



RESEARCH BRIEF

OIR

Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success Initiatives

22-15

April 2015

Six Policy Changes – On-Time Registration: Fall 2014 Outcomes

As part of NOVA's efforts to increase student success outcomes, NOVA enacted six policy changes in Fall 2014:

1. Mandate placement testing for first-time in college (FTIC) students.
2. Mandate enrollment in developmental courses for FTIC students during the first semester (if placed).
3. Mandate student orientation for FTIC students.
4. Mandate early advising for FTIC students.
5. Mandate Student Development (SDV) completion within the first year for FTIC students.
6. Mandate on-time registration for *all* students, requiring students register by 11:59 p.m. the day before the session begins.

The first five policy changes target NOVA's GPS population: FTIC students ages 17-24.¹ GPS for Success: Teaching and Learning through Advising is the name of NOVA's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which is an action plan to improve student learning. GPS refers to the Goals, Plans, and Strategies that students must develop to attain their academic objectives and involves a case management approach to holistic, intrusive academic advising with a focus on development of the student. GPS for Success promotes early engagement, class readiness, student preparedness, and goal attainment.

This Research Brief presents outcomes based on compliance with the sixth policy change, which mandates on-time registration for *all* NOVA students and requires that students register by 11:59 p.m. the day before the session begins. The purpose of this policy is to increase the percentage of students who are "class ready" by the start of their first class meetings in each academic session and thereby improve student success at NOVA.

¹More specifically, the GPS population includes recent high school graduates or GED recipients between the ages of 17 and 24 who have never previously attended college (unless it was dual enrollment during high school) who are not members of the College Pathway Initiative program.

As seen in Table 1 and Figure 1, the percentage of NOVA students registering for all of their courses on-time (by 11:59 p.m. the day before the session began) increased from 78 percent in Fall 2013 to 94 percent in Fall 2014. For the purpose of this analysis, even students who registered late with permission in Fall 2014 were considered late-registrants.

Table 1. Compliance with On-Time Registration Policy: Fall 2013 and Fall 2014

Compliance Status	Fall 2013		Fall 2014	
	#	%	#	%
Registered On-Time	40,370	78.0	48,491	94.1
Did Not Comply	11,370	22.0	3,014	5.9
All Students	51,740	100.0	51,505	100.0

Note: Since table provides headcounts, if a student registered late for any course, the student was counted under "Did Not Comply"

Figure 1. Compliance with On-Time Registration Policy: Fall 2013 and Fall 2014

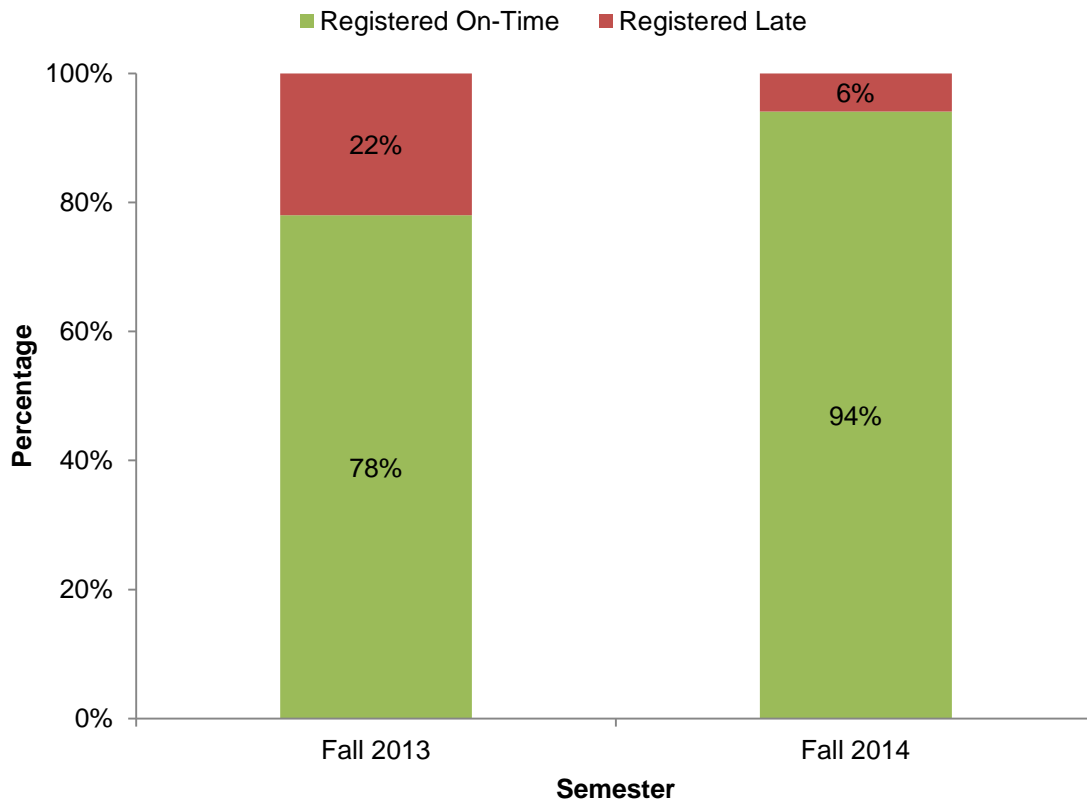


Table 2 and Figure 2 present the overall success rates in credit courses of all NOVA students in Fall 2013 and Fall 2014. Success in a credit course is counted by earning a grade of 'C' or higher. Students who complied with the on-time registration policy in Fall 2014 had an overall success rate of 72 percent, which is equivalent to both the Fall 2014 cohort overall (72 percent) and the Fall 2013 cohort overall (72 percent).

