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2000-2009 International Student Retention Report

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International Student Retention - 2000-2009

July,

2010

Conclusions:

Over the period of this study

- The percentage of non-transitional (degree seeking) undergraduate international students who finished, or are currently enrolled at Lindenwood, has fluctuated between low of 68 % and a high of 95%.
- The percentage of graduate international students who completed programs, or are still enrolled, has remained consistent, at or close to, 86%.

For 4 of the last 5 years, the percentage of non-transitional (degree seeking) international undergraduate students who have graduated, or are currently enrolled, has been on the rise.

Female international undergraduate students were more likely to be retained than their male counterparts (83% to 77%). Female graduate students were just slightly more likely to be retained than their male counterparts (88% for males and 91% for females).

The numbers show significant success with both undergraduate and graduate international students who come to LU intending to finish their degree here.

Office of
Institutional
Research

Purpose: To examine the success of retaining international students at LU.

- During the period from fall 2000 to spring 2009, Lindenwood has continued to regularly recruit international students. The number was stable for the first five years, but it has generally grown for the last four years. (There was a slight decline in the last year studied due to a drop in the number of graduate students who entered Lindenwood.)
- Lindenwood University defines
 - Non-Transitional (degree seeking) Undergraduate International Students as
 - those who enroll at LU for one academic year or longer.
 - Students finish, or make clear their intention to finish, a degree at LU
 - Transitional (non-degree seeking) Undergraduate International Students as
 - attending for one academic year or fewer.
 - It is understood that these students did not intend to graduate from LU.
 - These students come to LU with the intent to either return home or transfer to another institution in the US.
- The University has recruited between 204 and 306 new international undergraduate students each year, and of these students, between 145 and 196 have been non-transitional students.
- The University has recruited between 73 and 81 new international graduate students each year. This number has remained relatively constant over the last four years (there was a spike to 110 in 2007-08).

The major research questions investigated include each of the following:

- 1) What are the retention rates for various categories of international students at Lindenwood?
- 2) What are the retention rates of students from countries from which LU recruits the largest numbers of students?

There are a number of assumptions that affect this study:

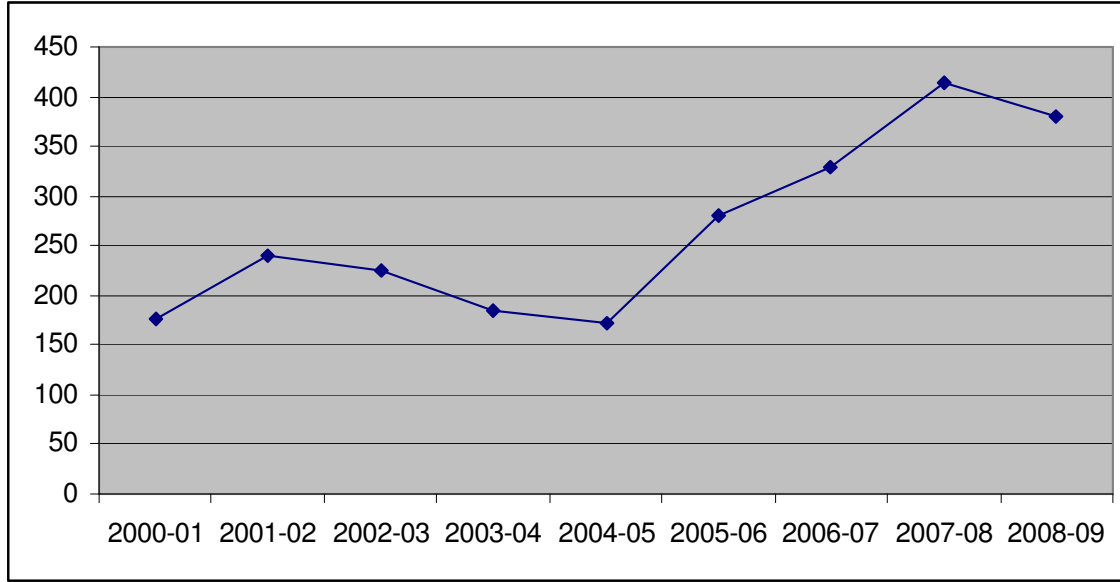
- 1) "Transitional International Students" are not included in the completion data but are included in the recruitment data.
- 2) This study deals with students who began at Lindenwood University in the nine years between fall 2000 and spring 2009.
- 3) The change in computer system has led to older data being less accurately input than more current data, thus it is possible that some students may have been misidentified.

After many hours of data cleanup, it is assumed the errors remaining are small in number and will have little impact on the overall ratios.

- 4) This study only counts students who can be clearly identified as international students; this leaves out a number of pre-CAMS students who are marked both as resident aliens and U.S. citizens in the CAMS (campus administration) system.
- 5) No assumptions have been made as to why students have chosen not to complete their studies at Lindenwood. There is a great deal of anecdotal evidence as to why students from certain countries chose not to finish, but this evidence is limited and insufficient from which to draw any conclusions.
- 6) This study does not account for students who entered Lindenwood with the intention of returning home without finishing a degree in the U.S. It is assumed this number is small and would have a limited effect on the results.
- 7) The student's immigration status at the time of entering Lindenwood is used for all calculations; any changes in that status are not accounted for.
- 8) The "academic year" is defined as August 1 to July 31.

The Number of International Students Recruited from Fall 2000 to Spring 2009

The number of international students brought into Lindenwood has been on a generally upward trajectory for the last four years after being relatively stable from 2000-01 to 2004-05. It will be worth looking to see if 2008-09 is an anomaly or the beginning of a new trend.



