

Research Brief:
**Demographic and Academic Performance Comparison between Fall 2012 and
 Fall 2011 First-Time Freshmen Who Lived On and Off Campus**

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In the spring semester of 2013, an analysis was conducted of the demographics and academic performance of first time Indiana State University freshmen who lived on and off campus during the Fall 2011 and Fall 2012 semesters.

The demographic groups of interest to the study map to those tracked in the ISU Strategic Plan or that are typically associated with at-risk students. The groups included Pell grant recipients, conditional admission students, LEAP Summer Bridge Students, 21st Century Scholars, and first generation students. Table 1 presents the demographic findings.

Table 1
FT-Freshmen Demographic Differences

Measure	2012 On Campus <i>n=2,152</i>	2012 Off Campus <i>n=506</i>	2011 On Campus <i>n=2,009</i> ²	2011 Off Campus <i>n=501</i> ²
Pell Grant	85%	15%	82%	18%
Conditional Admits	91%	9%	84%	16%
LEAP ¹	98%	2%	83%	17%
21s Century Scholar	85%	15%	79%	21%
First Generation	93%	6%	86%	14%

Source: MAP-Works Fall Transition Survey and BANNER.

¹LEAP students are included in the Conditional Admits group

For all categories of student, there was a marked shift in the proportion of each living on versus off campus. The shift was most pronounced among LEAP students (15% shift to on from off campus), followed by conditional admits and first generation students (both shifted 7%), 21st Century Scholars (6% shift), and Pell grant recipients (3% shift). Given the size of the cohorts, these were not small changes in the living patterns of students and provides evidence that when comparing on and off campus students, it is important to recognize that the students are not the same.

Tables 2 presents the academic performance results comparing 2012 on campus students to 2011 on campus students.

Table 2
FT-Freshmen Academic Performance 2012 and 2011 On Campus

Measure	2012 On Campus	2011 On Campus
Avg H.S GPA	3.02	3.01
Avg SAT Math	459.82	465.16
Avg SAT Verbal	454.74	456.92
Avg SAT Writing	439.77	440.18
Fall GPA*	2.56	2.40

* $p < .05$

Results indicated that there were no statistical differences between the cohorts in regards to pre-college academic factors but that the fall GPA for the two groups was significantly improved from 2.40 to 2.56.

Table 3 presents the academic performance results comparing 2012 on campus students with 2011 off campus students.

Table 3

FT-Freshmen Academic Measures 2012 On and Off Campus

Measure	2012 On Campus	2012 Off Campus
Avg H.S. GPA*	3.02	3.20
Avg SAT Math*	459.82	480.42
Avg SAT Verbal*	454.74	484.77
Avg SAT Writing*	439.77	459.72
Fall GPA	2.56	2.54

* $p < .05$

Results indicated that all of the pre-college academic factors were statistically different between the two groups. Freshmen who lived on campus had lower high school GPAs and SAT scores compared to their off campus counterparts. However, there was no difference in academic performance in regards to fall GPA in college despite the pre-college differences.

Table 4 presents the results of Fall midterm grade risk levels as identified through MAP-Works, the early intervention tool used by the University to identify potential students at risk of academic struggle or dropout. High risk was defined as those students with two or more low midterm grades (defined as a grade of D+, D, D-, F, and U). Moderate risk was defined as one low midterm grade. Low risk was defined as no low midterm grades.

Table 4

FT-Freshmen MAP-Works Fall Transition Midterm Risk Levels

Measure	2012 On Campus	2012 Off Campus	2011 On Campus	2011 Off Campus
Fall Midterm High Risk	29%	27%	37%	38%
Fall Midterm Mod Risk	22%	18%	25%	20%
Fall Midterm Low Risk	47%	54%	37%	41%

$\chi^2(6, n=5,156) = 75.10, p = .000$

Chi-squared analysis revealed significant differences among all means. Hence, it appears that in 2012, on campus students had a greater proportion that were identified as either high or moderate risk based on midterm grades and fewer identified as low risk. Yet, it is also clear that fewer on campus students in 2012 were identified as high risk (29%) versus the 37% of on campus students that were identified as such in 2011. On campus students in 2012 were also statistically less likely to be moderately at risk (22% vs. 25%) and more likely to be of low risk (47% vs. 37%).

Among off campus students in 2012, the proportion identified as high risk was also down (27% vs. 38%). It was also slightly down, but still statistically, for the moderate risk group (20% vs. 18%). The proportion that was low risk was up (54% vs. 41%).

In summary to the study findings, it appears that the 2012 on campus students performed markedly better in the Fall 2012 semester than they did in the Fall 2011 semester, despite having statistically the same pre-college academic performance levels. Furthermore, there were no academic performance differences between on and off campus students in 2012, despite on campus students having statistically lower pre-college academic performance as measured by high school GPA and SAT scores and having disproportionate numbers of students typically considered high risk living on versus off campus. Lastly, the midterm grading performance showed improvements for both on and off campus students.