

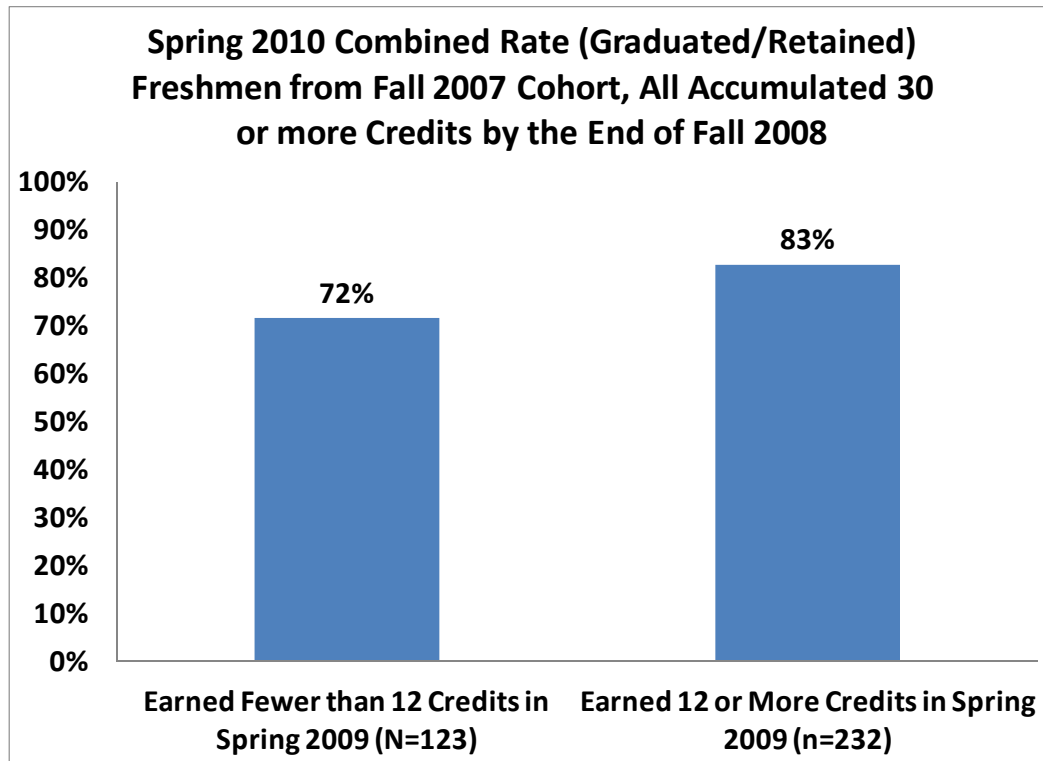
The Impact of Slower Academic Progress in One Semester

Jenny Zhu
Nate Dickmeyer
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We looked at a group of students who began as freshmen in Fall 2007 and had accumulated at least 30 credits within three semesters. Of these, 355 earned some credits in Spring 2009, the semester after they had earned at least 30 credits.

Of the 355, 123 earned fewer than 12 credits in the Spring 2009 semester, and 232 earned 12 or more credits. Going into the Spring 2009 semester (after Fall 2008), the two groups (part-time in Spring 2009 and full-time in Spring 2009) had about the same GPA (2.97 for the part-time group and 3.00 for the full-time group) and the same average number of earned credits (36.9 for the part-time group and 37.8 for the full-time group).

Despite these similarities, the group that attended full-time in Spring 2009 was retained (or graduated) at a higher rate than the group that attended part-time in Spring 2009.



Allowing students to continue full-time after three semesters of attendance in which they earn at least 30 credits increases the probability of retention by 16%.