

RESEARCH BRIEF

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Summer 2017 Session Analysis

Summer sessions at NOVA offer a convenient and affordable opportunity for transient students from area four-year institutions and recent high school graduates to earn transfer credits during the summer. This Brief examines Summer 2016 and Summer 2017 enrollment trends for both transient students and recent high school graduates. This Brief also presents trends in enrollment in ELI courses for Summer 2016 and Summer 2017.

Summer Session Dates

Many popular four-year institutions attended by transient students do not end their Spring semesters until mid-May. Therefore, in order to accommodate more transient students in Summer 2017, NOVA delayed the initial start date for summer sessions to May 22, 2017, a week later than usual.

Table 1, below, shows the Spring semester end dates for area four-year institutions for the current academic year (2017-18).

Table 1. Semester End Dates of Popular Four-Year Institutions: 2017-18

Institution	Spring Semester Exams End
George Mason University	May 16, 2018
Virginia Commonwealth University	May 12, 2018
University of Virginia	May 11, 2018
Virginia Military Institute	May 11, 2018
College of William and Mary	May 9, 2018
Longwood University	May 9, 2018
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	May 9, 2018
Virginia State University	May 8, 2018
Norfolk State University	May 4, 2018
University of Mary Washington	May 4, 2018
University of Virginia at Wise	May 4, 2018
James Madison University	May 3, 2018
Radford University	May 3, 2018
Old Dominion University	May 2, 2018
Christopher Newport University	April 28, 2018

Note: Sorted in descending order by end of semester (exam end date).

Additionally, in order to target 2017 high school graduates from NOVA's service area, the later Summer 2017 session (second 5-weeks) started on June 27, 2017.

Table 2 shows the academic year end dates for area public school districts for the current academic year (2017-18).

Table 2. Academic Year End Dates of Area Public School Districts: 2017-18

District	Academic Year End Date
Alexandria City Public Schools	June 20, 2018
Fairfax County Public Schools	June 15, 2018
Falls Church City Public Schools	June 15, 2018
Arlington City Public Schools	June 15, 2018
Manassas City Public Schools	June 14, 2018
Manassas Park City Public Schools	June 13, 2018
Loudoun County Public Schools	June 13, 2018
Prince William County Public Schools	June 8, 2018

Note: Sorted in descending order by school year end date.

Transient Student Enrollment by Session

- Transient student enrollment decreased by 80 students (-3 percent) from Summer 2016 to Summer 2017. The percentage of transient students who enrolled in courses in the two 5-week sessions in Summer 2017 (37 percent) was smaller as compared to the equivalent 6-week sessions in Summer 2016 (44 percent).
- Enrollment in the first 5-week session decreased by 115 students (-16 percent) from Summer 2016 to Summer 2017. Enrollment in the second 5-week session also decreased by 127 students (-20 percent).
- Some enrollment decline in the 5-week sessions may be the result of a decrease in available courses.
 - There were nearly 500 fewer course sections offered during the 5-week sessions in Summer 2017 compared to the equivalent 6-week sessions in Summer 2016.
 - While there was an increase of over 350 sections offered in the 8-week sessions, transient students may have preferred the 5- or 6-week timing over the 8-week sessions.

Table 3. Transient Student Enrollment by Session: Summer 2016 and Summer 2017

Session	Summer 2016		Summer 2017		Change from Summer 2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
10-week (12-week)	80	2.6	187	6.2	107	133.8
1 st 5-week (1 st 6-week)	717	23.3	602	20.1	-115	-16.0
2 nd 5-week (2 nd 6-week)	627	20.4	500	16.7	-127	-20.3
1 st 8-week	80	2.6	182	6.1	102	127.5
2 nd 8-week	5	0.2	112	3.7	107	2,140.0
Dynamic	1,567	50.9	1,413	47.2	-154	-9.8
Total	3,076	100.0	2,996	100.0	-80	-2.6

Note: The session lengths changed in Summer 2017; Summer 2016 sessions in parentheses.

ELI FTES by Campus

- From Summer 2016 to Summer 2017, ELI FTES increased only at the Alexandria and Manassas Campuses (highlighted in yellow in Table 4).
 - The Woodbridge Campus had the highest percentage decline in FTES (-18 percent), followed by Annandale (-14 percent) and then Loudoun (-11 percent) (highlighted in orange in Table 4).
- The Manassas Campus was the only campus to increase the number of ELI course sections offered during this time (+3 sections), whereas the Woodbridge Campus had the greatest decrease (-52 sections) in ELI sections (highlighted in orange in Table 4).
 - While the number of non-ELI sections increased by 9 at the Woodbridge Campus between Summer 2016 and Summer 2017, the number of total sections decreased by 43.

