

**South Dakota Board of Regents  
South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship  
Fall 2007 Term Recipient Report**

**Executive Summary**

For the Fall 2007 semester, 2,876 recipients are eligible for funding across the 16 participating institutions (See Table 1 and 2 for eligibility details by institution). A total of 1,135 new recipients are receiving the scholarship for their first semester (based on reporting time frame this total may change to reflect future processing of executive director exemptions). When compared with the Fall 2006 cohort, the 1,135 recipients for this academic year represents a 18% increase when compared to the 958 recipients from the 2006 Fall cohort, and a 34% increase when compared to the 848 recipients from the 2005 Fall cohort.

***Continuing Eligibility Status***

For the first seven semesters of the SDOS program, a total of 3,816 recipients have been awarded funding, however 936 of these recipients are currently ineligible. A total of 2,876 recipients from the first six cohorts (75% of the original 3,816 recipients) have established continuing eligibility for Fall 2007. Additionally, four unfunded recipients received executive director exemptions and remain eligible for the Spring 2008 term.

Students can lose their SDOS eligibility for five reasons which include: 1) temporarily falling below the required GPA; 2) falling below the required credit hours; 3) withdrawing/transferring out of the program; 4) graduation; and/or 5) failure to pass the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) exam (See Attachment II, Table 3-5 detailing the eligibility status and CAAP performance of recipients at each institution). A total of 344 (41%) recipients from the 2004-05 academic year were ineligible, followed by 314 (37%) from the 2005-06 cohorts, and 282 (29%) from the 2006-07 cohorts. Overall, for the first six cohorts the number and percentage of students losing eligibility for each of the above causes is as follows:

- Falling below the required credit hours – 471 (50%)
- Withdrawing/Transferring from the program - 231 (25%)
- Falling below required GPA – 219 (23%)
- Graduation – 10 (1%)
- Failure to sit for or pass the CAAP exam – 5 (1%)

Students who are temporarily ineligible because they did not meet the 3.0 GPA requirement, could be reinstated and funded in the future for a possible addition of 219 students from the first six cohorts. This would increase the total, requiring funding to 3,095 for Spring 2008 if each of these students were able to return to good standing.

***SDOS Major Enrollment***

The 20 most common majors for SDOS recipients are reported for the first time in this report (see Attachment II, Table 7). Enrollments in these majors represented more than 57% of all

3,816 recipients, and analysis revealed that recipients are more likely to enroll in majors resulting in career areas such as medicine, science, mathematics, engineering, and business. Overall, Biology (295 or 7.8%) has been the most common major during the first three years of the program.

### ***Executive Director Exemptions***

State statute has granted the Executive Director of the Board of Regents the authority to grant exceptions to continuous enrollment requirements when good cause is shown. To date a total of 190 exemption requests have been received from students in the first seven cohorts. Forty-four exemption requests have been denied, and 146 requests have been granted for students across nine institutions (see Attachment II, Table 8). The most common exemption waiver has been granted for student inability to meet *Credit Hour* requirements (82%), followed by *Other* (7%), *Persistence* (6%), *Proficiency Exam* (3%), *Reconsider Award* (1%), and *GPA* requirements (1%). In addition to these six waiver classifications, seven justifications have been attributed to student appeals for exemptions from the Executive Director. Fifty-one of the exemptions were granted because of student *Program of Study Requirements* (51 of the 146), with a majority of these waivers granted for student inability to meet Credit Hour Requirements (see Attachment II, Table 9). Other justifications included *Medical Hardship* (23%), student participation in *Exchange Programs* (19%), issues that emerged with *Administrative Error* (13%), participation in institution approved *Internships* (5%), *Military Deferral* (3%), and *Repeat Courses* (2%).

