

# **The Connection Between Graduation and GPA, Part-time Attendance & Stopping Out**

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# Summary

- Students who eventually **drop out** are much more likely to **stop out** during a semester than those who will eventually graduate.
- Only **3%** of those with a cumulative **GPA** at or below 2.50 after 3 semesters, who have **not attended** either the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> semester or both will graduate.
- **74%** of those with a **GPA** above 2.50 after 3 semesters who have not gone **part-time** or **skipped attending** any of the first 3 semesters will graduate.
- The majority of students who have failed to register for the coming semester give **finances** as the primary obstacle.

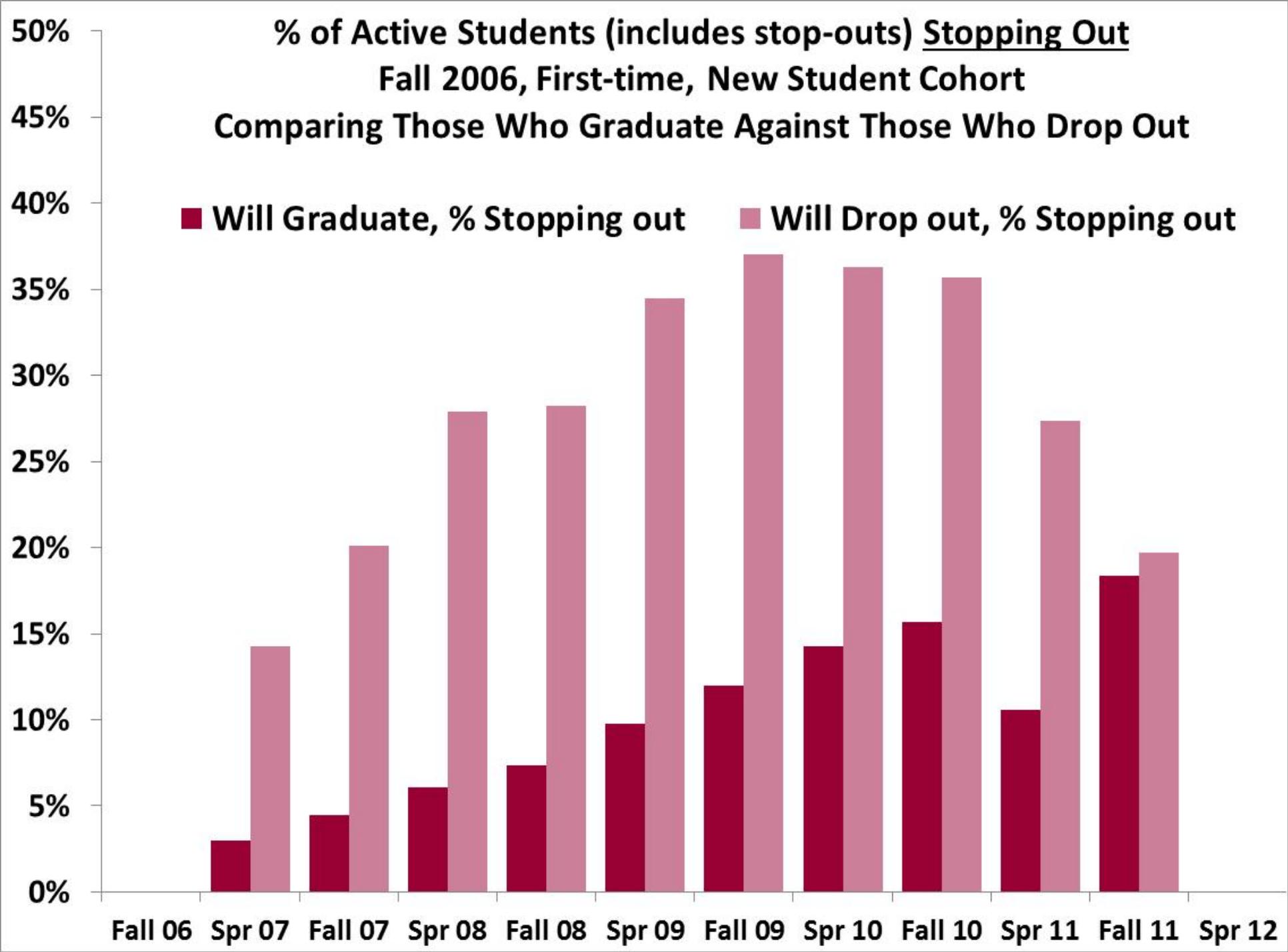
# Is Stopping Out A Call for Help?

