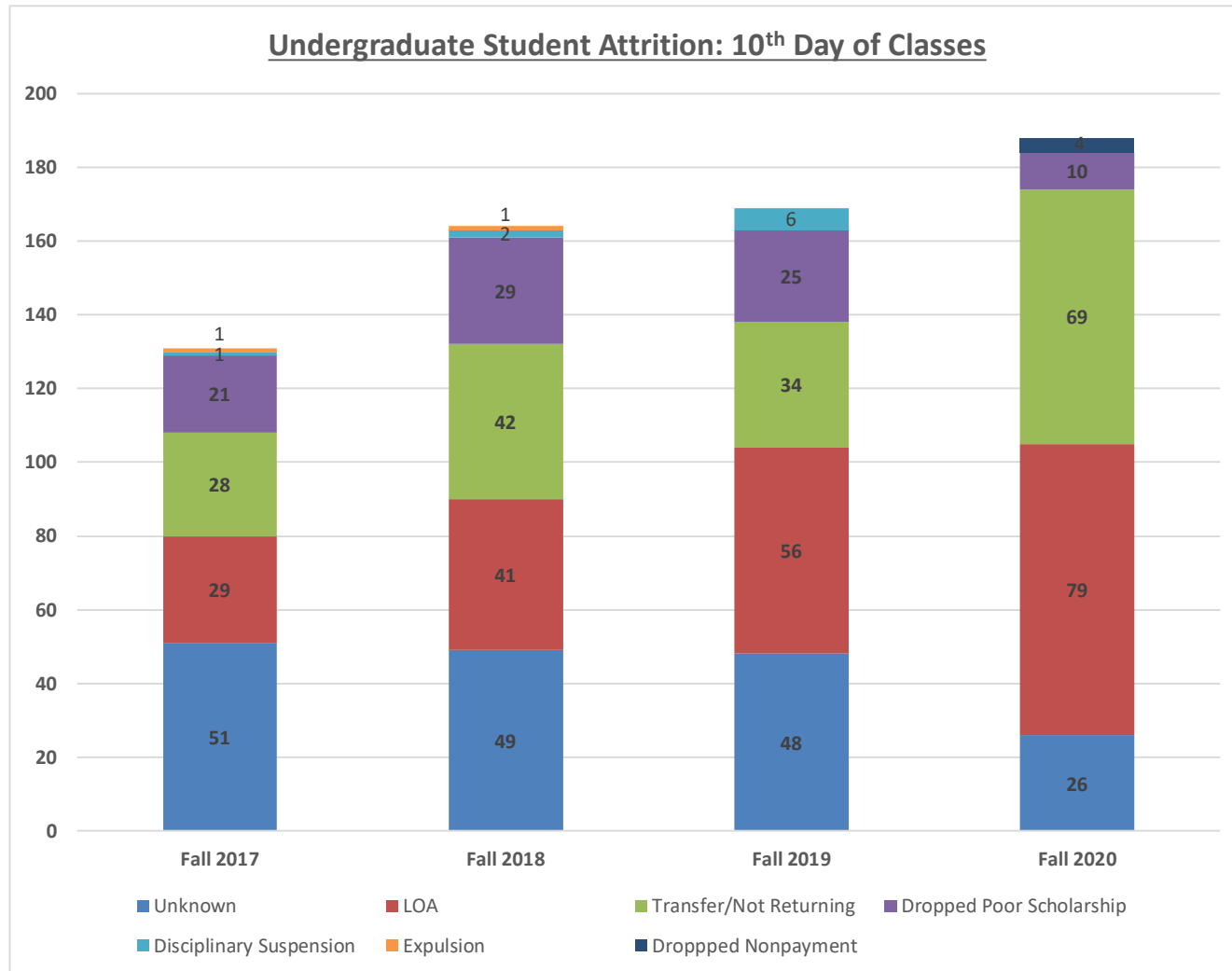




Undergraduate Student Retention Update (Fall 2020)

