

Proportion of Students who Register Late for Courses in Each Semester- Overview of Student Registration Patterns from Fall 2011 through Fall 2014

Erez Lenchner
Institutional Research and Assessment
March 3, 2015

Abstract.

Students who register late to classes (register for classes in the semester *for the first time*, on or after the first day of classes) may reflect on underlying constraints or risks for successful college studies. This report looks into changes in student late registration patterns. In the tested period, the proportion of late registrations has been declining, though the decline in late registration rate is not consistent. In Fall 2014 session 1, there were 811 students who registered late to classes. Those students represent 4.8 percent of the registered students for the semester.

Introduction.

During a review of potential at-risk indicators for students' progress and departure from successful pattern in the degree program, it is often suggested that late registration patterns should be examined. Previous studies looked into multiple patterns of late registration. In this review, a simple definition of late registration is employed- if the student registered *for the first time* on or after the first day of classes for the semester/session, they are considered "late registered." If the student registered to any class for the semester (even if they did not take the class eventually) before they first day of classes, their registration is "on time." This definition allows for a comparison across semesters and sessions, and across colleges or late-registration studies in the literature.

Sample.

All students who register for classes between Fall 2011 registration and Fall 2014 registration were eligible to participate in the sample. Exclusions took place for - (a) high school students (College Now, Middle College, and International High School), and (b) Students who are missing a registration date on the record, or students who have their registration records loaded retroactively. (The latter occurs mainly for USIP courses and a handful of special seminars.) The exclusions accounted for less than one percent of the students in the tested period.

Findings.

The proportion of students registering late to classes varies between session 1 and session 2 courses. Table 1 reports students delayed registration rates for all students and for degree-seeking students.

Semester	Session	All Students			Degree-Seeking Students		
		Students	Late	% Late	Students	Late	% Late
Fall 2011	1	16,280	1,064	6.5%	16,059	933	5.8%
	2	10,412	938	9.0%	10,340	928	9.0%
Spring 2012	1	16,256	699	4.3%	15,768	436	2.8%
	2	8,010	643	8.0%	7,920	632	8.0%
Fall 2012	1	16,320	1,228	7.5%	16,290	1,227	7.5%
	2	9,428	519	5.5%	9,420	519	5.5%
Spring 2013	1	16,682	1,437	8.6%	16,662	1,433	8.6%
	2	7,940	508	6.4%	7,909	506	6.4%
Fall 2013	1	16,807	959	5.7%	16,506	958	5.8%
	2	10,180	661	6.5%	10,054	658	6.5%
Spring 2014	1	16,374	549	3.4%	15,674	518	3.3%
	2	9,142	319	3.5%	8,373	318	3.8%
Fall 2014	1	16,870	811	4.8%	16,524	809	4.9%
	2	10,624	257	2.4%	10,401	257	2.5%

Table 1. Proportion of all students who register for classes on or after the first day of classes, by semester and by session: All students, and degree-seeking students only. (Fall 2011 through Fall 2014)

In Fall 2014, 811 students registered to their classes for the first time on or after the first day of class (session 1). It stands for 4.8 percent of the students registering for classes in fall 2014, session 1. In the examined period, the peak point for late registration was in Spring 2013 (session 1), with a total of 1,437 students (8.6 percent) registering for classes on after the first day of classes. The general trend is presented in figure 1. There are no notable differences in the delayed registration rate between all students and degree-seeking students.

