

**South Dakota Board of Regents
South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship
Spring 2008 Term Recipient Report**

Executive Summary

For the Spring 2008 semester, 2,723 recipients are eligible for funding across the 16 participating institutions (See Table 1 and 2 for eligibility details by institution). A total of 32 new recipients are receiving the scholarship for their first semester, bringing the total for this year to 1,167. When compared with the previous academic terms, the 2007-08 cohort represents a 19% increase when compared to the 983 recipients from the 2006-07, and 36% increase when compared to the 858 recipients from the 2005-06 academic year.

Continuing Eligibility Status

For the first eight semesters of the SDOS program, a total of 3,848 recipients have been awarded funding, however 1,116 of these recipients are currently ineligible. A total of 2,732 recipients from the first seven cohorts (71% of the original 3,848 recipients) have established continuing eligibility for Spring 2008. Additionally, nine unfunded recipients received executive director exemptions and remain eligible for the Spring 2008 term.

Students can lose their SDOS eligibility for six reasons which include: 1) temporarily falling below the required GPA; 2) falling below the required credit hours; 3) falling below the required credit hours and failing to meet established GPA requirements; 4) withdrawing/transferring out of the program; 5) graduation; and/or 6) 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 – 368 (33%)
- Withdrawing/Transferring from the program - 301 (27%)
- Falling below required GPA – 228 (20%)
- Below GPA & Credit Hour Requirements – 198 (18%)
- Graduation – 16 (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 207 students from the first seven cohorts. This number could increase to 2,939 for Fall 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 56% 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, education and business. Overall, Biology (303 or 9%) has been the most common major during the first four 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 344 exemption requests have been received from students in the first eight cohorts. Sixty-four exemption requests have been denied, and 280 requests have been granted for students across fourteen institutions (see Attachment II, Table 8). The most common exemption waiver has been granted for students' inability to meet *Credit Hour* requirements (87%), followed by *Other* (5%), *Persistence* (5%), *Proficiency Exam* (1%), *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* (154 of the 280), 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* (14%), student participation in *Exchange Programs* (16%), issues that emerged with *Administrative Error* (9%), participation in institution approved *Internships* (10%), *Military Deferral* (2%), and *Repeat Courses* (1%).

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 Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. 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 2007-08 includes 1,167 South Dakota graduates. This is an increase of 184 recipients when compared to the 2006-07 academic year. 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 2007-08 academic year (see Table 1 for number and percentage of recipients awarded by institution for the 2007-08 academic term).

Table 1
2007-08 South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Recipient Summary

<i>Participating Institution</i>	<i># of Recipients</i>	<i>Total %</i>
Augustana College (AUG)	90	7.7%
Black Hills State University (BHSU)	61	5.2%
Colorado Technical University (CTU)	0	0.0%
Dakota State University (DSU)	48	4.1%
Dakota Wesleyan University (DWU)	22	1.9%
Kilian Community College (KCC)	0	0.0%
Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI)	11	0.9%
Mount Marty College (MMC)	15	1.3%
Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI)	5	0.4%
National American University (NAU)	0	0.0%
Northern State University (NSU)	53	4.5%
Presentation College (PC)	7	0.6%
SD School of Mines and Technology (SDMT)	101	8.7%
SD State University (SDSU)	459	39.3%
Southeast Technical Institute (STI)	7	0.6%
University of South Dakota (USD)	239	20.5%
University of Sioux Falls (USF)	48	4.1%
Western Dakota Technical Institute (WDTI)	1	0.1%
	1,167	100.0%

Overall, SDSU (40.2%) has enrolled the most SDOS recipients in each of the four academic years (see Table 2 for number of recipients awarded by institution for each of the four academic years). When compared with institution enrollment for 2007-08, the top five

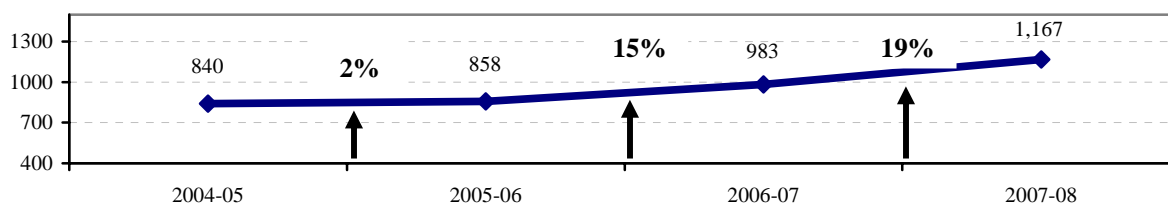
institutions with the highest percentage of recipients were Augustana (17%), followed by SDSMT (15%), SDSU (14%), USD (9%), and DWU (8%).