Number of Undergraduate International Students

The number of undergraduate international students who have been recruited by Lindenwood and attended for at least one semester has increased dramatically over the last nine years, from 113 in 2000-01 to 306 in 2008-09, an increase of 270%. A corresponding increase of 250% has occurred with the non-transitional international students

Table 1 Number of undergraduate students recruited by academic year – fall 2000- spring 2009

Academic Year	Number of International Undergraduates recruited	Number of Non Transitional (degree Seeking) International Undergraduates
2000-01	113	76
2001-02	169	111
2002-03	169	116
2003-04	133	102
2004-05	128	100
2005-06	204	145
2006-07	249	167
2007-08	304	192
2008-09	306	196

Figure 1 Number of undergraduate international students recruited between fall 2000 and spring 2009 and remained enrolled for at least one term.

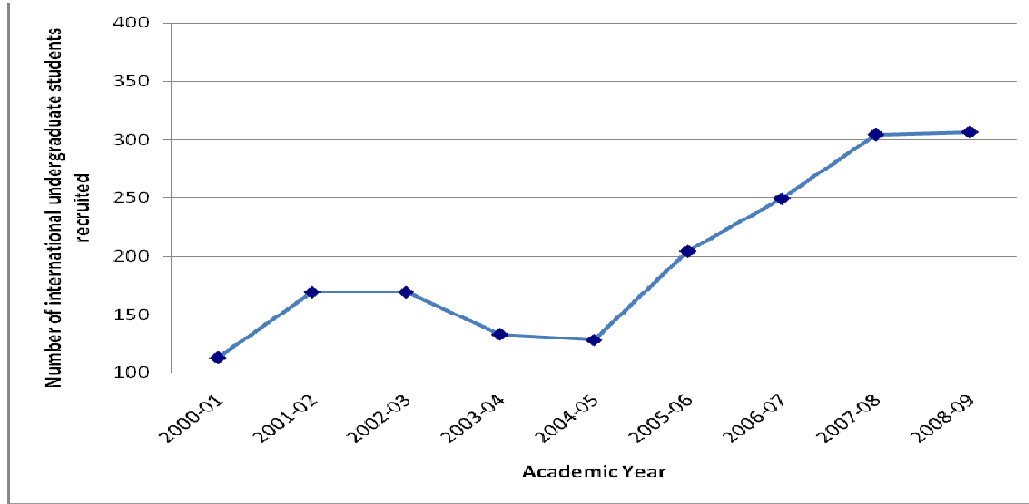
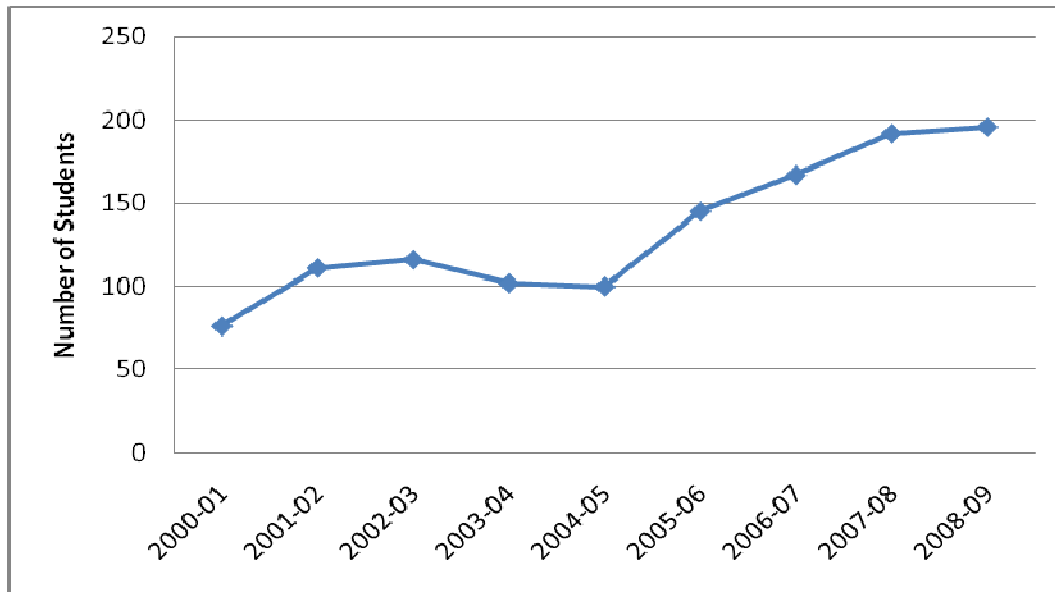


Figure 2 Number of non transitional (degree seeking) undergraduate international students recruited between fall 2000 and spring 2009 and remained enrolled for at least one term.