- **What % of active students in any semester are stopping out (not enrolled, but will enroll in a future semester)?**
  - If they eventually will graduate
  - If they eventually will drop out

(Fall 2006 cohort of new, first-time students)  
(excludes students who eventually transfer out)

**% of Active Students (includes stop-outs) Stopping Out**  
**Fall 2006, First-time, New Student Cohort**  
**Comparing Those Who Graduate Against Those Who Drop Out**

**■ Will Graduate, % Stopping out**      **■ Will Drop out, % Stopping out**



# Is Stopping Out A Call for Help?

- **Students who will eventually drop out are 2 to 3 times as likely as those who will graduate to have stopped attending for a semester or two.**

(Students who have not graduated or transferred after six years are considered to have dropped out.)

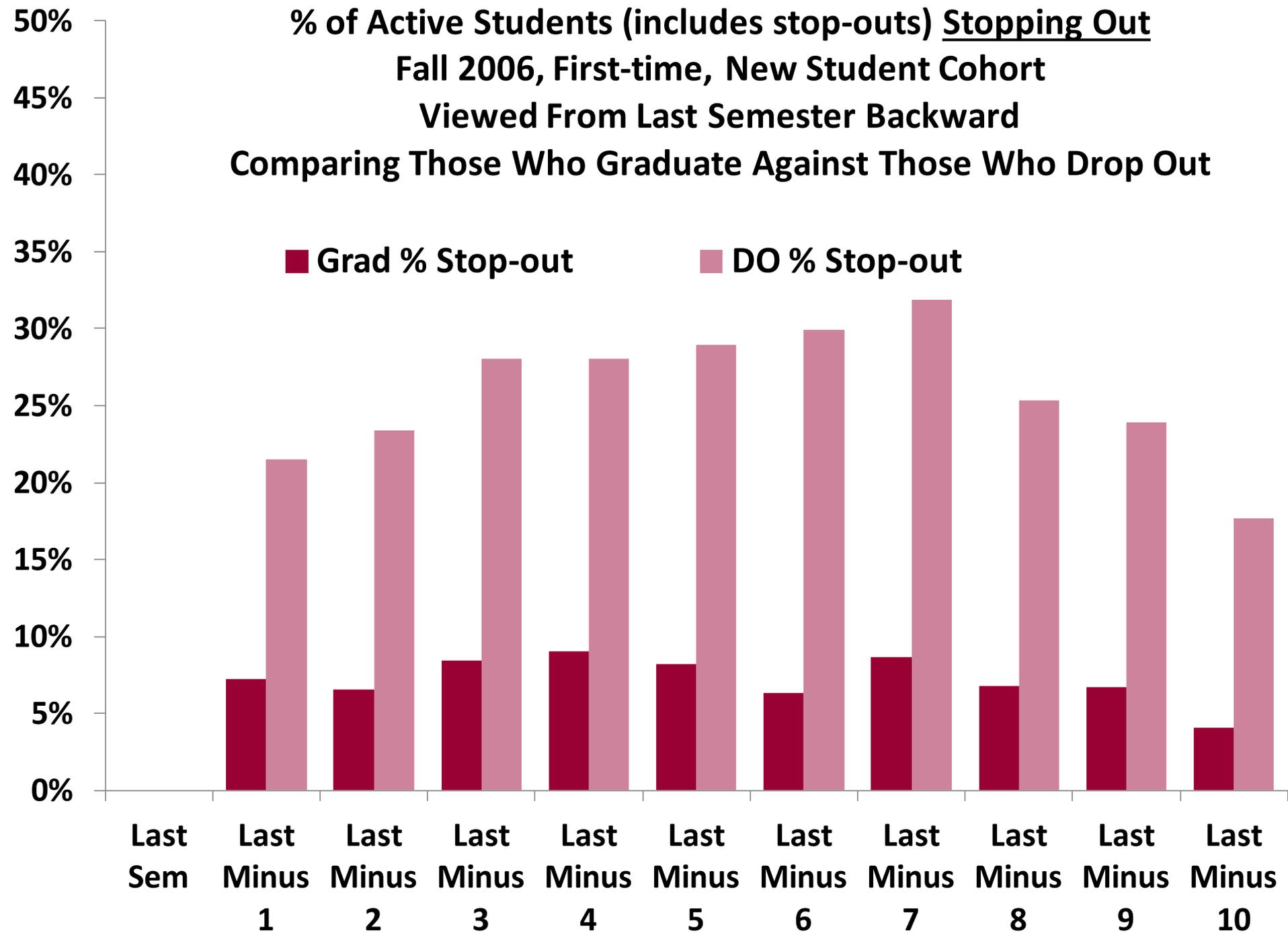
# Is Stopping Out A Call for Help?

