I can't leave them yet. Basically, moving to Maine for school would be too hard on myself and my family.

I have two older siblings already in college. So I need to work and earn money before I can afford to go.

I didn't have the opportunity to really see the University of Southern Maine due to the availability of your tours and open houses. I would have liked to take a tour but the offices aren't open on the weekends, more flexibility would have made my options different.

USM is a nice school. I was very close to attending and I'm sure I would have enjoyed the atmosphere, but I decided on a different school because it felt like the right choice at the time.

I'll probably transfer my credits over to USM after attending SMCC for two years.

My father underwent a recent illness initially resulting in my need to remain home- during that time an opportunity for a job (related to the event management I desire) came to my attention and I took the job and now have made a commitment to my employer.

I really enjoyed your open house. I liked how you could talk to some of the professors, and meet some of the students.

I loved the school and the location. The costs were just too much unfortunately for me and my family.

Decided to stay within the state to save money and also be closer to home

I am going to school for music. While USM has a music program I have been participating in summer music camps and the USM youth ensembles program for many years. I needed a change from USM and I was looking to find a college a little farther from home.

I was not directly accepted into the Nursing program at USM and that concerned me. I heard that many are put on a waiting list and wait for a long time to get into the program and I did not want to be one of those people. Though I do feel USM nursing program is a great program. I felt the admissions office did not do a good job explaining the waiting list and were not very accommodating toward my schooling and what it would entail to be put into Nursing at a later date.

I already have 2 bachelor's degrees in Business and would have been a transfer student into the nursing program. I was not admitted into the nursing department at USM but I was admitted into the accelerated BSN program at the MGH Institute of Health Professions.
I know that USM is a good school with a strong Theatre Program; however, the program is not a Conservatory/conservatory-styled, which was ultimately my desired college career path. Also, being a Maine resident, it was also a bit close to home for my liking; If I so chose, I could have lived at home while attending USM. It would be all too easy to simply avoid the college experience from that position.

The open house really made up my mind for me. Compared to the other schools I looked at Southern Maine was not as welcoming or as easy to get information from. The open house was not organized very well and I left there knowing that was not the type of school I wanted

I didn't like the idea of a split campus. Also, the library located at the Gorham campus was really lacking compared to other libraries at schools I had visited.

If you want people to attend USM you need to make them feel like you want them as a student. Out of the 7 schools I was accepted at, yours paid the least amount of attention to me as a potential student.

I was very disappointed in the financial aid package that was offered at USM. It's discouraging because they had the programs I was interested in, loved the campus, and it was indeed my #1 choice. Just can't afford it.

SMCC was less overwhelming and more friendly to me than USM.

Had the total package been closer to 15-20K my decision might have been different as USM was one of my top choices, not getting any music scholarship money was also a financial factor.

It completely baffles me that the University of Maine will give me $32,000 for my GPA over the course of four years, and USM won't give me ANYTHING. There was no way I was going to spend $13,000 a year out of pocket to attend your school, when I'm already admitted to a school for $8,000 less per year. So basically, I will take my talents elsewhere.

I had concerns about some of the buildings on the campus. The smoking seen throughout my tour was a concern. Also, I wasn't specifically accepted under my degree choice.

I was very excited to attend USM, but financially cannot.