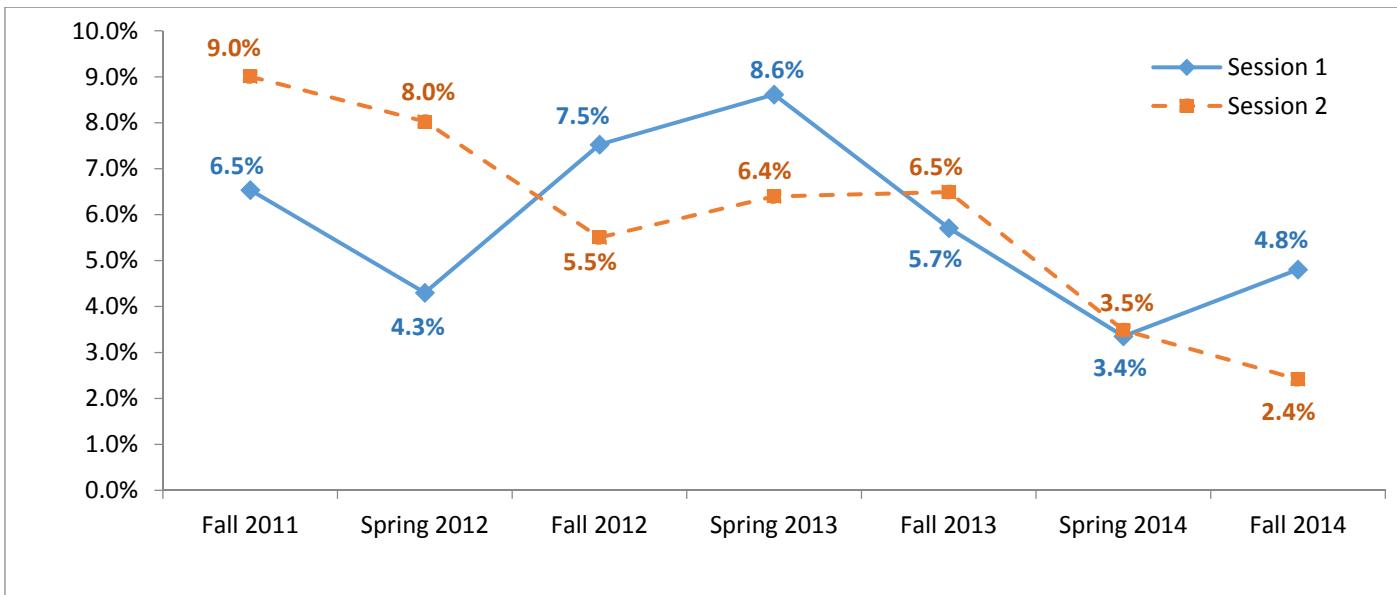


Figure 1. Proportion of *all students* who register for classes on or after the first day of classes, by semester and session (Fall 2011 through Fall 2014)

Overall, the proportion of students who register late for classes each semester and session is declining over time. Table 2 reports the breakdown of student delayed registration rates by the status in the semester (degree-seeking students only).

Semester	FA11 (1)	FA11 (2)	SP12 (1)	SP12 (2)	FA12 (1)	FA12 (2)	SP13 (1)	SP13 (2)	FA13 (1)	FA13 (2)	SP14 (1)	SP14 (2)	FA14 (1)	FA14 (2)
All	5.8%	9.0%	2.8%	8.0%	7.5%	5.5%	8.6%	6.4%	5.8%	6.5%	3.3%	3.8%	4.9%	2.5%
Continuing	6.3%	10.7%	2.9%	8.3%	7.5%	5.8%	7.0%	6.5%	6.2%	6.7%	3.2%	4.0%	5.1%	2.3%
New	4.0%	5.0%	2.0%	6.5%	8.4%	4.4%	12.8%	6.0%	4.9%	6.9%	3.6%	3.0%	3.7%	2.9%
Transfer-In	4.2%	5.6%	1.4%	5.8%	5.2%	5.6%	13.0%	5.8%	4.6%	4.9%	4.2%	3.0%	4.2%	1.9%
Re-Admit	9.6%	13.1%	6.0%	10.3%	10.6%	8.6%	12.3%	7.1%	6.4%	7.3%	3.2%	3.1%	9.1%	4.9%

Table 2. Proportion of all students who register for classes on or after the first day of classes, by semester/session and student status: degree-seeking students only. (Fall 2011 through Fall 2014)

Each row gives the status for a particular group of students: new, continuing, transfer in, or readmitted students. A reference row reports the delayed registration rate for all students in the particular semester. In general, readmit and continuing students register late at higher rates than other student groups, though in recent semesters continuing students delayed registration rate has been very close to the one of the entire degree-seeking student body. The general trend is also presented in figure 2.

---Insert Figure 2 Here (pp. 4) ---

Implications.

Students delayed registration is a known risk indicator in the literature for student performances in current and future semesters. It is not a unique phenomenon to LaGuardia students: In a broad sampling “11% of CCSSE [Community College Survey of Student Engagement] respondents (26,828 of 238,504) and 8% of SENSE [Survey of Entering Student Engagement] respondents (2,629 of 34,266) say they registered after the first class session for at least one class” (Center for Community College Student Engagement, 2012, p. 13).