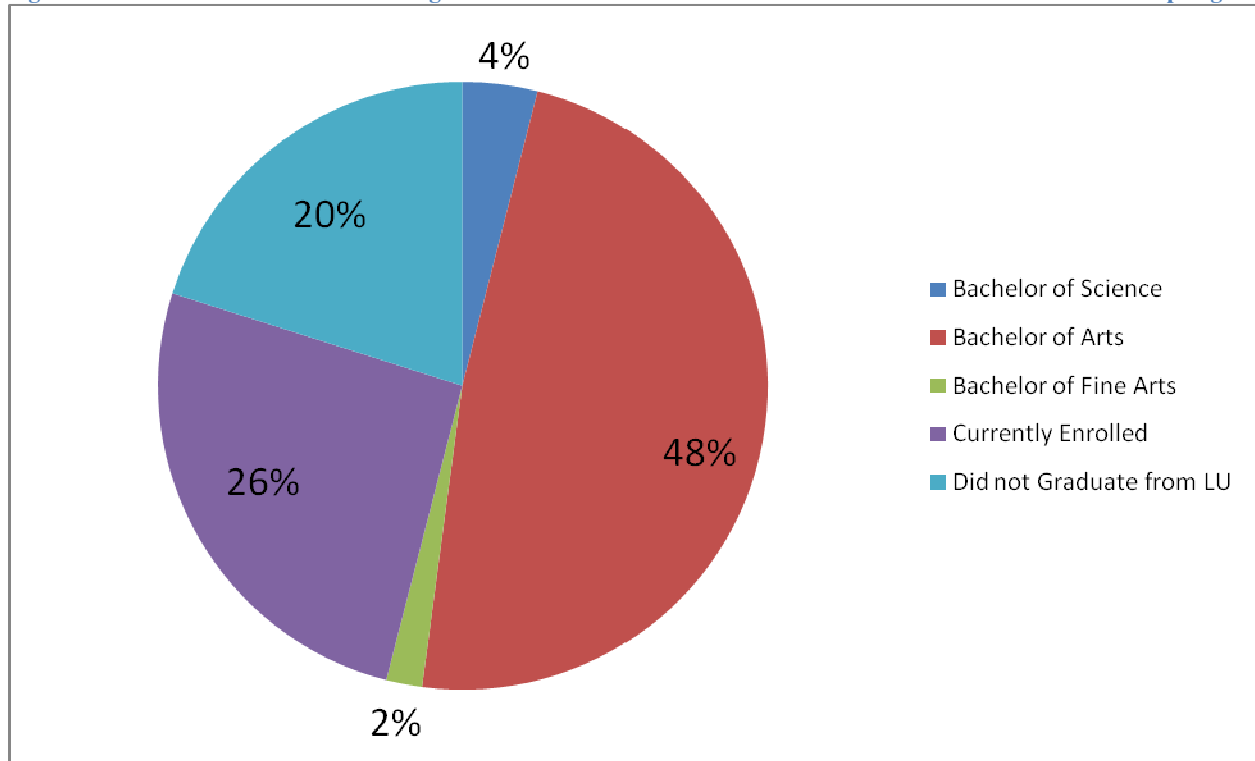
International Undergraduate Results

Of the 1,205 non transitional (degree seeking) undergraduate international students who started at Lindenwood over the last nine years, over 48% completed a Bachelor of Arts degree, over 5% finished with either a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, and over 25% are currently enrolled as of January 1, 2010. This means that over 79% finished degrees at Lindenwood.

Table 2 Undergraduate international students fall 2000 - spring 2009

Total	Percentage
Bachelor of Science	3.98%
Bachelor of Arts	48.13%
Bachelor of Fine Arts	1.91%
Currently Enrolled	25.89%
Total still enrolled, or have finished, a degree at LU	79.91%
Did not Graduate from LU	20.09%

Figure 3 Distribution of results for undergraduate international students who entered LU between fall 2000 and spring

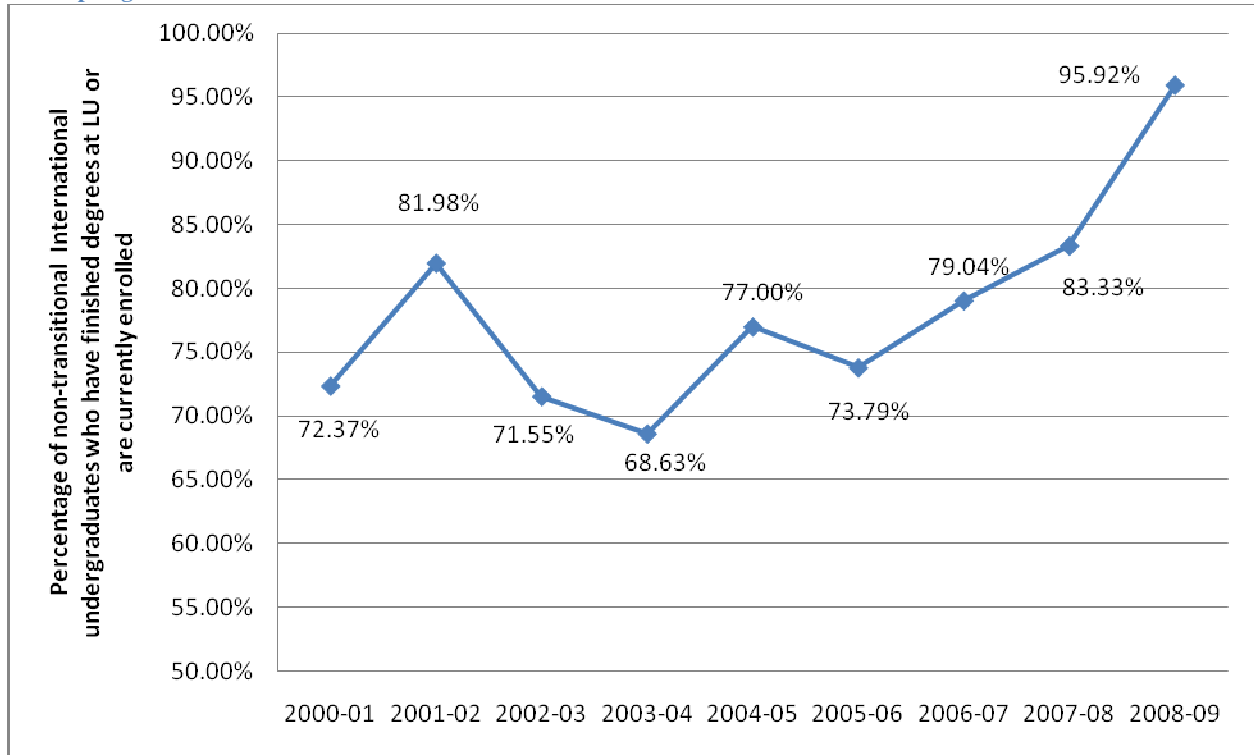


Undergraduate Student Retention Fall 2000-Spring 2009

The percentage of non-transitional (degree seeking) undergraduate international students who completed a bachelor’s degree or are currently enrolled (by year groups) has ranged from between 68% and 83%. The retention rate improved significantly from the 2003-04 group, only 68% of whom completed their degrees or are still enrolled, to the 2008-2009 group when that number rose to 95%.