Donna Mohr
Director of Retention
October 2, 2020

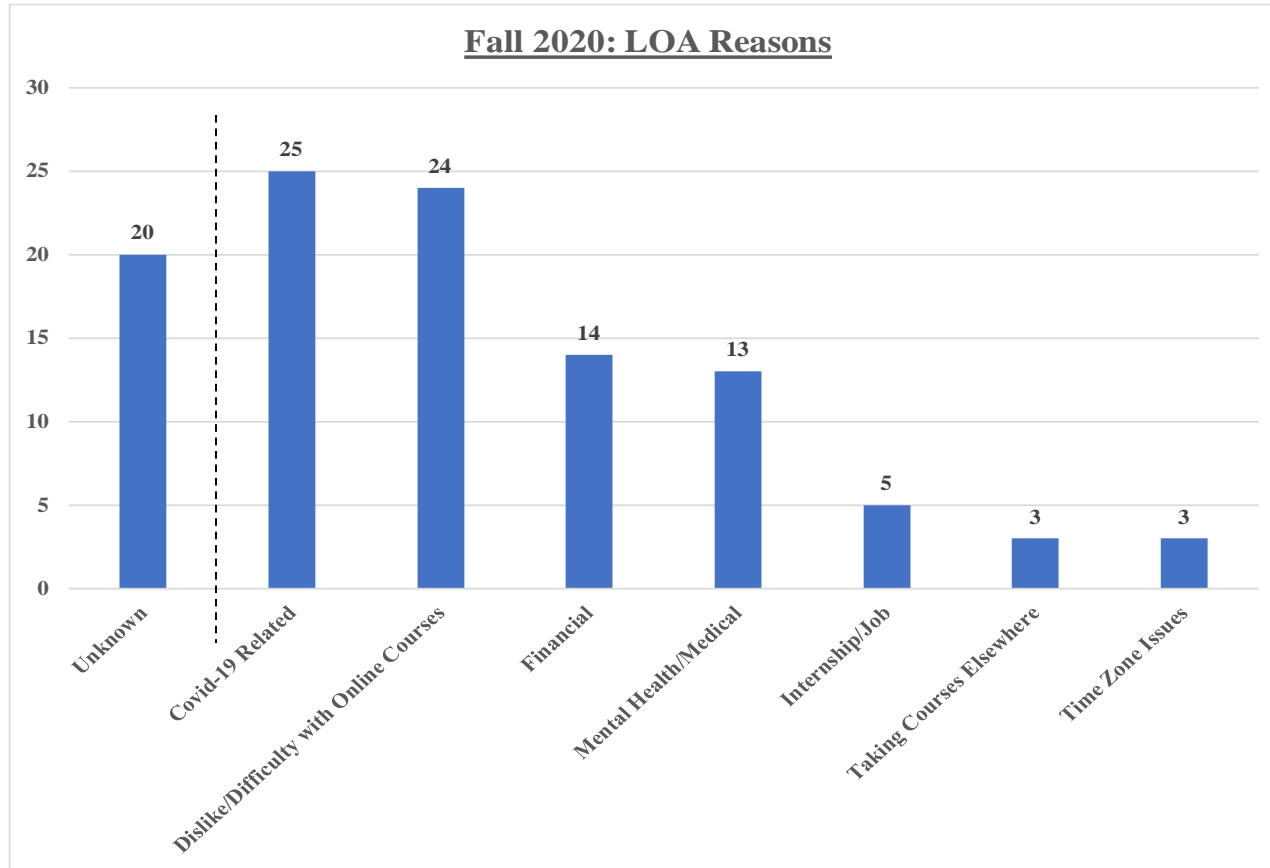
Why Didn't They Return in the Fall?



Fall 2020: LOA Students

As of September 25, 2020, 94 students requested a LOA.