- We can look at this backward: from each student's last semester to the second to last, to third to last...
- Same conclusion: **students who will eventually drop out are much more likely to take a semester off.**

(By definition, a student cannot stop-out for a first or last semester.)

**% of Active Students (includes stop-outs) Stopping Out**  
**Fall 2006, First-time, New Student Cohort**  
**Viewed From Last Semester Backward**  
**Comparing Those Who Graduate Against Those Who Drop Out**

**■ Grad % Stop-out**      **■ DO % Stop-out**



# Impact!

**Question:** If we have a cohort of new, first-time students, do we know who will graduate from that cohort *after three semesters*, if all we know is:

1. Whether their cumulative **GPA** is above 2.50 or not,
2. Whether they went **part-time** in any of the three semesters, and/or
3. Whether they appeared to have **stopped out**: i.e., attended all three semesters or not?

(We would not know if they had already dropped out, if they had missed the third, or even the second and third, at that point.)

(Those who eventually transfer out have been excluded. We don't know whether to count them as graduates or drop-outs. This way there is no gain or penalty for them.)

# Graduation Rates

New Students Fall 2006 after 3 Semesters, excluding transfer outs

All (excluding transfers) 31%

Attended none of 1st 3 semesters part-time 37%

Attended 1+ of 1st 3 semesters part-time 22%

Part-time effect

Cumulative GPA > 2.50 52%

Cumulative GPA ≤ 2.50 15%

GPA effect

Did attend semester 2 or 3 or both 50%

Did not attend semester 2 or 3 or both 5%

Stop-out effect

Attended all 3 semesters, Cum GPA >2.5 65%

Did not attend all 3 semesters, Cum GPA ≤2.5 30%

Did not attend all 3 semesters, Cum GPA >2.5 11%

Did not attend all 3 semesters, Cum GPA ≤2.5 3%

SO+GPA effect

Never part-time or stop out, Cum GPA >2.5 74%

Never part-time or stop out, Cum GPA ≤2.5 40%

Either part-time or stop out, Cum GPA >2.5 32%

Either part-time or stop out, Cum GPA ≤2.5 7%

SO+PT+GPA effect

# Results!

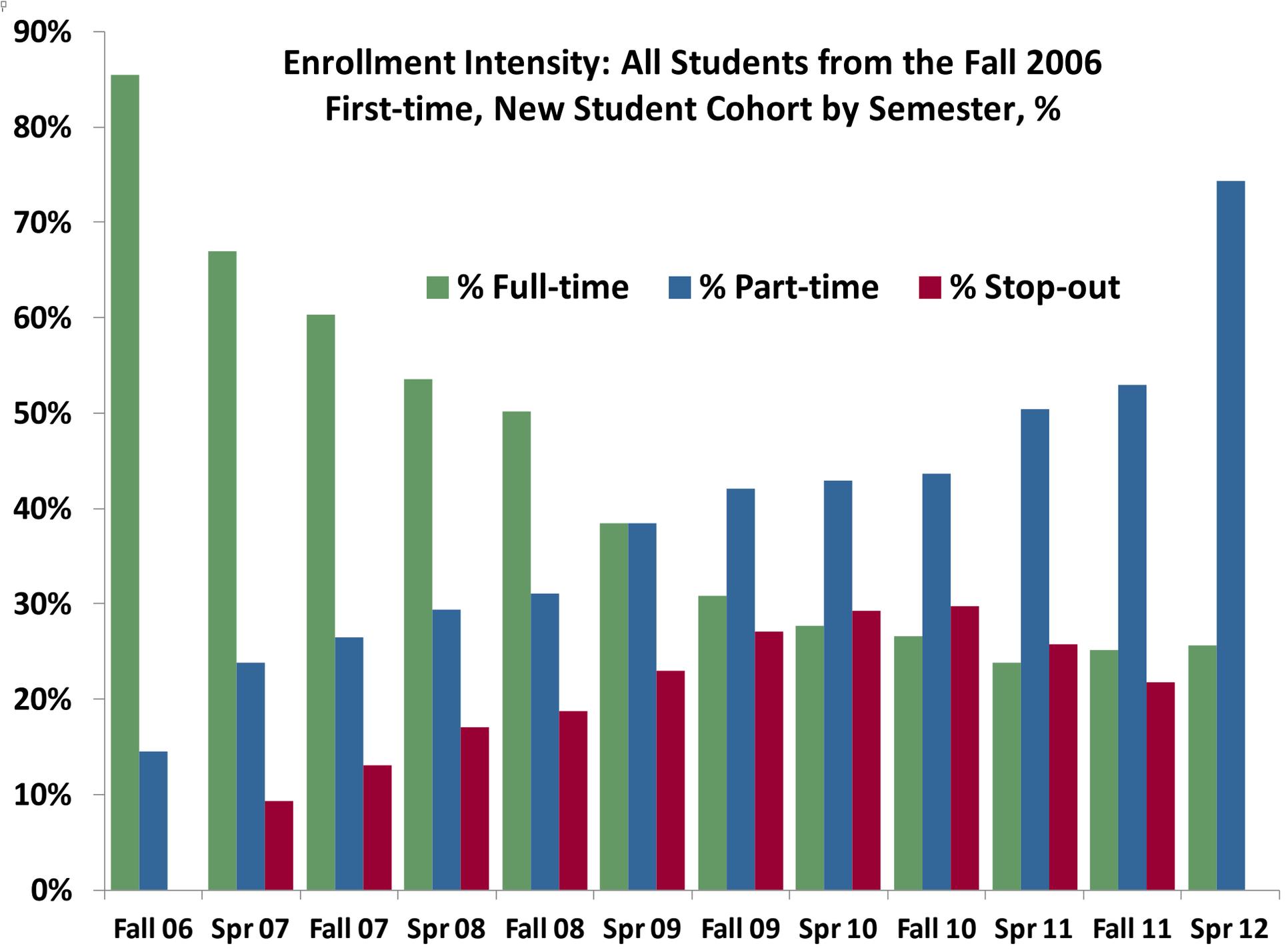
- **74% of those who have attended all three semesters full-time and have a GPA above 2.5 will graduate.**
- **3% of those who did not attend semester 2 or semester 3 or both and have a GPA below 2.5 will graduate.**
- **31% of all those Fall 2006 1<sup>st</sup> time freshmen, who will not transfer will graduate.**

# Distribution

- **Until the fifth semester most active students are full-time.**
- **By the sixth semester the numbers of full-time and part-time active students are equal.**
- **By the seventh semester, there are more part-time students than full-time.**
- **By the seventh semester, the proportion of full-time and stopping out students is almost equal.**