The average length of attendance at LU by the degree seeking international undergraduates is slightly over 2 years, approximately 4 semesters, but the median is over 1.5 years approximately, 3 semesters.

Figure 4 Percentage of undergraduate international students who finished degrees or are currently enrolled at LU fall 2000- spring 2009



International Undergraduate Students Success by Gender

During the period fall 2000 through the spring 2009, Lindenwood recruited almost twice as many male international undergraduate students as female (776 to 429). The female students have finished their degrees at LU at higher rates than their male counterparts. Over 83.7% percent of women were retained as opposed to 77.8% of men.

**Table 3 Female International Undergraduate Students
Fall 2000 - spring 2009**

Total # of Recruits	429
Earned Bachelor of Science degree	5.13%
Earned Bachelor of Arts degree	48.48%
Earned Bachelor of Fine Arts degree	2.10%
Currently Enrolled	27.97%
Total still enrolled, or have finished, a degree at LU	83.68%
Did not Graduate from LU	16.32%

**Table 4 Male Undergraduate Students Fall 2000 -
spring 2009**

Total	776
Earned Bachelor of Science degree	3.35%
Earned Bachelor of Arts degree	47.94%
Earned Bachelor of Fine Arts degree	1.80%
Currently Enrolled	24.74%
Total still enrolled, or have finished, a degree at LU	77.83%
Did not Graduate from LU	22.17%

Non transistional (degree seeking) International Undergraduate by Regions from fall 2000 through spring 2009

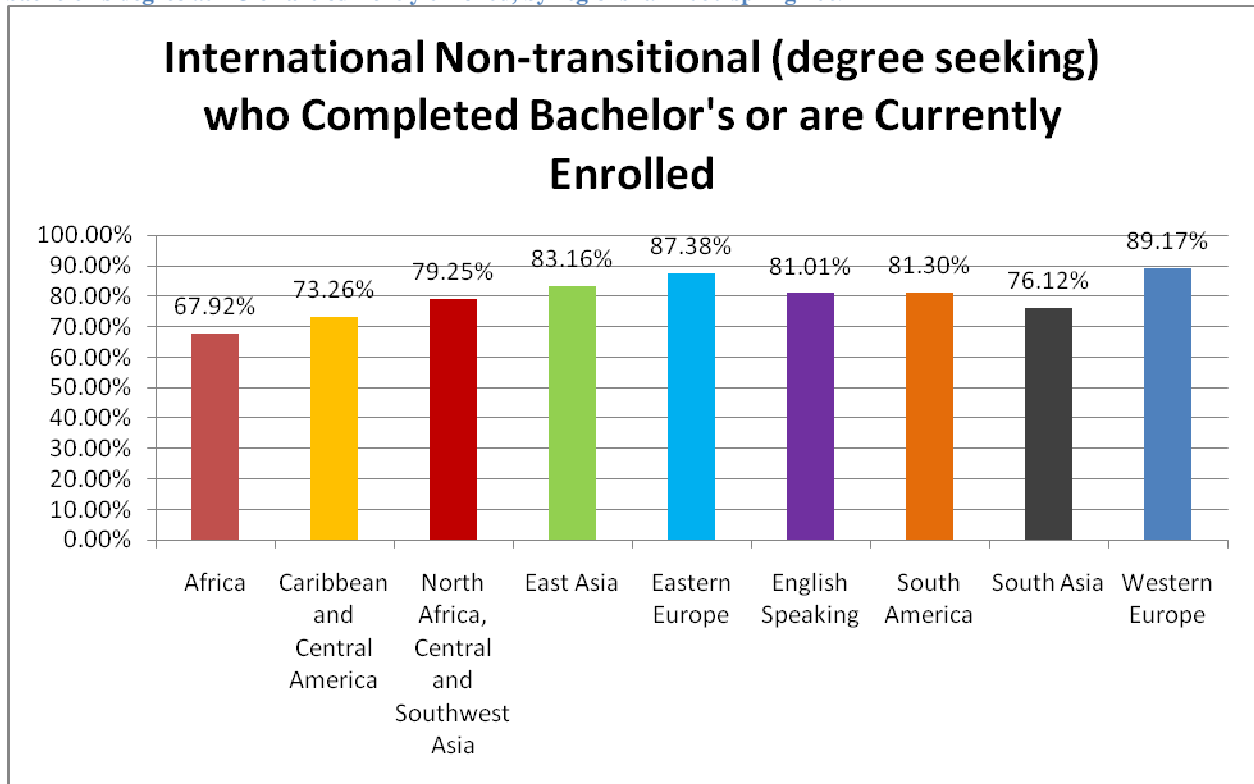
The number of students who complete their degrees at Lindenwood University varies widely by the region of origin.

Western European students have the highest success rate with slightly over 89% having finished their degrees or still being enrolled. Students from Eastern Europe, East Asia, South America, and the other English speaking counties all finished at rates of over 80%. Students from South Asia, and the Caribbean and Central America both completed degrees at rates of over 73%.

Table 5 Percentage of undergraduate international students who completed a bachelor’s degree at LU or are currently enrolled, by regions fall 2000-spring 2009

Regions	Finished degree at LU or currently enrolled
Western Europe	89.17%
Eastern Europe	87.38%
East Asia	83.16%
South America	81.30%
English Speaking	81.01%
South Asia	76.12%
Caribbean and Central America	73.26%
Africa	67.29%
Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia	62.12%

Figure 5 Percentage of undergraduate non-transitional (degree seeking) international students who completed a bachelor's degree at LU or are currently enrolled, by regions fall 2000-spring 2009



International Graduate Students

Between fall 2000 and spring 2009, Lindenwood brought in approximately 650 students from 61 countries. Sixty-seven percent of the graduate international students completed the MBA program, with more males than females (75% males and 60% females). The next largest group of students completed a Master of Arts degree and one completed an Ed.D.