## South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Term Report

The South Dakota Legislature authorized the Regents Scholarship Program in 2003 to allow South Dakota's most academically accomplished high school graduates to receive an affordable education at any university, college, or technical school in South Dakota that is accredited by the North Central Association (NCA). In 2004, the Legislature renamed the scholarship the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship (SDOS) and authorized funding from the state of South Dakota's Education Enhancement Trust Fund, beginning with high school graduating classes in 2004. South Dakota high school graduates, who were residents of South Dakota at the time of graduation, received an ACT composite score of 24 or higher, and completed high school course requirements consistent with the Regents scholar curriculum were eligible for the SDOS. The purpose of the *South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Term Report* is to provide an update on the current status for the scholarship recipients for each active cohort.

### *Institutional Cohort Comparison*

The most recent cohort of SDOS recipients for Fall 2007 includes 1,135 South Dakota graduates. This is an increase of 177 recipients when compared to the Fall 2006 cohort. For the 2007-08 academic year the top five institutions enrolling the largest number of recipients were SDSU followed by USD, SDSMT, Augustana, and BHSU who accounted for more than 81.4% of the recipients for the 2006-07 academic year (see Table 1 for number and percentage of recipients awarded by institution for Fall 2007).

**Table 1**  
**Fall 2007 South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Recipient Summary**

<i>Participating Institution</i>	<i># of Fall Recipients</i>	<i>Total % of Recipients</i>
Augustana College (AUG)	90	7.9%
Black Hills State University (BHSU)	58	5.1%
Colorado Technical University (CTU)	0	0.0%
Dakota State University (DSU)	45	4.0%
Dakota Wesleyan University (DWU)	22	2.0%
Kilian Community College (KCC)	0	0.0%
Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI)	9	0.8%
Mount Marty College (MMC)	14	1.2%
Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI)	5	0.4%
National American University (NAU)	0	0.0%
Northern State University (NSU)	51	4.5%
Presentation College (PC)	7	0.6%
SD School of Mines and Technology (SDMT)	99	8.6%
SD State University (SDSU)	452	39.8%
Southeast Technical Institute (STI)	9	0.8%
University of South Dakota (USD)	229	20.0%
University of Sioux Falls (USF)	44	3.9%
Western Dakota Technical Institute (WDTI)	1	0.1%
	<b>1,135</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Overall, SDSU (40.7%) has enrolled the most SDOS recipients in each of the seven cohorts (see Table 2 for number of recipients awarded by institution for each of the seven cohorts). When compared with institution enrollment for 2007-08, the top five institutions with the highest percentage of recipients were Augustana (17%), followed by SDSMT (15%), SDSU (14%), USD (9%), and DWU (8%).

**Table 2**  
**South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship – Recipients Funded Across First Seven Cohorts**

<i>Participating Institution</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term</i>
Augustana College (AUG)	79	0	58	0	80	4	90	311	<b>8.1%</b>
Black Hills State U. (BHSU)	33	2	52	1	54	0	58	200	<b>5.2%</b>
Colorado Technical U. (CTU)	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	<b>0.1%</b>
Dakota State U. (DSU)	20	0	29	0	40	1	45	135	<b>3.5%</b>
Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)	7	1	8	0	18	0	22	56	<b>1.5%</b>
Lake Area Tech. Inst. (LATI)	2	0	6	0	7	0	9	24	<b>0.6%</b>
Mount Marty College (MMC)	15	0	16	0	11	0	14	56	<b>1.5%</b>
Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)	3	0	0	0	2	0	5	10	<b>0.3%</b>
National American U. (NAU)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	<b>0.1%</b>
Northern State U. (NSU)	29	0	31	0	39	0	51	150	<b>3.9%</b>
Presentation College (PC)	4	0	5	1	10	0	7	27	<b>0.7%</b>
SD Sch. of Mines/Tech (SDMT)	64	0	79	0	78	1	99	321	<b>8.4%</b>
SD State U. (SDSU)	346	5	359	6	375	12	452	1,555	<b>40.7%</b>
Southeast Tech Inst. (STI)	3	0	6	0	6	1	9	25	<b>0.7%</b>
U. of South Dakota (USD)	190	4	169	2	204	6	229	804	<b>21.1%</b>
U. of Sioux Falls (USF)	27	0	28	0	33	0	44	132	<b>3.5%</b>
W. Dakota Tech. Inst. (WDT)	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4	<b>0.1%</b>
	<b>828</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>3,816</b>	