# Enrollment Intensity: All Students from the Fall 2006 First-time, New Student Cohort by Semester, %

**% Full-time**   **% Part-time**   **% Stop-out**



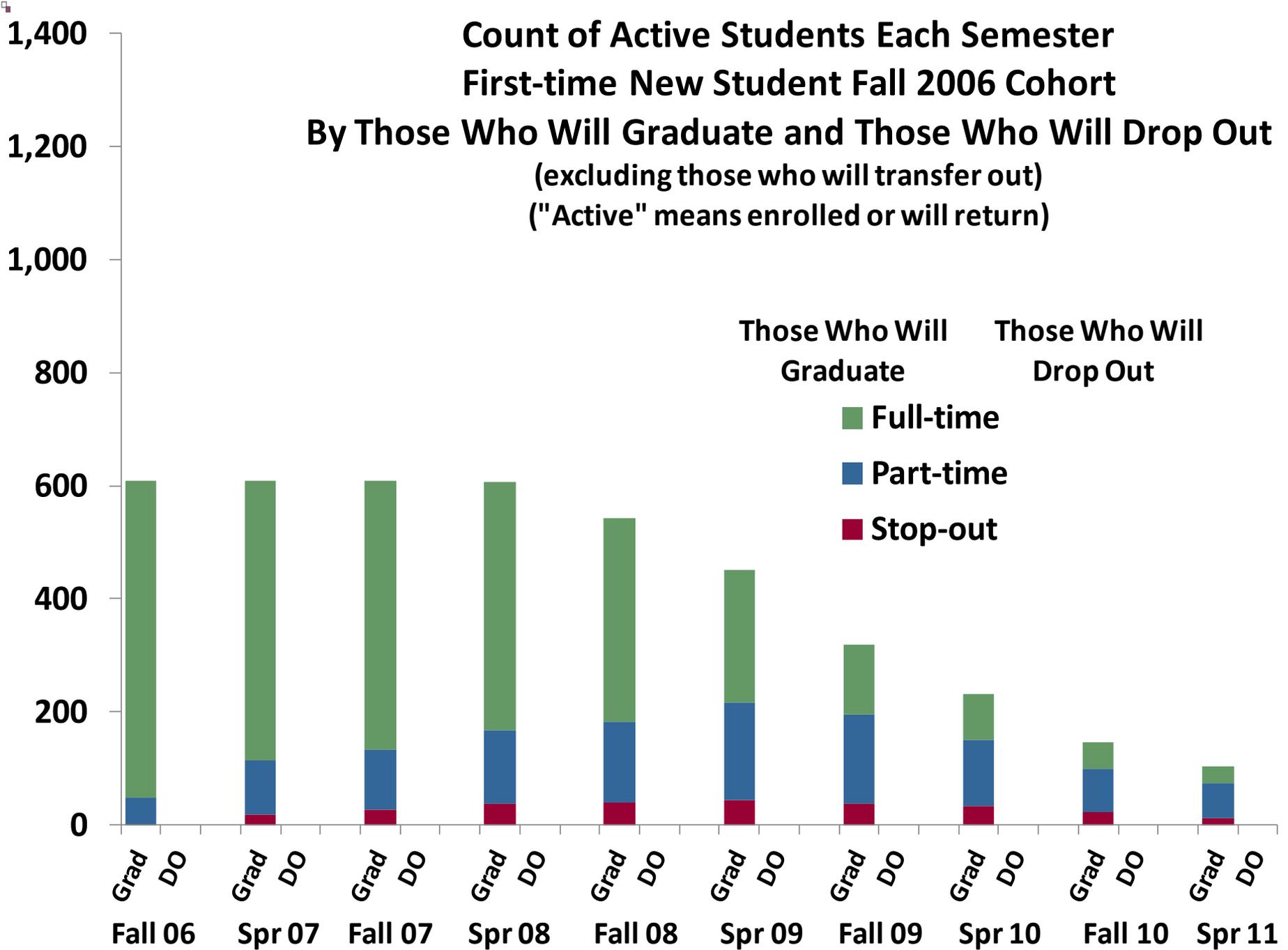
# Distribution

- But, if we separate those who
  - Will graduate
    - from those who
  - Will drop out
- We see two very different distributions...
  - Key
    - Hazy colors = Drop outs (DO)
    - Intense colors = Graduates
      - Green = Full-time
      - Blue = Part-time
      - Red = Stopping out

# Count of Active Students Each Semester

## First-time New Student Fall 2006 Cohort

By Those Who Will Graduate and Those Who Will Drop Out  
(excluding those who will transfer out)  
("Active" means enrolled or will return)