Table 6 Number of graduate international students recruited by academic term – fall 2000- spring 2009

Summer-Fall 2001	Winter-Spring 2002	Summer-Fall 2002	Winter-Spring 2003	Summer-Fall 2003	Winter-Spring 2004	Summer-Fall 2004	Winter-Spring 2005
44	31	32	27	32	22	33	16
Summer-Fall 2005	Winter-Spring 2006	Summer-Fall 2006	Winter-Spring 2007	Summer-Fall 2007	Winter-Spring 2008	Summer-Fall 2008	Winter-Spring 2009
45	34	48	36	56	55	50	23

Figure 6 The number of graduate international students recruited by academic term - fall 2000 to spring 2009

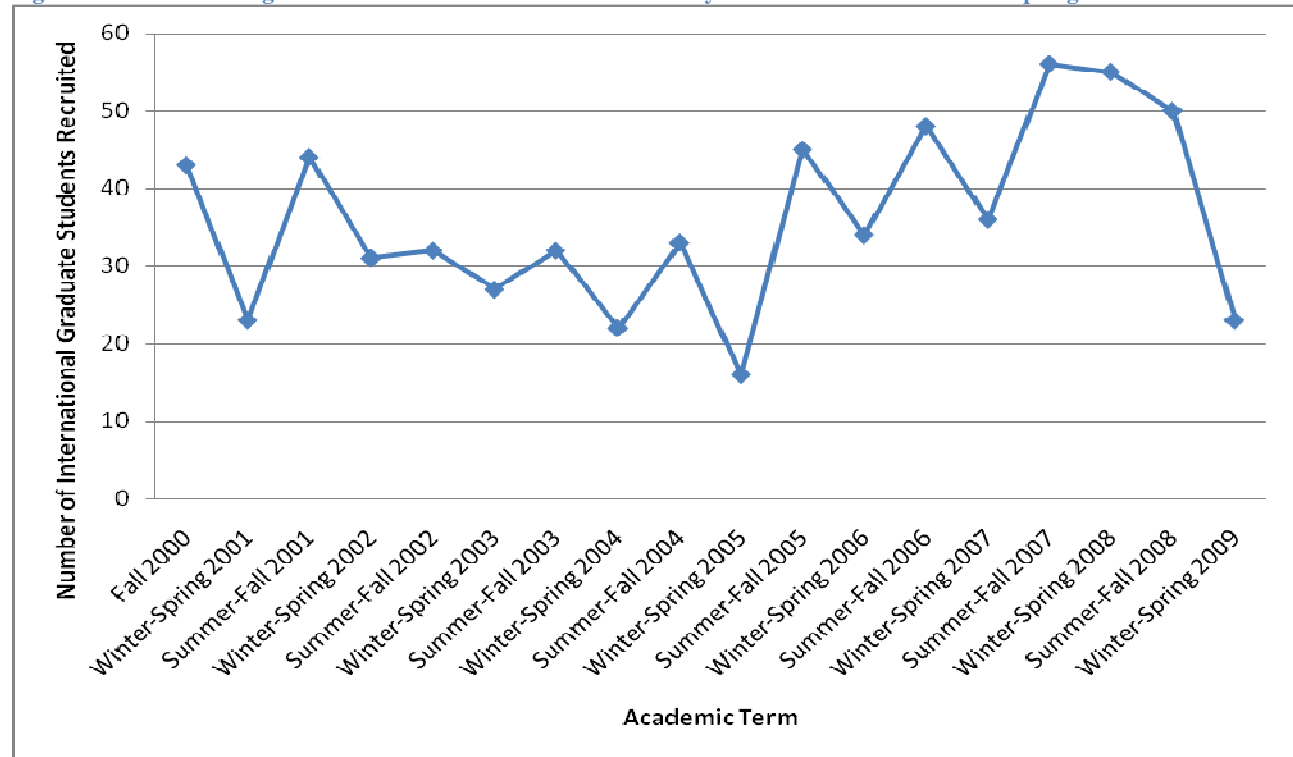
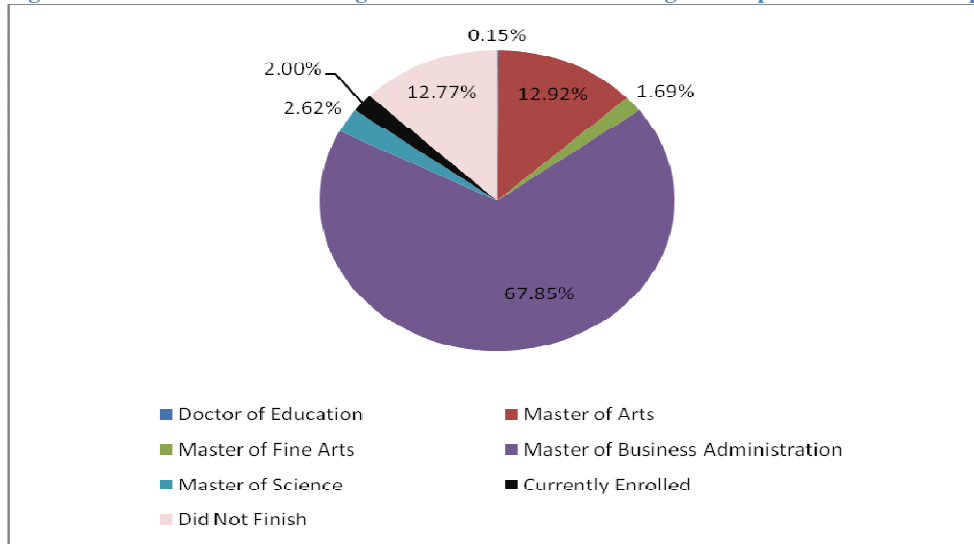