In the tested period, the proportion of students registering late to classes has been declining, but still reflects a notable group in the student body. Late registration affects students’ future performances: Students who practice late registration for session 1 had, on average, one semester retention rate that was 12.7 percent lower than on-time registrants. Special interventions or advisements modules may be developed to better understand the students’ constraints and provide them with the support needed to remain in the college.

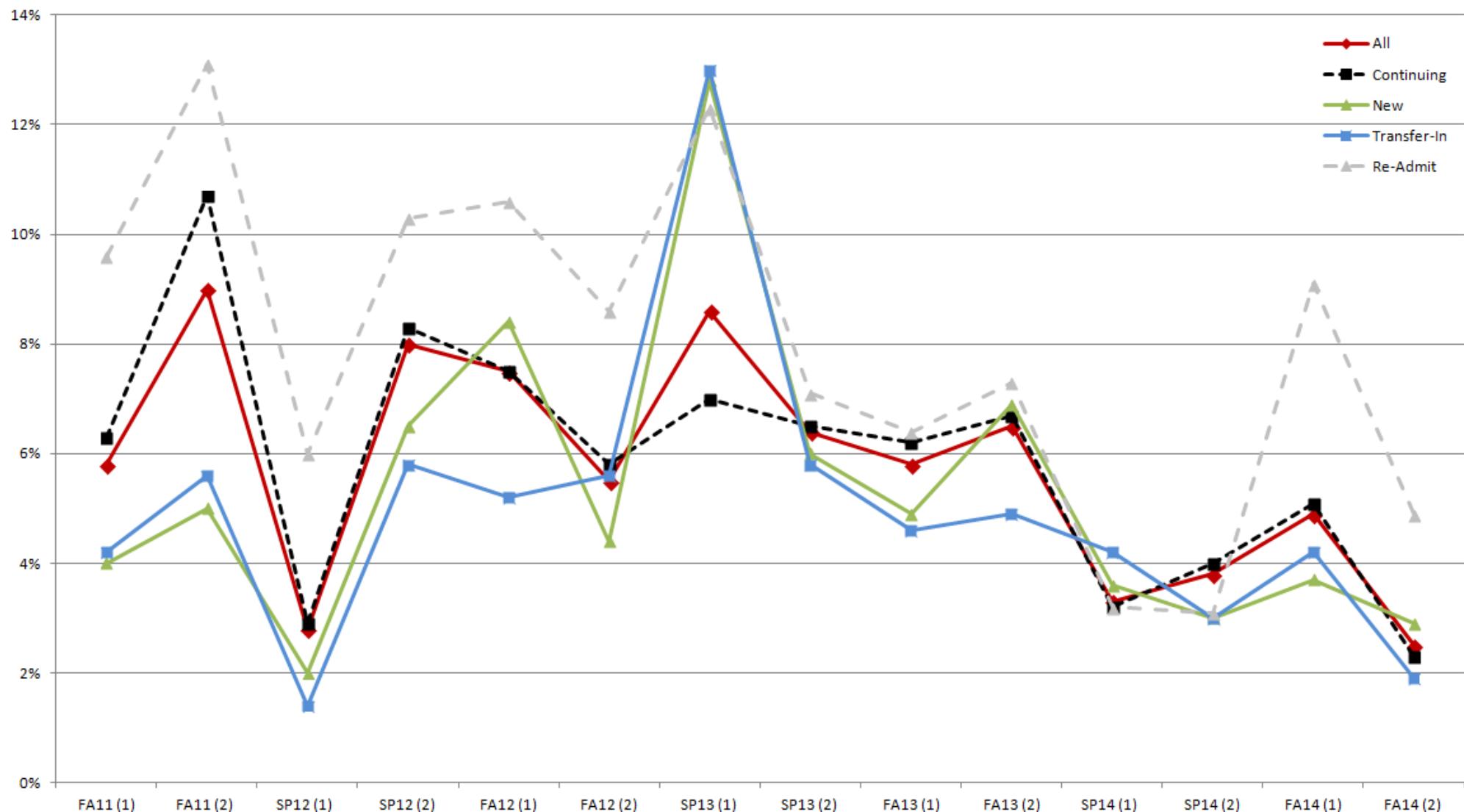


Figure 2. Proportion of all students who register for classes on or after the first day of classes, by semester/session and student status: degree-seeking students only. (Fall 2011 through Fall 2014)