Table 4. Number of Sections and FTES by Campus and ELI Status: Summer 2016 to Summer 2017

Campus	ELI Status	Number of Sections			FTES		
		Summer 2016	Summer 2017	# Change	Summer 2016	Summer 2017	% Change
AL	ELI	124	105	-19	547	555	1.5
	Non-ELI	299	298	-1	1,096	1,071	-2.3
	Sub-Total	423	403	-20	1,642	1,625	-1.0
AN	ELI	236	190	-46	1,041	891	-14.4
	Non-ELI	617	533	-84	2,489	2,150	-13.6
	Sub-Total	853	723	-130	3,530	3,042	-13.8
LO	ELI	145	118	-27	561	497	-11.4
	Non-ELI	237	246	9	894	900	0.6
	Sub-Total	382	364	-18	1,454	1,397	-3.9
MA	ELI	54	57	3	217	253	16.6
	Non-ELI	209	202	-7	772	737	-4.5
	Sub-Total	263	259	-4	989	989	0.0
ME	ELI	32	22	-10	109	81	-25.7
	Non-ELI	77	70	-7	132	111	-15.4
	Sub-Total	109	92	-17	240	192	-20.1
WO	ELI	172	120	-52	611	502	-17.8
	Non-ELI	190	199	9	699	676	-3.2
	Sub-Total	362	319	-43	1,310	1,178	-10.1
College-Wide		2,392	2,160	-232	9,166	8,424	-8.1

Note: FTES are rounded.

- From Summer 2016 to Summer 2017, ELI enrollment in the second 8-week session increased by 49 FTES (26 percent) at the Alexandria Campus. (Table 5, next page)
- ELI enrollment in the initial summer sessions (10-week, first 8-week, and first 5-week) increased by 32 FTES (26 percent) at the Manassas Campus. Enrollment in these sessions decreased on all other campuses. (Table 5, next page)
- Total ELI enrollment declined by 150 FTES (-14 percent) at the Annandale Campus and by 109 FTES (-18 percent) at the Woodbridge Campus. The decline at Annandale was larger in the second 8-Week session (-19 percent), whereas the decline was larger in the initial summer sessions at the Woodbridge Campus (-27 percent). (Table 5, next page)

Table 5. ELI FTES in the Dynamic Session by Campus: Summer 2016 to Summer 2017

Campus	Initial Summer Starts (12w/10w/8w1)*			2 nd 8-Week Session**			Other***			Total		
	Sum. 2016	Sum. 2017	% Change	Sum. 2016	Sum. 2017	% Change	Sum. 2016	Sum. 2017	% Change	Sum. 2016	Sum. 2017	% Change
AL	352	316	-10.2	190	239	25.8	5	0	-100.0	547	555	1.5
AN	683	613	-10.2	344	278	-19.2	14	0	-100.0	1,041	891	-14.4
LO	292	275	-5.8	240	220	-8.3	29	2	-93.1	561	497	-11.4
MA	124	156	25.8	93	97	4.3	0	0	-	217	253	16.6
ME	74	53	-28.4	13	12	-7.7	22	16	-27.3	109	81	-25.7
WO	399	291	-27.1	212	211	-0.5	0	0	-	611	502	-17.8
Total	1,924	1,704	-11.4	1,092	1,057	-3.2	70	18	-74.3	3,086	2,779	-9.9

*Initial summer starts for ELI include the 12-week, 10-week, and 1st 8-week dynamic sessions in Summer 2017 (starting 05/16-22/2017) and the 12-Week, 1st 8-week, and 1st 6-week dynamic sessions in Summer 2016 (starting 05/16/2016).

**In Summer 2016 ELI courses were offered in a 2nd 8-week dynamic session and a 3rd 8-week dynamic session. Both are included here under the 2nd 8-week session.

***Other includes ELI courses in the dynamic session in Summer 2016 and Summer 2017 with start dates that were not associated with the main summer dynamic sessions.

- Sessions with initial summer start dates had the largest decreases in course section offerings from Summer 2016 to Summer 2017, as compared to the second 8-week session. (Table 6)
- Therefore, some of the observed declines in ELI FTES (see Table 5, above) may be attributed to the fewer numbers of course sections available in Summer 2017 compared to Summer 2016.

Table 6. ELI Sections in the Dynamic Session by Campus: Summer 2016 to Summer 2017

Campus	Initial Summer Starts (12w/10w/8w1)*			2 nd 8-Week Session**			Other***			Total		
	Sum. 2016	Sum. 2017	% Change	Sum. 2016	Sum. 2017	% Change	Sum. 2016	Sum. 2017	% Change	Sum. 2016	Sum. 2017	% Change
AL	81	60	-25.9	42	45	7.1	1	0	-100.0	124	105	-15.3
AN	151	122	-19.2	82	68	-17.1	3	0	-100.0	236	190	-19.5
LO	74	60	-18.9	63	56	-11.1	8	2	-75.0	145	118	-18.6
MA	32	35	9.4	22	22	0.0	0	0	-	54	57	5.6
ME	21	14	-33.3	9	6	-33.3	2	2	0.0	32	22	-31.3
WO	101	64	-36.6	71	56	-21.1	0	0	-	172	120	-30.2
Total	460	355	-22.8	289	253	-12.5	14	4	-71.4	763	612	-19.8

*Initial summer starts for ELI include the 12-week, 10-week, and 1st 8-week dynamic sessions in Summer 2017 (starting 05/16-22/2017) and the 12-Week, 1st 8-week, and 1st 6-week dynamic sessions in Summer 2016 (starting 05/16/2016).

**In Summer 2016 ELI courses were offered in a 2nd 8-week dynamic session and a 3rd 8-week dynamic session. Both are included here under the 2nd 8-week session.

***Other includes ELI courses in the dynamic session in Summer 2016 and Summer 2017 with start dates that were not associated with the main summer dynamic sessions.