### ***Continuing Eligibility Status***

After a student is awarded the SDOS, he/she must meet a number of standards each semester to remain eligible. First, each student must maintain a cumulative grade point average for all credit hours completed of at least 3.0, as well as attempt and complete 15 semester credit hours of instruction each semester in courses in which instructors assign letter grades or their numeric equivalent. Any student who loses eligibility because the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0 may reestablish eligibility by raising the cumulative grade point average to 3.0 or greater. Failure to enroll in the required number of credits at the beginning of either the Fall or Spring semester disqualifies the student from further participation in the program. Students also become ineligible at the end of the semester in which he/she fails to complete 15 semester credit hours. Additionally, students can lose their SDOS eligibility by withdrawing/transferring out of the program, and/or failing to pass the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) exam.

Across the seven cohorts, 936 recipients (25% of the 3,816 total) are either permanently or temporarily ineligible for the SDOS for the Fall 2007 semester. Of these 936 students, a total of 219 are temporarily ineligible due to their failure to maintain a 3.0 GPA and could be reinstated and funded in the future. South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship recipients from the 2004-05 academic year (Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 cohorts) had the highest number of ineligible recipients accounting for 41% of the students who were initially awarded the scholarship (see Table 3). Across this cohort, the most common justifications for ineligibility were failing to complete 15 semester credit hours (62%), withdrawing from the program (26%), falling below the 3.0 GPA requirement (10%), or graduation (1%) from the institution (see Figure 1). Two students from these two cohorts lost eligibility for failure to sit for the proficiency examination.

**Table 3**  
**Continuing Eligibility Status for Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 Cohorts**

<i>Fall 2004 – Spring 2005</i>	<i>Cohort #</i>	<i>Below GPA</i>	<i>Below Cr. Hrs.</i>	<i>Transfer Withdraw</i>	<i>Lost-CAAP</i>	<i>Grad.</i>	<i>Still Receiving</i>
Augustana College (AUG)	79	2	25	1	0	0	<b>51</b>
Black Hills State U. (BHSU)	35	0	12	7	0	0	<b>15</b>
Colorado Technical U. (CTU)	2	0	0	2	0	0	<b>0</b>
Dakota State U. (DSU)	20	0	6	4	0	0	<b>14</b>
Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)	8	1	2	0	0	1	<b>4</b>
Lake Area Tech. Institute (LATI)	2	0	0	1	0	1	<b>0</b>
Mount Marty College (MMC)	15	0	0	2	0	0	<b>13</b>
Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)	3	0	2	1	0	0	<b>0</b>
National American U. (NAU)	3	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Northern State U. (NSU)	29	2	5	4	0	0	<b>19</b>
Presentation College (PC)	4	0	1	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
SD Sch. of Mines & Tech. (SDMT)	64	2	25	7	0	1	<b>29</b>
SD State U. (SDSU)	351	12	91	25	2	0	<b>208</b>
Southeast Tech Institute (STI)	3	0	1	1	0	1	<b>0</b>
U. of South Dakota (USD)	194	14	38	31	0	0	<b>118</b>
U. of Sioux Falls (USF)	27	0	5	3	0	0	<b>19</b>
W. Dakota Tech. Institute (WDTI)	1	0	0	0	0	1	<b>0</b>
	<b>840</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>496</b>

Similar trends existed for the 2005-06 academic year (Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 cohorts) which had the second largest pool of ineligible recipients (see Table 4). For these cohorts, 314 (37%) of the recipients had become temporarily or permanently ineligible since initially receiving the scholarship. The most common justifications for lost eligibility were failing to complete 15 semester credit hours (50%), withdrawing from the program (25%), falling below the 3.0 GPA requirement (23%), or graduation (2%) from the institution (see Figure 1). Three students from these two cohorts failed to meet the proficiency exam requirement and lost eligibility.