Table 2
South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship – Recipients Funded Across First Four Academic Years

<i>Participating Institution</i>	<i>2004-05</i>	<i>2005-06</i>	<i>2006-07</i>	<i>2007-08</i>	<i>4 Year Total</i>	<i>4 Year %</i>
Augustana College (AUG)	79	58	82	90	309	8.0%
Black Hills State U. (BHSU)	36	52	56	61	205	5.3%
Colorado Technical U. (CTU)	2	1	0	0	3	0.1%
Dakota State U. (DSU)	23	30	46	48	147	3.8%
Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)	8	9	17	22	56	1.5%
Lake Area Tech. Inst. (LATI)	2	6	7	11	26	0.7%
Mount Marty College (MMC)	15	15	10	15	55	1.4%
Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)	3	0	2	5	10	0.3%
National American U. (NAU)	3	0	0	0	3	0.1%
Northern State U. (NSU)	30	35	45	53	163	4.2%
Presentation College (PC)	4	7	11	7	29	0.8%
SD Sch. of Mines/Tech (SDMT)	64	77	72	101	314	8.2%
SD State U. (SDSU)	339	361	387	459	1546	40.2%
Southeast Tech Inst. (STI)	3	6	7	7	23	0.6%
U. of South Dakota (USD)	201	172	204	239	816	21.2%
U. of Sioux Falls (USF)	27	28	35	48	138	3.6%
W. Dakota Tech. Inst. (WDT)	1	1	2	1	5	0.1%
	840	858	983	1,167	3,848	

When examining the number of opportunity scholarship recipients awarded this academic year, there has been a 39% increase in the number of recipients compared with the 840 recipients who established initial eligibility during the 2004-05 academic year. When comparing the first two academic years, there was only a 2% increase in the total number of recipients, yet in the past two years the program has experienced an average of a 17% increase in recipient numbers (see Figure 1).

Figure 1
South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Recipients: Four Year Trend



Continuing Eligibility Status

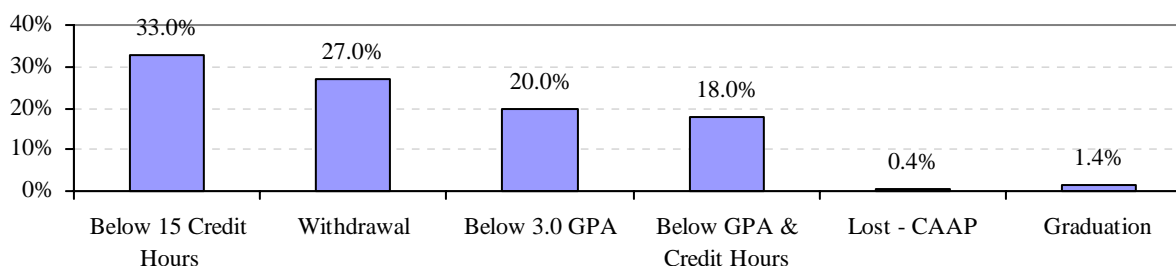
After a student becomes an Opportunity Scholarship recipient, he/she must meet a

number of continuing eligibility requirements each semester. Recipients must maintain a cumulative 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale; attempt and complete 15 credit hours of instruction per semester, and sit for and pass all sections of the college proficiency examination. Any recipient 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. Recipients failing to attempt or complete 15 credits in a given semester become permanently ineligible in the scholarship program. For reporting purposes, recipient continued ineligibility has been categorized into six areas using the above criteria established in the legislative statute governing the programs. Ineligibility occurs when a:

- 1) Recipient failed to meet the 15 credit hour requirement;
- 2) Recipient is no longer actively enrolled in the program resulting from persistence issues (stop-out without executive director exemption), transfer outside the state, and withdrawal from an institution in South Dakota;
- 3) Recipient fell below the 3.0 cumulative grade point average;
- 4) Recipient has failed to meet 15 credit hour requirement and maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average;
- 5) Recipient has failed one or more of the content areas for the proficiency examination (Reading, Writing Skills, Science Reasoning, Mathematics), or failed to sit for the exam during the semester established in Board of Regents Policy;
- 6) Recipient has graduated.