Table 2. Success in Credit Courses by Compliance with On-Time Registration: Fall 2013 and Fall 2014

Course Outcome	Fall 2013		Fall 2014			
			All Students		Registered On-Time	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Successful	108,220	71.9	107,138	72.4	102,156	72.4
Not Successful	42,363	28.1	40,741	27.6	39,016	27.6
Total	150,583	100.0	147,879	100.0	141,172	100.0

Note: In the Fall 2013 cohort, there were 804 missing grades, and in the Fall 2014 cohort, there were 1,741 missing grades including 1,018 of the "On-Time" group. The totals are duplicated headcounts.

Figure 2. Success in Credit Courses by Compliance with On-Time Registration: Fall 2013 and Fall 2014

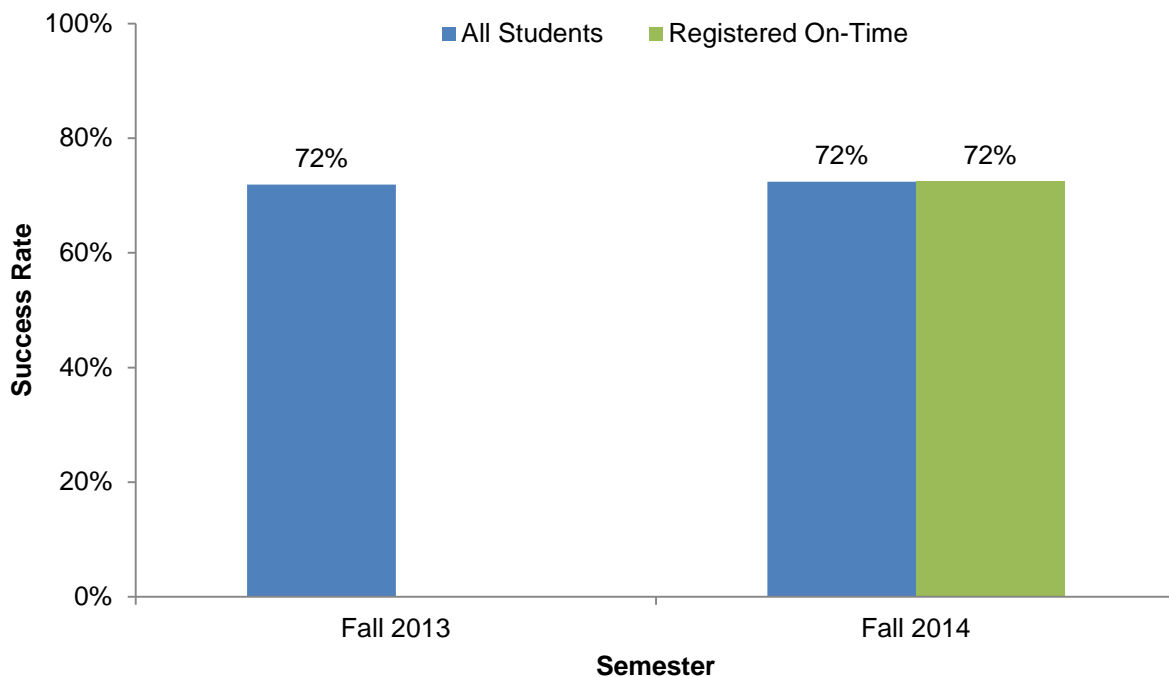


Table 3 and Figure 3 present the fall-to-spring retention rates of all NOVA students for Fall 2013 and Fall 2014. Students who complied with the on-time registration policy returned to NOVA in Spring 2015 at the same rate (70 percent) as both the Fall 2014 cohort overall (70 percent) and the Fall 2013 cohort overall (70 percent).

Table 3. Fall to Spring Retention by Compliance with On-Time Registration: Fall 2013 through Spring 2015

Retention Status	Fall 2013		Fall 2014			
	#	%	All Students		Registered On-Time	
			#	%	#	%
Returned Following Spring	36,007	69.6	35,939	69.8	33,708	69.5
Did Not Return Following Spring	15,733	30.4	15,566	30.2	14,783	30.5
Total	51,740	100.0	51,505	100.0	48,491	100.0

Note: Spring 2015 retention data from PeopleSoft as of February 24th, 2015.

Figure 3. Fall to Spring Retention by Compliance with On-Time Registration: Fall 2013 through Spring 2015

