

Dear Dr. Wilson and Dr. Bradley:

When I appeared before the UCA Faculty Senate this week, Dr. Bradley asked about the retention numbers for those first-time, full-time freshmen who received the new Arkansas Lottery Scholarship in the fall of 2010. I had our Office of Institutional Research review the request and Melissa Goff has provided me with the attached chart. (Please note that the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is working on a similar project, and will provide data for all colleges and universities.)

What the attached chart shows is that in the fall of 2010, we had 1,277 first-time, full-time freshmen who received the lottery scholarship. Of that number, 932 (73%) returned to UCA in the fall of 2011. However, only 683 of the 1,277 returned with their lottery scholarship - 53.5%.

It is very interesting to note, however, that in addition to the 683 students who returned to UCA with their lottery scholarship, an additional 116 students retained their eligibility for the lottery scholarship, but did not return to UCA for the fall semester 2011. That's how you get to the 799 figure, or 62.6% of the original 1,277 enrolled in fall of 2010.

So, we do not know whether or not those 116 are enrolled in another institution (either in-state or out-of-state) or are not attending college. These 116 students who came to UCA as freshmen and retained their scholarship eligibility, but for some reason did not come back to UCA, is a real concern.

I trust this is the information you requested. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

I am also providing this information to the members of the UCA Board of Trustees and the executive staff.

Tom Courtway