Across the eight cohorts, 2,723 recipients (71%) have maintained their eligibility for the Spring 2008 semester (note that nine of these recipients received an executive director exemption and were unfunded this academic term). The remaining 1,116 recipients (29% of the 3,848 total) who were unfunded this term are either permanently or temporarily ineligible for the Opportunity Scholarship. Of these 1,116 students, a total of 207 are temporarily ineligible due to their failure to maintain a 3.0 GPA and could be reinstated and funded in the future. The most common justification for failing to maintain eligibility was a student's failing to complete 15 credit hours (33%), followed by student withdrawal (27%), falling below the 3.0 GPA (20%), failing to meet the GPA and credit hour requirements (18%), graduation (1.4%), and failing to sit for or pass the proficiency examination (0.4%).

Figure 2
Basis for Recipient Failure to Maintain Continuing Eligibility



Each semester the 16 South Dakota institutions monitor recipient continuing eligibility in the Opportunity Scholarship program and upload recipient data into a database maintained by the Board of Regents. These data are carefully monitored at both the institutional and system level to ensure

that all students have met the continuing eligibility requirements specified in legislative statute that governs the scholarship program. For instance, campus personnel review recipient credit hours attempted at the start of each semester, and notify those students who are attempting fewer than 15 credit hours. Those students who fail to register for at least 15 credit hours are not included in an institution's term funding request, and subsequently become permanently ineligible for further funding. Table 3 depicts the frequency of ineligible students across the six classification areas by each institution. The final column in the table provides both the frequency and percentage of recipients who have maintained their eligibility since initial enrollment in the program. It is important to note that student graduation as a classification for lost eligibility is included in eligibility course for percentage calculations so that institutions are not inversely impacted by successful degree completion.

Institution	Below Credit	Withdraw	Below GPA	Credit & GPA	Lost- CAAP	Grad.	Eligible
Augustana	41	1	17	29	0	3	218 (72%)
Black Hills State	21	20	22	6	0	0	136 (66%)
Colorado Technical	0	3	0	0	0	0	0 (0%)
Dakota State	8	19	6	5	0	0	109 (74%)
Dakota Wesleyan	3	1	2	2	0	1	47 (86%)
Lake Area Technical	2	7	0	0	0	4	13 (65%)
Mount Marty	3	4	0	0	0	1	47 (87%)
Mitchell Technical	3	1	0	0	0	0	6 (60%)
National American	0	0	0	0	0	1	2 (100%)
Northern State	9	12	6	10	0	0	126 (77%)
Presentation	2	1	0	1	0	0	25 (86%)
SD Mines & Tech.	43	37	18	19	0	1	196 (63%)
SD State U.	165	85	101	96	5	0	1,094 (71%)
Southeast Technical	7	2	0	2	0	3	9 (52%)
U. of South Dakota	48	102	50	28	0	0	588 (72%)
U. of Sioux Falls	13	6	6	0	0	0	113 (82%)
W. Dakota Technical	0	0	0	0	0	2	3 (100%)
	368	301	228	198	5	16	2,723 (71%)

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 44% of the students who were initially awarded the scholarship (see Table 4). The most common justification was for falling below the 15 credit hour requirement (48%). For the 2005-06 academic year a total of 338 (39%) recipients have failed to maintain eligibility, and 32% have lost eligibility during the 2006-07 academic year. Only 96 (8%) of the recipients who initially established their eligibility in the Fall of 2007 had failed to maintain eligibility into the second semester, with the higher percentage of these students simply withdrawing from the program (54%).