- ~48% rising Sophomores, ~23% rising Juniors, ~15% rising Seniors

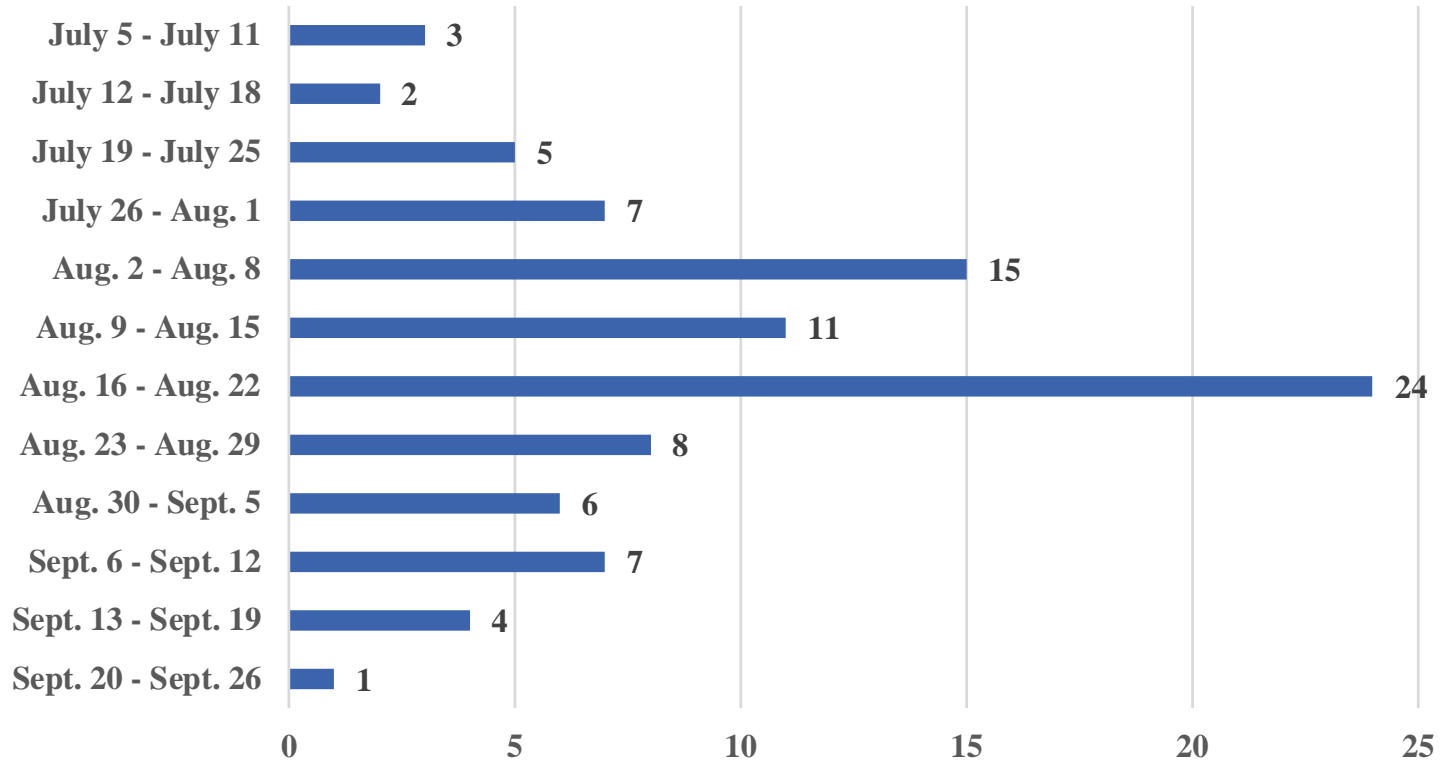


Other:

- Academic struggles
- Int'l travel restrictions
- Military
- Negative 1st year experience
- Sports related
- No on-campus housing
- Personal
- Schedule of classes

Fall 2020: LOA Students

Fall 2020: Timeline of LOA Requests



July 31st:
Announced only
incoming
freshman →
permitted to live
on campus.

August 24th: →
First day of
classes.

What Our Students Are Saying:

- Struggled significantly academically at the end of the Spring semester; lost financial aid.
- Online learning is not worth it for me. I find the online format to be frustrating and much too different from learning in a class environment. I do not have the motivation to put in the extra work required to learn from online classes.
- Online courses were not providing the same learning experience as in-person classes; online classes and remote learning do not work for me.
- Hard to stay focused when working remotely.
- Did not learn well remotely.

*An Incoming Freshman's Story:

- Remote learning has been a greater challenge than I anticipated before coming to Lehigh. I am having difficulty learning over Zoom and getting a quality education. Due to Covid-19, I have felt extremely lonely and isolated at Lehigh and it has recently begun to take a toll on my mental health. Due to current restrictions placed on students, it is hard for me to meet new people and make connections with my peers. Further, living on campus has caused me to feel isolated both situationally and due to the location. I feel far removed from campus and find myself sitting alone in my room, leaving me time to dwell on the loneliness I feel creating a harsh cycle where I am unable to engage with my peers on campus. More than that, the difficulties of being a freshman in college during a pandemic has seeped into my academic life. I find myself distracted, unable to focus on my work or truly engage in my classes. I strongly feel that during this difficult, uncertain time it will be better for me to be at home and taking the time to heal and grow.

*Withdrew from Lehigh within the first month of classes.

Fall 2020: Transfer Out/Not Returning in the Future Students

As of September 25, 2020, 77 students transferred out or declared not returning in the future.