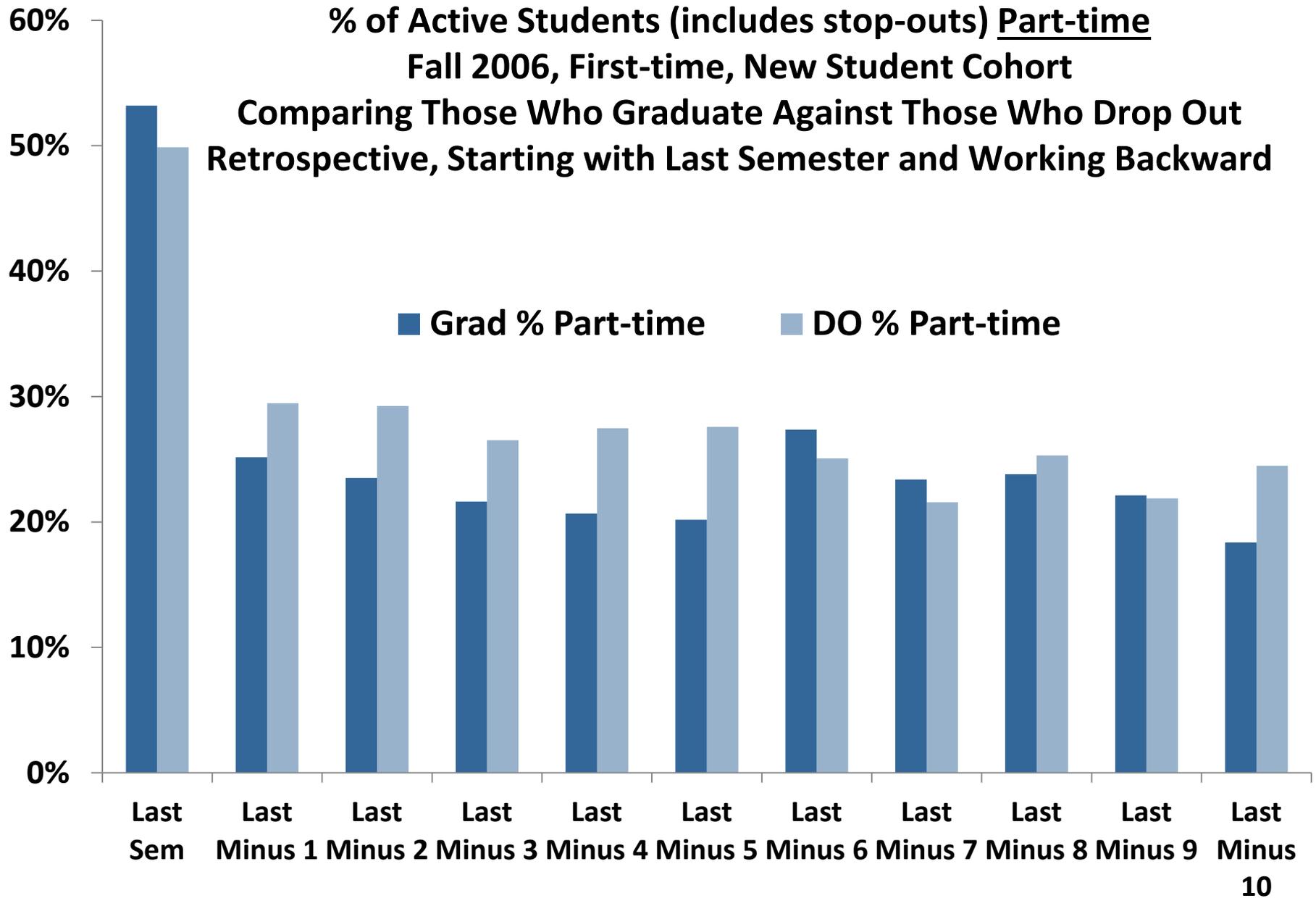
# Destiny: Drop-out vs. Graduate

- Those who graduate mostly go full-time.
- Far more students who will drop out are stopping out.
- By the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester most of those who will drop out are not going full-time.
- *By the 3rd semester, most students in classes are going to graduate, because many drop outs have already left, and those who remain are either stopping out or taking few classes (part-time).*

# Who Goes Part-time?

- **Not much difference between those who will graduate and those who will drop out...**  
**but...**
- ***All* those in their *last* semester are most likely to go part time.**

**% of Active Students (includes stop-outs) Part-time  
 Fall 2006, First-time, New Student Cohort  
 Comparing Those Who Graduate Against Those Who Drop Out  
 Retrospective, Starting with Last Semester and Working Backward**