**Table 4**  
**Continuing Eligibility Status for Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 Cohorts**

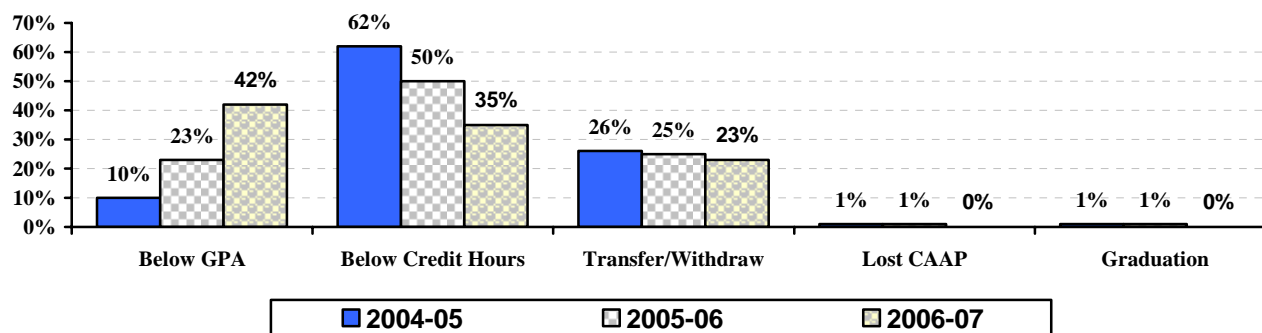
<i>Fall 2005 – Spring 2006</i>	<i>Cohort #</i>	<i>Below GPA</i>	<i>Below Cr. Hrs.</i>	<i>Transfer Withdraw</i>	<i>Lost-CAAP</i>	<i>Grad.</i>	<i>Still Receiving</i>
Augustana College (AUG)	58	9	16	0	0	0	33
Black Hills State U. (BHSU)	51	9	7	6	0	0	29
Colorado Technical U. (CTU)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dakota State U. (DSU)	30	3	5	5	0	0	17
Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)	9	0	1	0	0	0	8
Lake Area Tech. Institute (LATI)	6	0	1	3	0	2	0
Mount Marty College (MMC)	16	0	0	2	0	0	14
Northern State U. (NSU)	36	2	6	3	0	0	25
Presentation College (PC)	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
SD Sch. of Mines & Tech. (SDMT)	77	8	23	6	0	0	40
SD State U. (SDSU)	363	28	77	18	3	0	237
Southeast Tech Institute (STI)	6	0	4	0	0	2	0
U. of South Dakota (USD)	170	9	11	34	0	0	116
U. of Sioux Falls (USF)	28	4	5	0	0	0	19
W. Dakota Tech. Institute (WDTI)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
	<b>858</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>544</b>

For the 2006-07 academic year (Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 cohorts) a total of 282 (29%) recipients have become temporarily or permanently ineligible since initially receiving the scholarship (see Table 5). The most common justifications for lost eligibility were falling below the 3.0 GPA requirement (42%), failing to complete 15 semester credit hours (35%), or withdrawing from the program (23%)

**Table 5**  
**Continuing Eligibility Status for Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 Cohorts**

<i>Fall 2005 – Spring 2006</i>	<i>Cohort #</i>	<i>Below GPA</i>	<i>Below Cr. Hrs.</i>	<i>Transfer Withdraw</i>	<i>Lost-CAAP</i>	<i>Grad.</i>	<i>Still Receiving</i>
Augustana College (AUG)	84	11	13	0	0	0	60
Black Hills State U. (BHSU)	54	10	3	4	0	0	37
Dakota State U. (DSU)	41	3	2	8	0	0	28
Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)	18	1	1	0	0	0	16
Lake Area Tech. Institute (LATI)	7	0	1	4	0	0	2
Mount Marty College (MMC)	11	0	1	1	0	0	9
Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
Northern State U. (NSU)	39	4	1	2	0	0	32
Presentation College (PC)	10	0	0	2	0	0	8
SD Sch. of Mines & Tech. (SDMT)	79	11	6	8	0	0	54
SD State U. (SDSU)	387	53	51	14	0	0	269
Southeast Tech Institute (STI)	7	0	1	1	0	0	5
U. of South Dakota (USD)	210	23	17	19	0	0	151
U. of Sioux Falls (USF)	33	2	3	0	0	0	28
W. Dakota Tech. Institute (WDTI)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	<b>983</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>701</b>

