



# UK Institutional Research Brief:

## *Do Out-of-State Students Choose To Live in Kentucky after Graduating from UK?*

Spring 2006

Educators, legislators and policy makers are understandably interested in the number of out-of-state students who decide to live and work in Kentucky after graduating from Kentucky's postsecondary education system. Attracting and retaining talented and well-educated citizens confers an economic advantage to the Commonwealth and produces an important return on the investment Kentuckians have made in their public universities.

The Office of Institutional Research recently examined the number of alumni who were still living in Kentucky two years after earning their undergraduate and graduate degrees from UK. In spring 2005, IR staff requested current addresses of students who graduated during the 2002-03 academic year from the UK Alumni Association as part of its biannual efforts to survey alumni. These addresses were useful in helping IR staff analyze the number of graduates who were still living in Kentucky two years later. IR staff first determined the state of origin of graduates from the official degree file and then matched this information against the state of residence in the address file.

The results of our efforts to determine the number and percent of alumni still living in Kentucky are presented in Table 1. Highlights of the analysis revealed that two years after earning a degree from UK . . .

- Approximately four of five resident undergraduate and graduate alumni were still living in Kentucky.
- One-third of out-of-state undergraduate and graduate alumni were found to reside in the Commonwealth.
- The out-migration of resident alumni (398 undergraduate and 228 graduate alumni) exceeded the number of non-resident alumni (128 undergraduate and 134 graduate alumni) who chose to reside in Kentucky.

*Table 1*  
Residential Status of 2002-03 Alumni by Level and State of Origin

	Not Living in KY		Still Living in KY		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<i>Undergrad. Level</i>						
KY Alumni	398	14.6%	2,321	85.4%	2,719	100%
Out-of-State Alumni	264	67.4%	128	32.7%	392	100%
<i>Graduate Level</i>						
KY Alumni	228	20.5%	887	79.6%	1,115	100%
Out-of-State Alumni	262	66.2%	134	33.8%	396	100%

Note 1: Percents may not total to 100% due to rounding;

Note 2: Numbers do not account for all graduates because some did not have addresses on file.