Table 7 Percentage of international graduate students who have completed degrees - fall 2000 to spring 2009

Total Number of International Graduate Students	650	Percentage
Doctor of Education	1	0.15%
Master of Arts	84	12.92%
Master of Fine Arts	11	1.69%
Master of Business Administration	441	67.85%
Master of Science	17	2.62%
Currently Enrolled	13	2.00%
Total still enrolled, or have finished, a degree at LU		87.23%
Did not Finish at LU	83	12.77%

Figure 7 Number of international graduate students based on degree completed - fall 2000 to spring 2009



The length of stay for international graduate students is affected by a number of factors, the most significant of which is the nature of the program in which they are participating. Those earning an MBA have a median stay of approximately one year, sufficient time to complete the program.

Like their undergraduate counterparts, the median stay of graduate students not completing their graduate degree at Lindenwood is four months.

Figure 8 Median stay at Lindenwood of graduate international students in months - fall 2000 to spring 2009

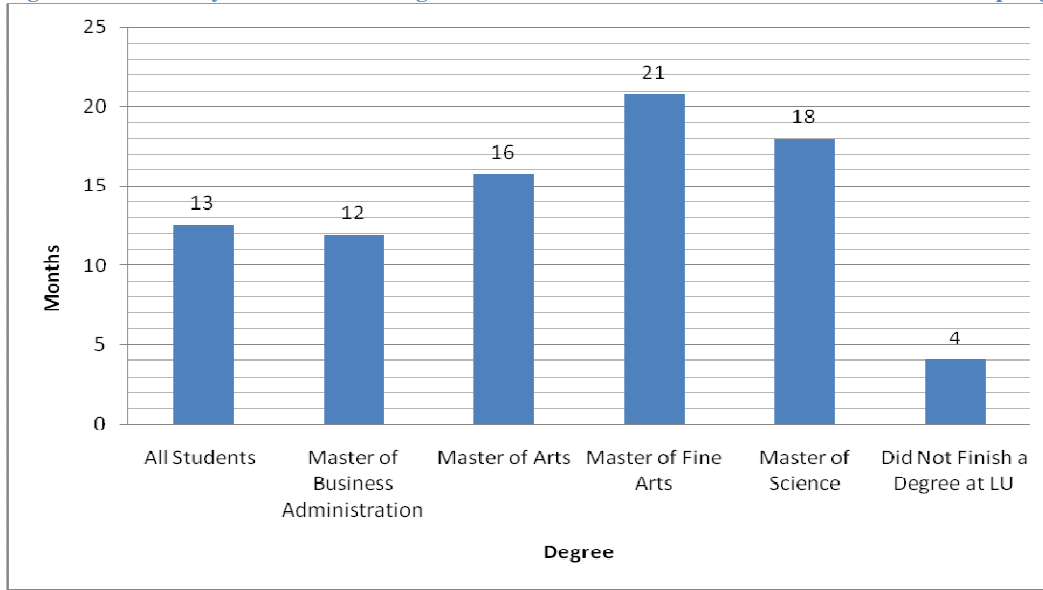


Table 8 Distribution of degrees by female graduate international students - fall 2000 to spring 2009

Female	Number of Students	Percentage
Total	299	
Master of Science	12	4.01%
Master of Arts	52	17.39%
Master of Fine Arts	8	2.68%
Master of Business Administration	184	61.54%
Doctor of Education	1	0.33%
Currently Enrolled	9	3.01%
Did Not Finish a Degree at LU	33	11.04%

Table 9 Distribution of degrees by male graduate international students - fall 2000 to spring 2009

Male	Number of Students	Percentage
Total	351	
Master of Science	5	1.42%
Master of Arts	32	9.12%
Master of Fine Arts	3	0.85%
Master of Business Administration	257	73.22%
Doctor of Education	0	0.00%
Currently Enrolled	4	1.14%
Did Not Finish a Degree at LU	50	14.25%

Figure 9 Distribution of degrees by female graduate international - students fall 2000 to spring 2009