**Figure 1**  
**Academic Year Cohort Ineligibility Status Classifications**



### CAAP Performance

Each student must sit for and pass all four sections of the CAAP exam that the Board requires for regular students attending state universities. If the student does not pass the proficiency examinations on the student's first attempt, the student loses eligibility to continue participation in the scholarship program. A total of 1,232 students have sat for the proficiency exam across the first five cohort groups. All students who have sat for the exam have successfully achieved cut scores for Mathematics, Reading, Writing and Science Reasoning set by the South Dakota Board of Regents (see Table 6 for CAAP testing and passing percentage by institution).

**Table 6**  
**Recipient CAAP Performance**

<b>Participating Institution</b>	<b># of Recipients</b>	<b># Tested</b>	<b># Passed</b>	<b>% Passed</b>
Augustana College (AUG)	221	100	100	100%
Black Hills State U. (BHSU)	142	46	46	100%
Colorado Technical U. (CTU)	3	3	3	100%
Dakota State U. (DSU)	90	38	38	100%
Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)	34	15	15	100%
Lake Area Tech. Institute (LATI)	15	4	4	100%
Mount Marty College (MMC)	42	29	29	100%
Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)	5	2	2	100%
National American U. (NAU)	3	2	2	100%
Northern State U. (NSU)	99	47	47	100%
Presentation College (PC)	20	9	9	100%
SD Sch. of Mines & Tech. (SDMT)	222	90	90	100%
SD State U. (SDSU)	1,103	535	535	100%
Southeast Tech Institute (STI)	16	2	2	100%
U. of South Dakota (USD)	575	266	266	100%
U. of Sioux Falls (USF)	88	43	43	100%
W. Dakota Tech. Institute (WDTI)	3	1	1	100%
		<b>1,232</b>	<b>1,232</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ***SDOS Major Enrollments***

Participating institutions are asked to identify recipients' major enrollments on their campus. Those recipients who maintain eligibility have their major status updated in the SDOS database each semester. Major enrollment for those recipients who have lost eligibility is documented at the point of their last eligible semester. An analysis of data reveal that SDOS recipients are more likely to enroll in majors resulting in career areas such as medicine, science, mathematics, engineering, and business. Table 7 provides frequency and percentages for the top twenty majors across the 3,816 SDOS recipients. Biology (295 or 7.8%) has been the most common major during the first three years of the program, with student enrollment in these 20 majors representing 57% of the 3,816 recipients.

**Table 7**  
***Twenty Most Common Majors for SDOS Recipients***

<b><i>Major</i></b>	<b><i>Frequency</i></b>	<b><i>Percentage of SDOS Recipients</i></b>
<b><i>1. Biology</i></b>	295	7.8%
<b><i>2. Pre-Pharmacy</i></b>	183	4.8%
<b><i>3. Pre-Nursing</i></b>	155	4.1%
<b><i>4. Mechanical Engineering</i></b>	151	4.0%
<b><i>5. Nursing</i></b>	143	3.8%
<b><i>6. Pre-Medicine</i></b>	137	3.6%
<b><i>7. Business</i></b>	119	3.1%
<b><i>8. Psychology</i></b>	106	2.8%
<b><i>9. Elementary Education</i></b>	105	2.8%
<b><i>10. Chemistry</i></b>	98	2.6%
<b><i>11. Civil Engineering</i></b>	92	2.4%
<b><i>12. Mathematics</i></b>	92	2.4%
<b><i>13. Business Management</i></b>	86	2.3%
<b><i>14. Computer Science</i></b>	73	1.9%
<b><i>15. Political Science</i></b>	70	1.8%
<b><i>16. English</i></b>	57	1.5%
<b><i>17. Electrical Engineering</i></b>	54	1.4%
<b><i>18. Pre-Physical Therapy</i></b>	54	1.4%
<b><i>19. History</i></b>	52	1.4%
<b><i>20. Accounting</i></b>	46	1.2%
	<b><i>2,168</i></b>	<b><i>57.0%</i></b>