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Below Credit</i>	<i>Withdraw</i>	<i>Below GPA</i>	<i>Credit & GPA</i>	<i>Lost- CAAP</i>	<i>Grad.</i>	<i>Ineligible</i>
2004-05	176 ^(48%)	98 ^(33%)	35 ^(15%)	51 ^(26%)	2 ^(40%)	9 ^(56%)	371 ^(44%)
2005-06	117 ^(32%)	80 ^(27%)	73 ^(32%)	60 ^(30%)	3 ^(60%)	5 ^(31%)	338 ^(39%)
2006-07	56 ^(15%)	71 ^(24%)	119 ^(52%)	63 ^(32%)	0 ^(0%)	2 ^(13%)	311 ^(32%)
2007-08	19 ^(5%)	52 ^(17%)	1 ^(1%)	24 ^(12%)	0 ^(0%)	0 ^(0%)	96 ^(8%)
	368	301	228	198	5	16	1,116 ^(29%)

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 1,455 students have sat for the proficiency exam across the first eight 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 5 for CAAP testing and passing percentage by institution).

Table 5
Recipient CAAP Performance

<i>Participating Institution</i>	<i># of Recipients</i>	<i># Tested</i>	<i># Passed</i>	<i>% Passed</i>
Augustana College (AUG)	309	106	106	100%
Black Hills State U. (BHSU)	205	63	63	100%
Colorado Technical U. (CTU)	3	3	3	100%
Dakota State U. (DSU)	147	51	51	100%
Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)	56	15	15	100%
Lake Area Tech. Institute (LATI)	26	4	4	100%
Mount Marty College (MMC)	55	32	32	100%
Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)	10	2	2	100%
National American U. (NAU)	3	3	3	100%
Northern State U. (NSU)	163	57	57	100%
Presentation College (PC)	29	10	10	100%
SD Sch. of Mines & Tech. (SDMT)	314	108	108	100%
SD State U. (SDSU)	1,546	605	605	100%
Southeast Tech Institute (STI)	23	2	2	100%
U. of South Dakota (USD)	816	345	345	100%
U. of Sioux Falls (USF)	138	47	47	100%
W. Dakota Tech. Institute (WDTI)	5	2	2	100%
	3,848	1,455	1,455	100%

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. In the past, major enrollments have been reported for all students in the SDOS program, with majors for those recipients who have lost eligibility documented at the point of their last eligible semester. For reporting purposes, an unduplicated major enrollment report was developed to represent the recipient's primary major at his/her institution. However, to more accurately depict the range of student majors (e.g., recipient enrollment in double and triple majors), data for this year reflects only those students who are classified as eligible or temporarily eligible in the SDOS database. Although only 2,723 students have maintained their continuing eligibility during the Spring 2008, a total of 3,337 major enrollments are reported. 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 6 provides frequency and percentages for the top twenty majors across the 3,816 SDOS recipients. Biology (303 or 9.1%) continues to be the most common major during the first four years of the program, with student enrollment in these 20 majors representing 56% of the 3,816 enrollments.

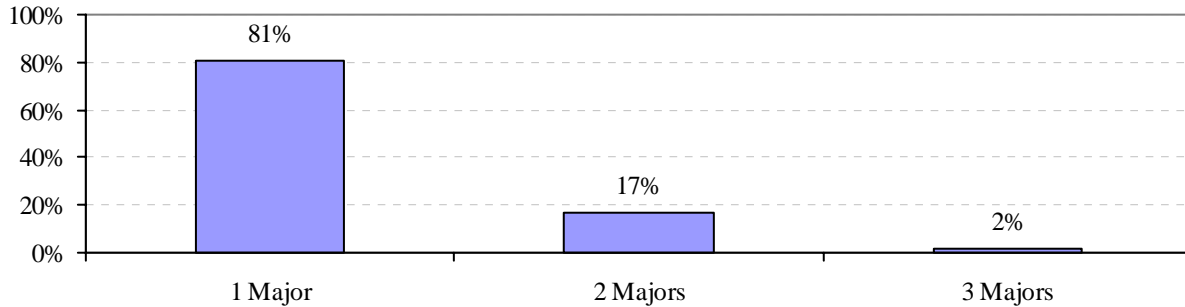
Table 6
Twenty Most Common Majors for SDOS Recipients