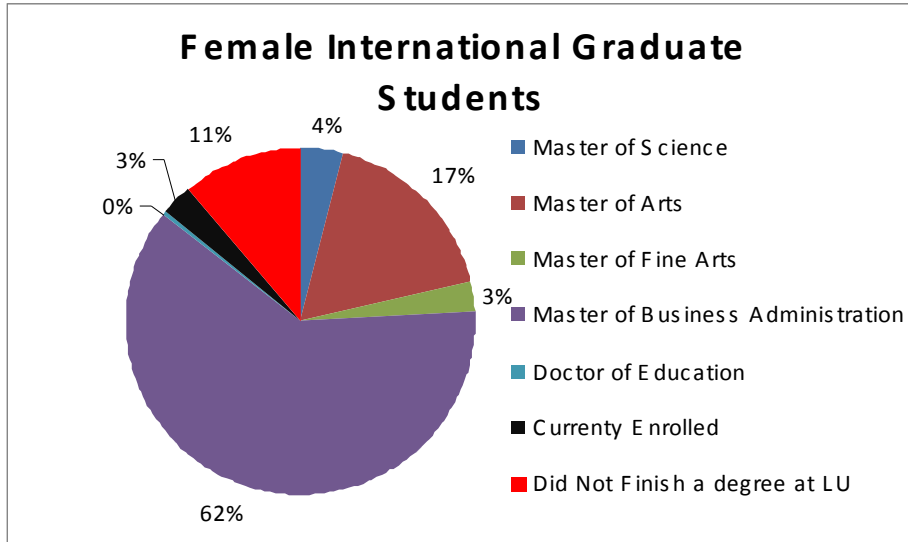
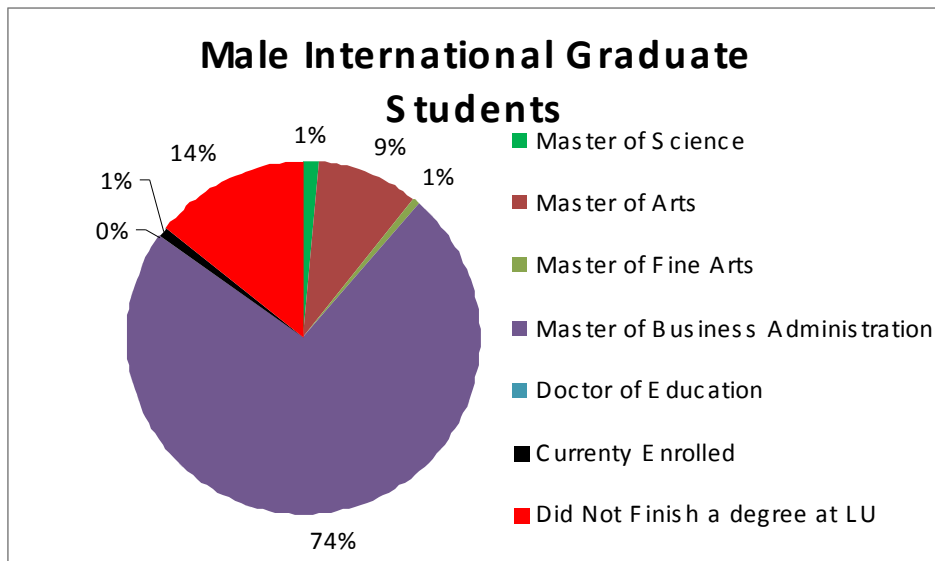


Figure 10 Distribution of degrees by male graduate international students - fall 2000 to spring 2009



Graduate Students by Specific Country

Of the 650 international graduate students Lindenwood has recruited between fall 2000 and spring 2009 30 or more have come from five countries. Twenty-eight Canadian students completed their degrees or are still enrolled; Panamanian and Thai students are also retained at very high rates.

Table 10 Number of graduate international students by country who attended and who completed a graduate degree. This data summarizes countries from which LU recruited more than 30 students, fall 2000 to spring 2009

	Panama	India	Taiwan	Thailand	Canada
Total Students	158	90	49	41	33
Number who completed a degree at LU	151	73	44	40	29
Percentage of who did complete a degree at LU	95.57%	81.11%	89.80%	97.56%	87.88%

Figure 11 Number of graduate international students by country who attended and who completed a graduate degree. This data summarizes countries from which LU recruited more than 30 students, fall 2000 to spring 2009

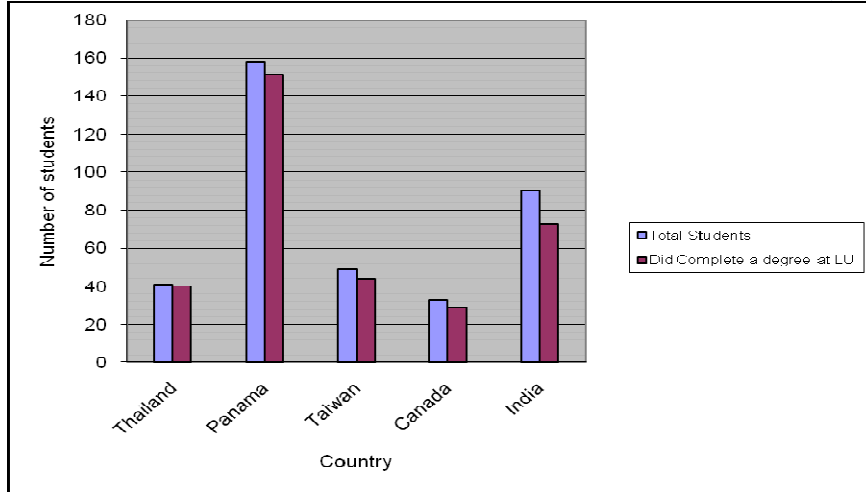
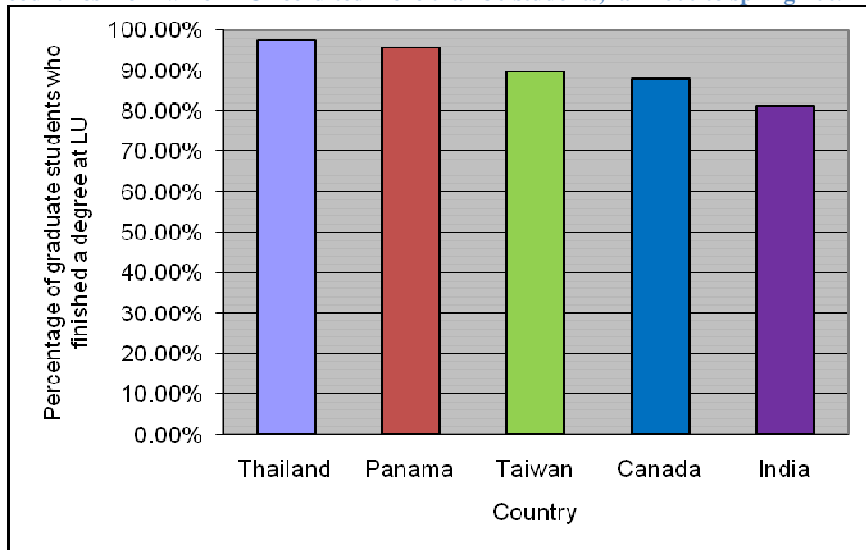