## ***Executive Director Exemptions***

State statute grants the Executive Director of the Board of Regents the authority to grant exceptions to continuous enrollment requirements when good cause is shown. As a result, when a situation arises that hinders a student from meeting the eligibility requirements for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, he/she has the opportunity to request an exception waiver from the Executive Director. Exemption waivers can be granted for student inability to meet *Credit Hour*, *GPA*, *Persistence*, or *Proficiency Examination* requirements. Furthermore, instances have and will continue to occur that represent unique situations where the Executive Director has granted a waiver to ensure that student interests and the intent of the scholarship program are best served. In these situations, the classification of *other* has been assigned. In addition to these five waiver classifications, seven justifications have been attributed to student appeals for exemptions from the Executive Director that include:



1. Situations where *Medical Hardship* has hindered a students progress;
2. Student participation in an approved *Exchange Program* through their institution;
3. Conflict with *Program of Study Requirements* that influence student credit hours;
4. Instances where *Administrative Error* has occurred;
5. Participation in an institution approved *Internship* program;
6. *Military Deferral* for National Guard or military service;
7. Instances where students have taken a *Repeat Course* to fulfill degree requirements.

In the first three years of the SDOS program, the Executive Director has received 190 exemption requests from students across the seven cohorts. Forty-three of these exemption requests have been denied, while 146 have been granted to students across 13 institutions (see Table 8).

**Table 8**  
**Executive Director Exemption Requests – Cumulative for all Seven Cohorts and Seven Terms**

<i>Participating Institution</i>	<i>Requested Exemptions</i>	<i>Denied Exemptions</i>	<i>Granted Exemptions</i>
<i>Augustana College (AUG)</i>	12	3	9
<i>Black Hills State U. (BHSU)</i>	9	5	4
<i>Dakota State U. (DSU)</i>	1	0	1
<i>Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)</i>	2	0	2
<i>Lake Area Tech. Inst. (LATI)</i>	1	1	0
<i>Mount Marty College (MMC)</i>	5	0	5
<i>Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)</i>	1	1	0
<i>Northern State U. (NSU)</i>	3	1	2
<i>SD Sch. of Mines &amp; Tech. (SDMT)</i>	12	4	8
<i>SD State U. (SDSU)</i>	102	18	84
<i>Southeast Tech. Inst. (STI)</i>	1	1	0
<i>U. of South Dakota (USD)</i>	37	9	28
<i>U. of Sioux Falls (USF)</i>	4	1	3
	<b>190</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>146</b>

The majority of Executive Director waivers have been granted for student inability to meet *Credit Hour* requirements (82%), followed by *Other* (7%), *Persistence* (6%), *Proficiency Exam* (2%), and GPA requirements (1%). Additionally, inability to meet *Program of Study Requirements* (35%) was the most common justification for the Executive Director to grant a waiver to students seeking exemptions (see Table 9).

**Table 9**  
**Executive Director Exemption Waiver Request by Exemption Justifications**

<i>Exemption Justification</i>	<i>Exemption Waiver Request</i>						<i>Total</i>
	<i>Credit Hour</i>	<i>GPA</i>	<i>Persist</i>	<i>Proficiency Exam</i>	<i>Reconsider Award</i>	<i>Other</i>	
<i>Medical Hardship</i>	28	1	1	1	0	2	<b>33</b> (23%)
<i>Exchange Program</i>	25	0	1	1	0	0	<b>27</b> (19%)
<i>Program of Study Req.</i>	51	0	0	0	0	0	<b>51</b> (35%)
<i>Administrative Error</i>	8	0	0	0	3	8	<b>19</b> (13%)
<i>Internship</i>	6	0	1	1	0	0	<b>8</b> (5%)
<i>Military Deferral</i>	0	0	5	0	0	0	<b>5</b> (3%)
<i>Repeat Course</i>	3	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b> (2%)
	<b>121</b> (83%)	<b>1</b> (1%)	<b>8</b> (6%)	<b>3</b> (2%)	<b>3</b> (2%)	<b>10</b> (7%)	<b>146</b>