Major	Frequency	Percentage of Enrollments
1. Biology	303	9.1
2. Nursing	186	5.6
3. Undeclared	151	4.5
4. Psychology	127	3.8
5. Elementary Education	111	3.3
6. Business	107	3.2
7. Special Education Certification	102	3.1
8. Mechanical Engineering	85	2.5
9. Chemistry	83	2.5
10. Mathematics	79	2.4
11. Political Science	69	2.1
12. Business Management	62	1.9
13. History	59	1.8
14. English	58	1.7
15. Civil Engineering	57	1.7
16. Accounting	56	1.7
17. Spanish	51	1.5
18. Computer Science	47	1.4
19. Pharmaceutical Sciences	46	1.4
20. Sociology	34	1.0
	1,873	56.2%

Eighty-one percent of the recipients who maintained their eligibility for the Spring 2008

semester were enrolled in one primary major at their institution (see Figure 3). Seventeen percent were enrolled in at least two majors with the highest percentage of these students co-enrolled in Elementary Education and Special Education degree tracts.

Figure 3
Percentage of Scholarship Recipients with One or more Majors



Most professional schools and universities throughout the United States require a baccalaureate degree for admission to programs such as medicine, dentistry and law. To help prepare students for these programs, institutions have created a number of pre-professional programs designed to prepare students to apply to various types of professional schools. Recipient enrollment in these pre-professional tracking programs results in 12% of the majors reported by institutional representatives. For the spring 2008 semester, Pre-medicine (107 or 3%) had the highest pre-professional enrollments followed by Pre-pharmacy (3%), Nursing (2%), Pre-physical Therapy (1%), and Pre-dentistry (1%). Table 7 provides a complete list of pre-professional majors across the 16 institutions taking part in the Opportunity Scholarship program.

Table 7
SDOS Recipients Enrolled in Pre-Professional Tracking Programs

Major	Frequency	Percentage of Enrollments
1. Pre-Medicine	107	3.2
2. Pre-Pharmacy	92	2.8
3. Pre-Nursing	75	2.2
4. Pre-Physical Therapy	42	1.3
5. Pre-Dentistry	24	.7
6. Pre-Veterinary Medicine	21	.6
7. Pre-Dental Hygiene	12	.4
8. Pre-Occupational Therapy	12	.4
9. Pre-Physicians Assistant	11	.3
10. Pre-Chiropractic	7	.2
11. Pre-Optometry	7	.2
12. Pre-Business	2	.1
	412	12.4%

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 exemption 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 student's 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 four years of the SDOS program, the Executive Director has received 344 exemption requests from students across the seven cohorts. Sixty-four of these exemption requests have been denied, while 280 have been granted to students across 14 institutions (see Table 8).

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

Participating Institution	Requested Exemptions	Denied Exemptions	Granted Exemptions
<i>Augustana College (AUG)</i>	27	2	25
<i>Black Hills State U. (BHSU)</i>	15	5	10
<i>Dakota State U. (DSU)</i>	3	0	3
<i>Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)</i>	3	0	3
<i>Lake Area Tech. Inst. (LATI)</i>	2	1	1
<i>Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)</i>	1	1	0
<i>Mount Marty College (MMC)</i>	6	0	6
<i>National American University (NAU)</i>	1	0	1
<i>Northern State U. (NSU)</i>	5	1	4
<i>SD Sch. of Mines & Tech. (SDMT)</i>	24	4	20
<i>SD State U. (SDSU)</i>	162	35	127
<i>Southeast Tech. Inst. (STI)</i>	1	1	0
<i>U. of Sioux Falls (USF)</i>	5	1	4
<i>U. of South Dakota (USD)</i>	89	13	76
	344	64	280

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>	33	1	2	1	0	2	39
<i>Exchange Program</i>	38	1	3	2	0	2	46
<i>Program of Study Req.</i>	134	0	0	0	0	0	134
<i>Administrative Error</i>	12	0	0	0	3	10	25
<i>Internship</i>	23	0	3	1	0	0	27
<i>Military Deferral</i>	0	0	6	0	0	0	6
<i>Repeat Course</i>	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
	243	2	14	4	3	14	280

