

Achieving the Dream Report Series



February 1, 2008

The Effect of Registration Dates on Course Completion Rates

This week's Achieving the Dream report will examine Fall 2007 course and grade data to determine how the date when the student registers for courses impacts successful completion. "Success" is defined as course completion with a grade of C or better (for the purposes of this analysis, C- is excluded).

The first day of classes for the Fall 2007 semester was September 5, 2007. Students who registered through August 15, 2007 were more likely to complete developmental and gatekeeper courses successfully than those who registered after August 15.

The most significant disparities were seen in Developmental and Reading Basic Writing where there were 12% and 11% differences (respectively) between successful completions when students registered through August 15th compared with those that

registered after August 15th. In the Natural Sciences students who registered through August 15th had a 10% higher completion rate than their counterparts. In the remaining courses examined by this study (English 101, Developmental Math and College Math), students who registered in the earlier time-frame were at least 5% more likely to complete the coursework successfully.

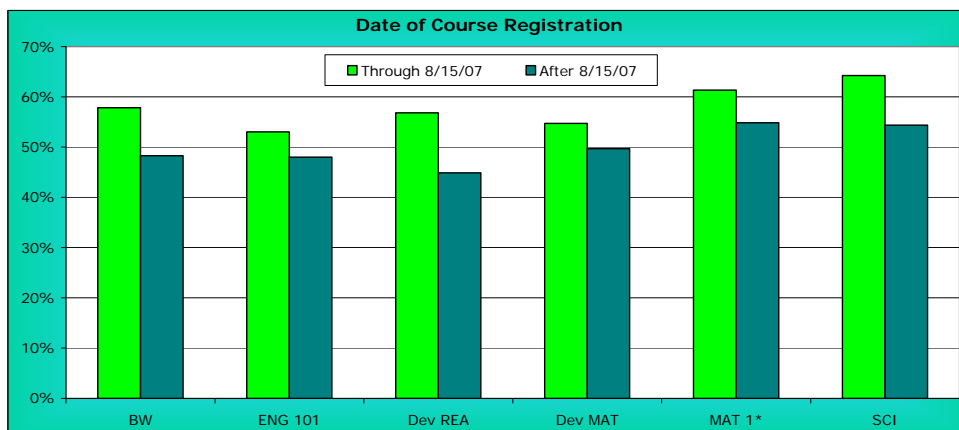
As can be seen from all of the courses examined in this study, when students register early they achieve higher course completion rates.

Interpretations of these findings as well as suggestions for further analysis are always welcome. Please direct questions and comments to Thomas Fallon, Dean of Institutional Research and Planning, via phone at 978-556-3866 or email at tfallon@necc.mass.edu.



<http://www.necc.mass.edu/irp/planning/dream.php>

Fall 2007 Course Completion Rates
Completed = grades A-C (C- is excluded)



	Basic Writing		ENG 101		Dev Reading		Dev Math		College Math (1*)		Natural Sciences	
	# Enrolled	% Complete	# Enrolled	% Complete	# Enrolled	% Complete	# Enrolled	% Complete	# Enrolled	% Complete	# Enrolled	% Complete
Through 8/15/07	268	58%	673	53%	368	57%	689	55%	559	61%	1,228	64%
After 8/15/07	176	48%	344	48%	176	45%	499	50%	279	55%	445	54%