- ~77% rising Sophomores, ~17% rising Juniors

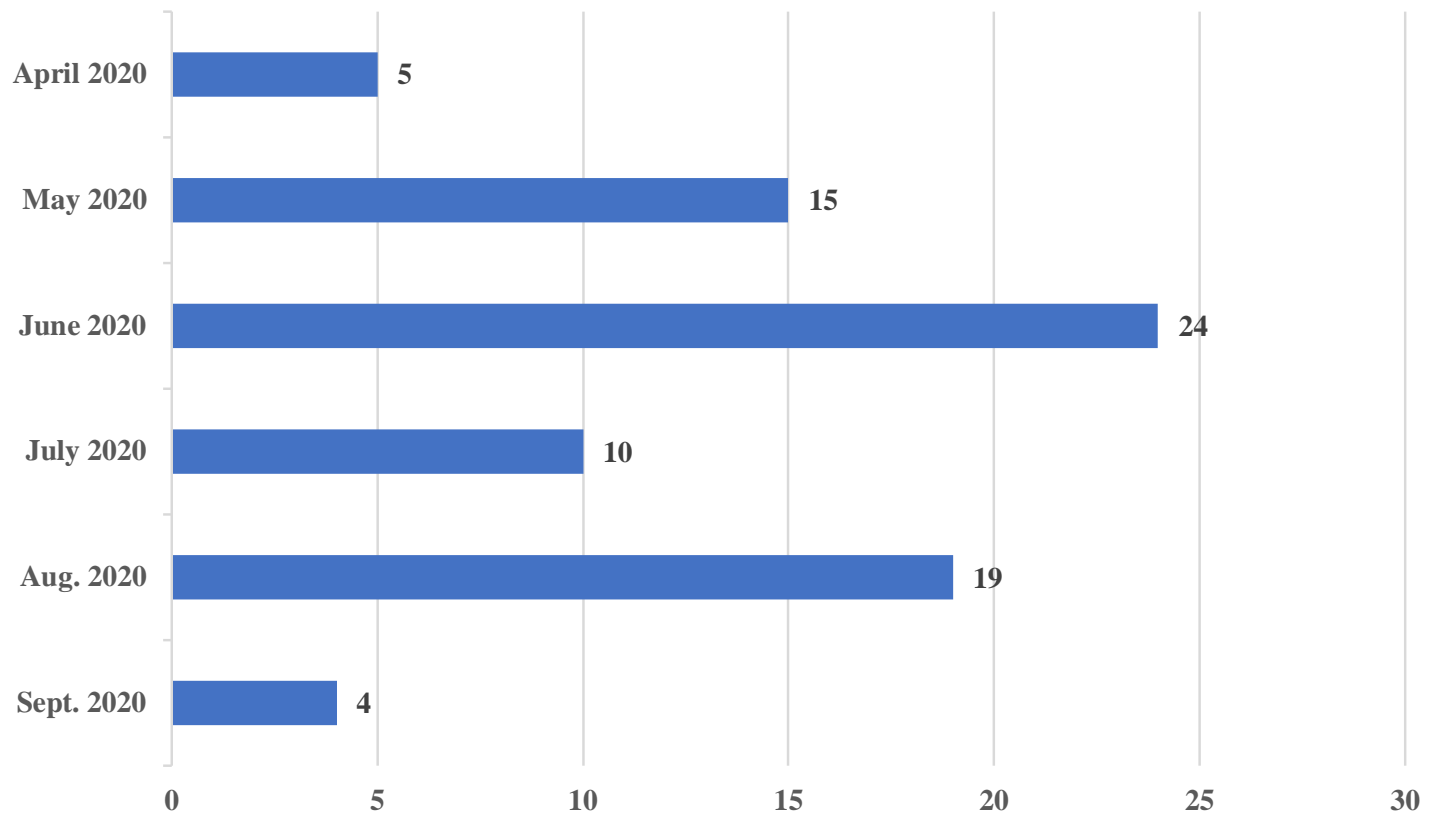


Other:

- Closer to home/family
- Lehigh's learning environment
- Military
- Lehigh's response to George Floyd's murder
- Underfunded support centers

Fall 2020: Transfer Out/Not Returning in the Future Students

Fall 2020: Timeline of Transfer Out/Not Returning Notices



July 31st:
Announced only
incoming
freshman →
permitted to live
on campus.

Fall 2020 Transfer Student Destinations

- **Barnard College**
- **Boston College**
- **Boston University (3 or 4)**
- **Columbia University**
- **Cornell University (2)**
- **Georgetown University**
- **Georgia Tech**
- **Marist College**
- **New York University (3 or 4)**
- **Penn State University**
- **Purdue University**
- **Rice University**
- **Rowan University**
- **Smith College**
- **SUNY Binghamton**
- **Syracuse University**
- **Tufts University**
- **UMass, Amherst**
- **University of Colorado, Boulder (2)**
- **University of Maryland**
- **University of Pennsylvania**
- **University of Southern California**
- **US Military Academy**
- **Vanderbilt University**

*Student self-reported data.

1st Year Retention Trends

Admit Cohort	1 st Year Retention
Fall 2016	96.08%
Fall 2017	94.16%
Fall 2018	93.49%
Fall 2019	90.50%

- Connections are crucial to learning.
- Consistency matters.

[“What Students Wish Their Professors Knew”](#), The Chronicle of Higher Education, Sept. 22, 2020

What expectations should our students have for their online courses at Lehigh?