

Analysis of Students Who Take More Than 2 Courses Or More Than 9 Credits In Session 2

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Introduction

College policy states that states ‘students may not register for more than two courses (not to exceed nine equated credits) for any 6 week session without permission from the Vice President of Academic Affairs or designee. To obtain approval, students must have completed all basic skills and have a GPA of 3.0.’ In reviewing the data, we found a small subset of students do take more than two courses or more than nine equated credits or both. In the 2010-11 academic year 18,947 students enrolled in Session 2 classes in either Fall 2 or Spring 2. Slightly over 3% of those students (588) took more than two courses or more than nine equated credits or both. Concerns were raised as to whether or not these students would be able to successfully complete the session II credit load. This analysis will examine the academic performance of these 588 students, and compare them to the 18,359 who enrolled in either Session 2 while adhering to the College’s credit and course limitation policy.

Methodology

All registrations for Session 2 were identified. Dropped courses were eliminated but courses for which students officially withdrew from were kept to determine the extent to which students withdrew from courses. This resulted in a data set of valid registrations for both Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 Session 2. Each individual Session 2 enrollee was identified and the following data was calculated for each student:

1. Overall Grade Point Average prior to beginning Session 2.
2. Number of total semesters attended at LaGuardia including the preceding Session 1.
3. Each students’ Grade Point Average for that specific Session 2.
4. The number of equated credits registered for in Session 2.
5. The number of courses registered for in Session 2.
6. The number of courses officially withdrawn from in Session 2.

Findings

The vast majority of students comply with the college’s policy on Session 2 registration. 9,954 students attended Fall 2010 session 2. These students’ averaged 1.4 courses and 4.7 equated credits attempted. 8,993 students attended Spring 2011 session 2. These students’ averaged 1.4 courses and 4.5 equated credits attempted. Chart 1 depicts by equated credit groupings the number and percentage of students in each grouping.

1. Session 2 Analysis By Equated Credits Attempted				
	Fall 2010 Session 2		Spring 2011 Session 2	
Equated Credits Attempted	Students	%	Students	%
3 or Less	3967	39.9%	3977	44.2%
3.5 - 6	4460	44.8%	3720	41.4%
6.5 - 9	1516	15.2%	1254	13.9%
9.5 - 12	11	0.1%	40	0.4%
Above 12	0	0.0%	2	0.0%
Totals	9954	100.0%	8993	100.0%

In both Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 session 2's the vast majority of students take 1-2 courses. The majority of students who exceed the College's registration policy for Session 2 do so by taking a third course.

2. Session 2 Analysis By Courses Taken						
Courses Taken	Fall 2010 Session 2			Spring 2011 Session 2		
	Students	%	Average EQ's Taken	Students	%	Average EQ's Taken
1	6612	66.4%	3.8	6075	67.6%	3.6
2	3074	30.9%	6.2	2613	29.1%	6.3
3	264	2.7%	8.4	303	3.4%	8.8
4	4	0.0%	11.0	2	0.0%	11.0
	9954	100.0%	4.7	8993	100.0%	4.5

Table 3 analyzes the academic outcomes of the 588 students who took more than 9 equated credits or more than 3 courses.

3. Analysis Of Students Who Take More Than 2 courses <u>or</u> More Than 9 Credits In Session 2											
Terms Attended	Students	GPA Prior To Session 2	GPA For Session 2	Average Courses Passed	Average Courses Failed	Average Courses Withdrawn	Percent of Courses Passed	Average Equated Credits Passed	Average Equated Credits Failed	Average Equated Credits Withdrawn	Percent of Equated Credits Passed
Fall 2010 Session 2											
1	38	2.29	2.40	1.74	1.21	0.03	58.4%	5.37	2.51	0.08	67.5%
2	27	2.33	2.42	1.96	0.96	0.07	65.6%	5.44	2.33	0.22	68.1%
3-4	87	2.57	2.68	2.29	0.64	0.07	76.3%	6.64	1.60	0.21	78.6%
5-6	57	2.66	3.06	2.61	0.35	0.07	86.1%	7.53	0.84	0.18	88.1%
7-8	36	2.24	2.73	2.25	0.44	0.31	75.0%	6.75	1.17	0.89	76.6%
9-10	16	2.14	2.10	1.94	0.75	0.31	64.7%	5.63	2.13	0.94	64.7%
10+	10	2.43	2.69	2.50	0.50	0.00	83.3%	7.70	1.00	0.00	88.5%
All	271	2.45	2.67	2.23	0.67	0.11	74.1%	6.52	1.59	0.31	77.4%
Spring 2011 Session 2											
1	18	2.65	2.38	2.22	0.61	0.00	78.4%	7.44	1.81	0.00	80.4%
2	52	2.56	2.46	2.10	0.73	0.06	72.7%	6.71	2.27	0.17	73.3%
3-4	101	2.63	2.64	2.35	0.62	0.02	78.6%	6.97	1.83	0.06	78.7%
5-6	79	2.57	2.58	2.42	0.53	0.06	80.4%	7.19	1.52	0.16	81.1%
7-8	44	2.36	2.83	2.50	0.48	0.02	83.3%	7.34	1.39	0.09	83.2%
9-10	15	2.41	2.20	2.13	0.73	0.13	71.2%	6.40	2.13	0.33	72.2%
10+	8	2.17	2.82	2.25	0.63	0.00	78.1%	6.25	2.31	0.00	73.0%
All	317	2.55	2.59	2.32	0.60	0.04	78.4%	7.02	1.79	0.12	78.6%
All High Credit Session 2	588	2.50	2.63	2.28	0.63	0.07	76.5%	6.79	1.70	0.21	78.0%
All Other Students	18359	2.25	2.05	0.95	0.33	0.03	72.5%	3.19	1.18	0.11	71.2%

Overall, students who take high course or equated credit loads in Session 2 tend to better academically than their counterparts. They pass Session 2 courses at a higher rate and pass

greater percentage of their equated credits taken compared to other students, but they also tend be stronger students going in with a cumulative GPA 2.50 compared to 2.25 for all other students.

Conclusion

The number of students taking more than 2 courses or 9 equated credits represents only 3% of all students taking Session 2 courses. These students, who self-select for a high course or credit load in Session 2, appear to be doing well academically while earning more credits and moving closer to graduation. It doesn't seem to make sense to alter the existing policy that allows these exemptions.