

Transfer Behavior and First Semester GPA

Students Who Did Not Return for Spring 2010

Of 936 first-time full-time freshmen who matriculated in fall 2009, 99 did not return for spring 2010. Of that 99, 40 had a fall 2009 GPA of 0.0. Altogether, 67 of the 936 had first semester GPAs of 0.0. It is likely that many of those students felt mismatched and withdrew from all classes or simply left without any formal withdrawal process. However, 27 of them enrolled at UMass Boston in spring 2010 and 18 of those continued to fall 2010.

We used the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) and located 26 of the 99 non-returners at other schools in spring 2010.

Five were at two-year colleges. Two of the five had GPAs of 0.0 at UMass Boston, but 2 were above 2.5. For the 5, the mean GPA was 1.23 and for the 3 non-zero students it was 2.05.

We located 21 non-returners at four-year institutions in spring 2010. Seven of the students were enrolled at UMass Amherst. Several students with very low fall 2009 GPAs immediately transferred to other four-year schools. The 21 had a mean GPA of 2.9. If we exclude the one 0.0 GPA student who enrolled at Hofstra in spring 2010, the mean GPA was 3.0 for those transferring to 4-year schools.

The mean GPA for those who did not return and were not located at other schools was 1.14. Thirty-seven of the 73 non-returning and non-other enrolling students had 0.0 GPAs. However, 11 had GPAs of 3.0 or higher. If the zeroes are excluded, the mean GPA was 2.32.

Students Who Did Not Return for Fall 2010

Of the 936 first-time full-time freshmen who matriculated in fall 2009, 234 did not return for fall 2010. Six of the students who did return in fall 2010 had been absent in spring 2010. Using the NSC, we located 117 students who attended another college by October of 2010.

Forty-five of the students had enrolled at two-year schools. Six students had GPAs of 3.0 or better in fall 2009, but 8 of them had 0.0 fall 2009 UMass Boston GPAs. Including the zeroes, the mean fall 2009 GPA was 1.73. Excluding the zeroes, the mean for these 2-year college transfers was 2.1, with a minimum of 0.5 and a maximum of 4.0.

Seventy-two of the non-returners were at four-year schools. Thirty-six of the 72 had fall 2009 GPAs of 3.0 or better, but 9 had 0.0 GPAs for fall 2009. Counting the zeroes, the mean first semester UMass Boston GPA was 2.63. If we exclude the zeroes, the mean

first semester UMass Boston GPA was 3.00, with a minimum of 1.25 and a maximum of 4.0 for these students who transferred to four year schools.

Thirty-one of the 117 students who did not return and who were not located at another school by fall 2010 had 0.0 fall 2009 GPAs at UMass Boston. The mean fall 2009 GPA for all 117 non-returning nor other enrolling students was 1.77. If the zeroes are excluded, the mean fall 2009 GPA was 2.41. Twenty-nine of the students had GPAs of 3.0 or better, including 3 with 4.0 first semester GPAs.

The NSC has some limitations. While the vast majority of U.S. higher education institutions participate, not all do. Because of privacy concerns, we cannot use the students' social security numbers to search for them. We can only use names and dates of birth. If students have changed anything about their names, from adding a middle initial to dropping a suffix, the NSC will not be able to locate them. Therefore the number of students we located is lower than the true number is likely to be, but we cannot know by how much.