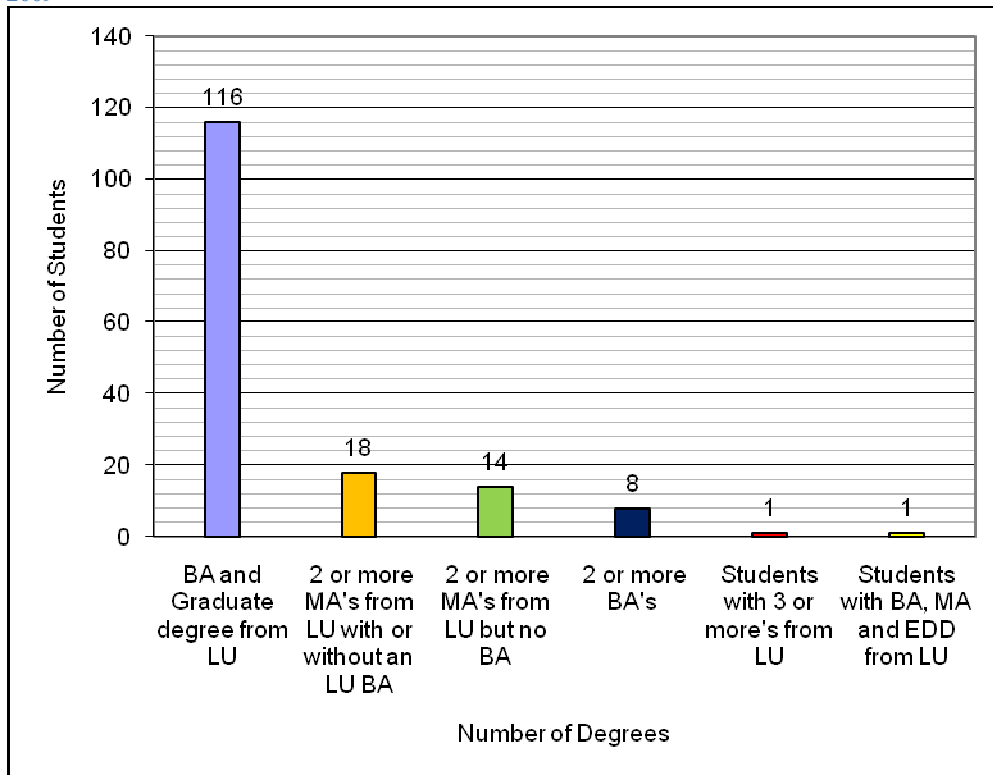
Figure 12 Percentage of international graduate students by country who completed degrees at LU. This data summarizes countries from which LU recruited more than 30 students, fall 2000 to spring 2009



Students Completing Multiple Degrees

LU has had a number of international students complete multiple degrees while in residence. One-hundred-and-sixteen have completed a bachelor’s degree and at least one master’s degree; 14 others have completed multiple master’s degrees, but did not do their undergraduate work at LU. Four students have earned a bachelor’s degree and more than one master’s degree at Lindenwood, and one has completed a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree and an Ed.D. Eight additional students have completed more than one undergraduate degree.

Figure 13 Number of international students who have completed multiple degrees at Lindenwood – fall 2000 to spring 2009

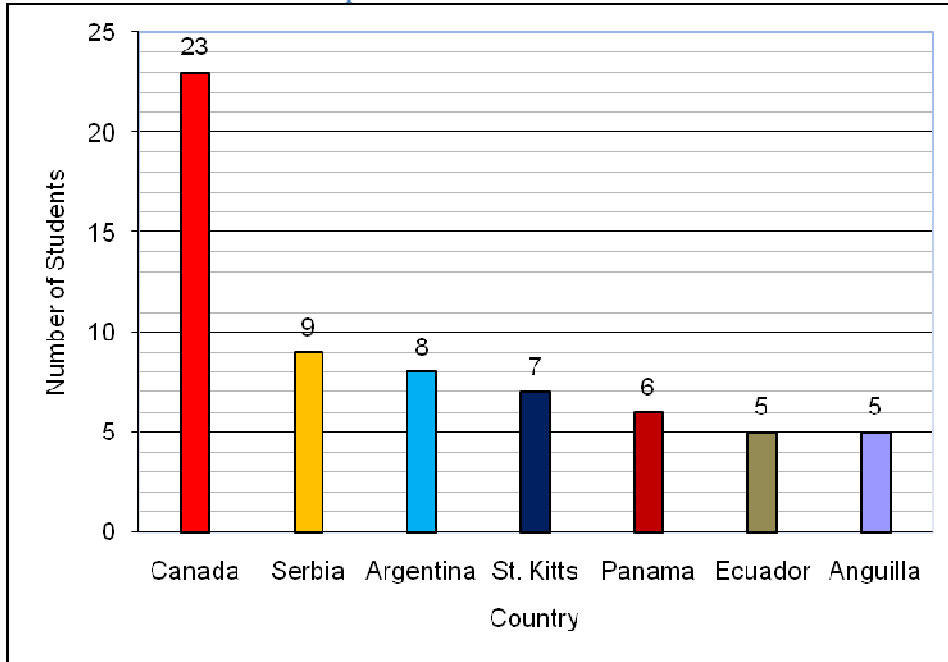


Where are they From?

Students from 38 different countries have earned their undergraduate and at least one graduate degree from Lindenwood.

The largest number of multiple-degree earning students comes from Canada, with 23, and no other country having over eight multiple-degree completers.

Figure 14 Number of international students who have completed multiple degrees at Lindenwood by countries from which there are five or more completers



By Regions of the World

While the largest number of international students receiving multiple degrees have come from English-speaking countries (30), Lindenwood has had significant numbers (10 or more) from four other regions: South America, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, and Western Europe.

Figure 15 Number of international students who have completed multiple degrees at Lindenwood by region from which there are five or more completers