# **Last Semester**

**Among those who will graduate,**

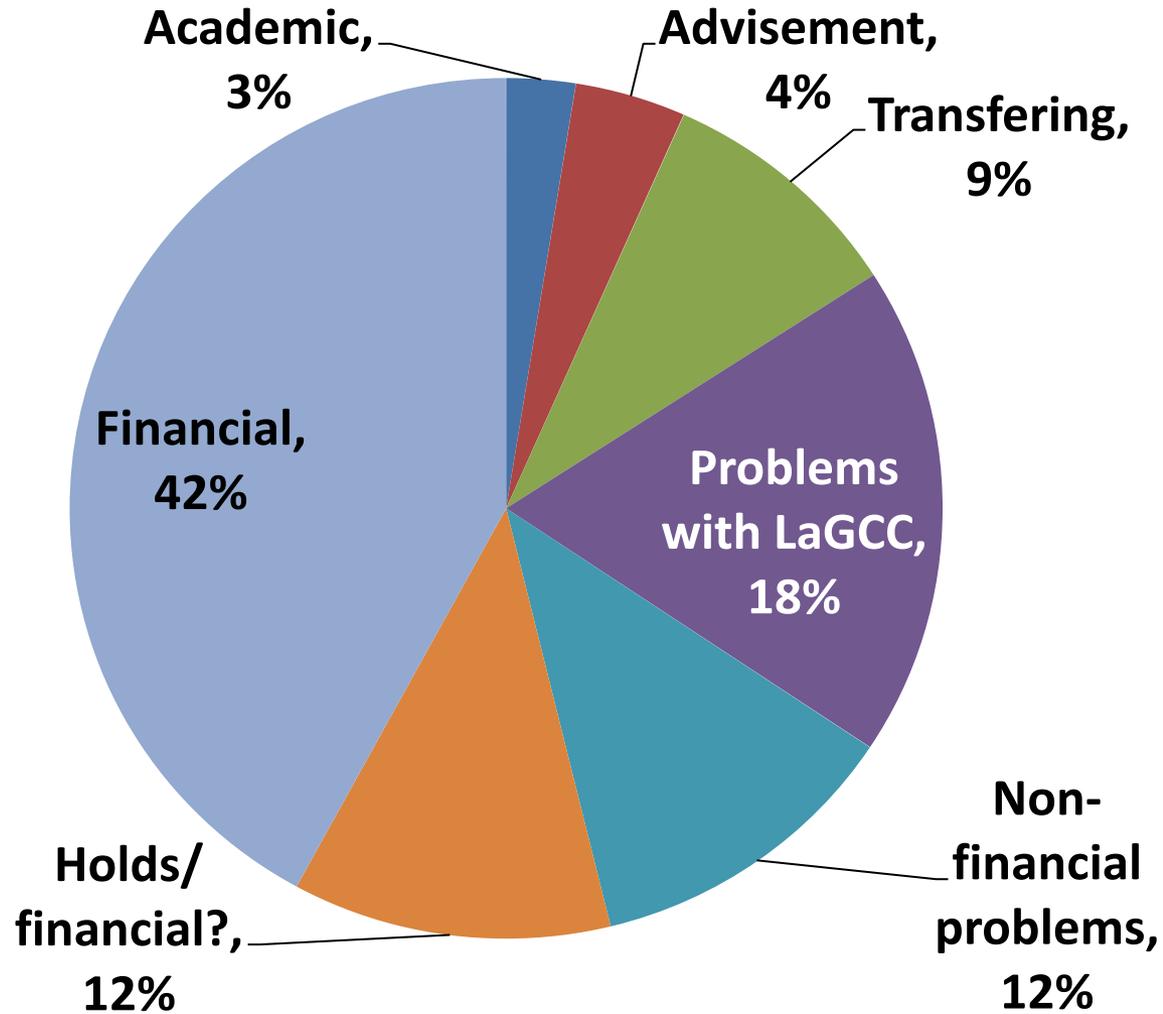
**the higher proportion of part-timers after semester 6 (intense blue in chart before the last) is...**

**a direct result of the larger proportion of those students about to graduate.**

# Why?

- We asked students, using text messaging, why they had not yet registered for Spring 2013 three weeks before classes were about to start:
  - Some said they intended to
  - Others said they would not or could not
    - Among this group, here are the reasons:

# Reasons for Not Enrolling Again



# Why?

- **About half said they could not register because of financial challenges.**
- **The average amount owed by a student who's registration was cancelled for owing more than \$200 was about \$1,000 in a previous semester.**

# Conclusion

- Those students who stop out are not likely to graduate.
- Those students who do not register for the next semester are most likely to do so for financial reasons.

**More students would graduate if they had the money.**