

The Current Graduation and Continuation Status of the Fall 2005 Cohort Of First-Time Full-Time Freshmen

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Following up on the report of the six-year graduation rate for the fall 2004 cohort, we looked at the current graduation/continuation status of the fall 2005 cohort and compared it to the 2004 cohort at this time last year when about 34% of the fall 2004 cohort had graduated and 14% were still enrolled. This combined five-year graduation/six-year continuation rate of about 48% was the best we had had since at least the 1996 cohort. That was reflected in the final six-year graduation rate of 40.9% we reported for the 2004 cohort.

The 2005 cohort is slightly behind where the 2004 cohort was at this time last year. Of the 723 students in the 2005 cohort, 31% have graduated and about 17% are currently enrolled. While the combined rate is the same as last year, the five-year graduation rate for the 2005 cohort is lower than the 34% five-year graduation rate we reported for the fall 2004 cohort, and without intervention, we anticipate a drop of about two percentage points in the graduation rate.

At the beginning of the fall 2010 semester, 124 of the original cohort were enrolled at and not graduated from UMass Boston. Of the 124, 64 had maintained continuous enrollment since fall 2005. The other 60 students exhibited 41 different patterns of attendance. The most extreme was one student who began in fall 2005, earned no credits, left the university, and returned for the first time in fall 2010. Overall, 25% of the 124 active students were absent from UMass Boston for three or more semesters.

Number of Semesters Attended Fall 2005 to Fall 2010 Inclusive For Students Active in Fall 2010

Semesters	Number of Students	Percent
2	1	1%
3	4	3%
4	4	3%
5	6	5%
6	1	1%
7	5	4%
8	10	8%
9	9	7%
10	20	16%
11	64	52%
Total	124	100%

Fifty of the 124 have virtually no chance of graduating by August 2011. Thirty-eight of the students should complete the fall 2010 semester with 120 or more credits, assuming success in all credits registered for in the semester. Another 22 students should have 105 to 119 credits. That would put them in a position to graduate in June 2011 if they carry a

full 15 credits in the spring. Fourteen others should have 100 to 104 credits which would allow them to graduate in August if they go full-time in the spring and take two summer classes. Of this group of 36 students with 100 to 119 credits, 25 would have to graduate by August 2011 to have a reportable graduation rate of 40% for the cohort, assuming that all of the students who complete this semester with 120 or more credits also graduate.

We should aggressively seek out all of the 74 active students who could potentially graduate by August 2011, and focus on finding out what supports they need to be able to graduate. We should work with the students to assure that the right classes are taken, any administrative holds are removed, and that the application to graduate is filed correctly and on time.

There is another group that could help the 2005 graduation rate. There were 35 members of the cohort who were active in spring 2010 but did not return in fall 2010. Twenty-four of them should have accumulated 105 or more credits by the end of the spring semester if they were successful in all courses taken. Eleven of these students should have had 120 or more credits by the end of the spring. Why they did not graduate in June or in August is unknown. None of the eleven entered the spring 2010 semester with a cumulative GPA below 2.77. These students should be contacted immediately to find out why they did not graduate or continue to this year.

The majority of the 35 who attended in spring 2010 but not fall had attended continuously since their entry in fall 2005, a total of ten semesters.

**Number of Semesters Attended Fall 2005 to Spring 2010 Inclusive
For Students Active in Spring 2010 but Inactive in Fall 2010**

Semesters	Number of Students	Percent
3	1	3%
7	1	3%
8	2	6%
9	6	17%
10	25	71%
Total	35	100%

Lack of a clear idea of what one wants to study on entry seems to be a problem. Of the 36 students active in fall 2010 who should end the semester with between 100 and 119 credits, 24 entered without a decided major and 6 of the other 12 changed majors significantly. The spring 2010 group had the same pattern. Of the 24 students, 16 had been undecided when they entered and 4 of the other 8 changed majors significantly.

We have prepared two files with information on each student that has number of semesters attended, GPA at the beginning of the last semester attended, number of credits accumulated at the beginning of that semester, credits attempted during that semester, and the expected number of credits at the end of the semester assuming success in all courses.

Other variables of interest should be available through the Registrar's Office or some other entity.