

Based on all new freshmen from fall 2014 through fall 2017, including fall, spring, and summer starters. Students were categorized according to their first four enrolled terms. Continual enrollment is defined as being enrolled every term including summer, or every fall and spring, for 4 consecutive terms. Stop-Outs are any students who did not consistently attend BMCC over 4 terms, both those who included and did not include the summer sessions.

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BMCC OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND ANALYTICS

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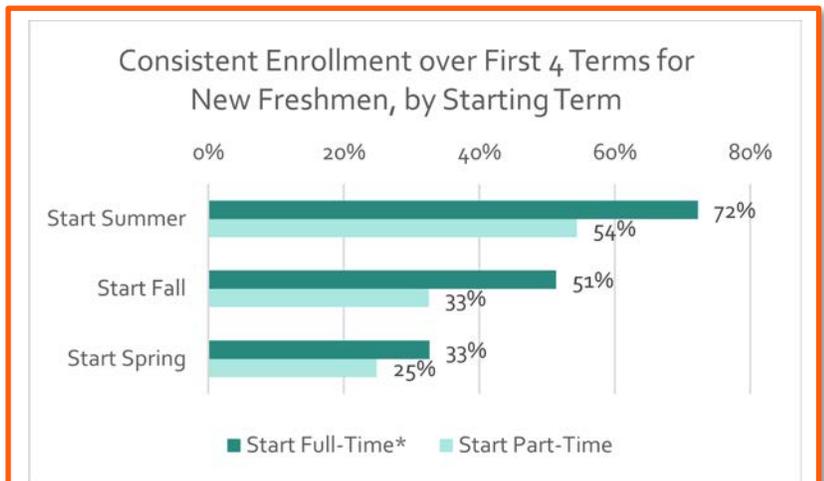
A part-time student will take longer to graduate than a full-time student, but fall-to-spring retention rates for part-time students are also substantially lower than for full-time students, at least in the ways we traditionally measure them. Most completion rates look at the credit load in the first term to categorize a student as a part-time or full-time student. But students can start in any term, change their credit load, or stop out and re-enroll later. This study identifies common variations and looks at their impact on student outcomes. The population is all new freshmen entering BMCC between fall 2014 through fall 2017.

Part-time Students

Among the part-time new freshmen, only 1/3 of the fall starters and 1/4 of the spring starters are able to attend consistently over 4 terms, and even only half of the summer starters remain steadily enrolled over the next four terms.

However, part-time students don't necessarily stay part time. Among fall starting freshmen who are part-time, 41% are full-time in their next term. In contrast, only 12% of those who started as fall full-time freshmen are enrolled part-time in their next term.

SECOND TERM ->		FULL-TIME	PART-TIME
FALL START	PART-TIME	41%	29%
FALL START	FULL-TIME	74%	12%
SPRING START	PART-TIME	26%	23%
SPRING START	FULL-TIME	43%	9%



*For Summer Starts only, full- or part-time status is determined in the 2nd term, since it is harder to enroll full-time in the summer schedule.

The Starting Term Effect

Among all new freshmen from fall 2014 through fall 2017, those who started BMCC as freshmen enrolled in the **summer** term had the best consistency, while those who started in the **spring** term were the least consistent in their enrollment.

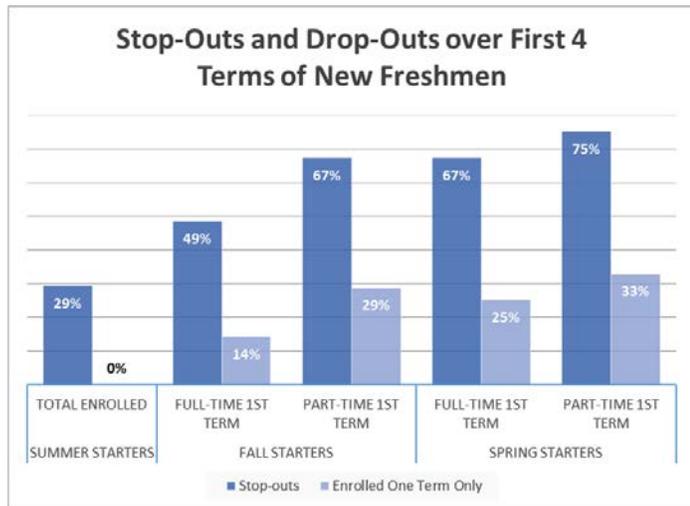
Few students are able to attend summer classes on what is considered full-time. However, **all** new freshmen students starting in the summer were retained for at least one semester. Over 90% of these returned as full-time students. Of these full-time returning students, a remarkable 72% of these who were full-time that fall attended consistently for their first four terms. Nevertheless, 29% of the full- and part-time summer starting students had enrollment gaps in their first four terms.

Enrollment Patterns

At a two-year college, the expectation is that students attend only fall and spring terms, full-time for 2 years. This is, in fact, the most common enrollment pattern at BMCC for new freshmen, but the patterns of enrollment are so varied that this pattern is found in only 10% of the new freshmen over this time frame.

Summer enrollment added to this pattern represents another 9% of the students, who when followed for 4 terms attend full-time for fall and spring, then part-time in the summer, followed by another full-time fall semester. But after that we found 8% of students who attended full-time in the fall and then stopped, and another 8% who attended full-time in fall and spring and then stopped.

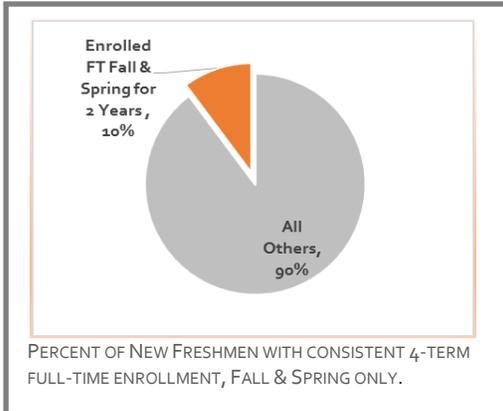
The bar chart here shows the frequency of these drop-outs and stop-outs based on initial starting term and full- or part-time status in that term. Students enrolled just one term are included in the stop-outs total. Students who first enrolled in the summer, or who first enrolled full-time in the fall are the only groups where half or more of those starting continued consistently for four terms. Most of the students who started out as part-time



Summer starters are mostly enrolled part-time in the summer term.

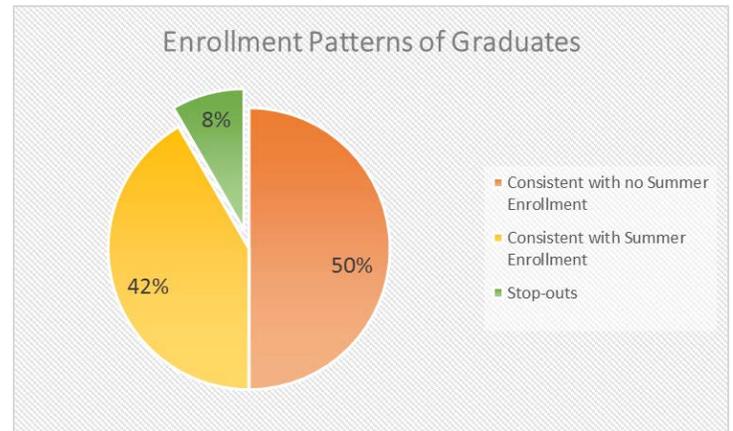
students (other than in the summer) had some interruption in their enrollment or left BMCC after just one term.

Even among the full-time students who started in spring, most did not maintain a continuous pattern of enrollment over the next 4 terms of fall and spring semesters

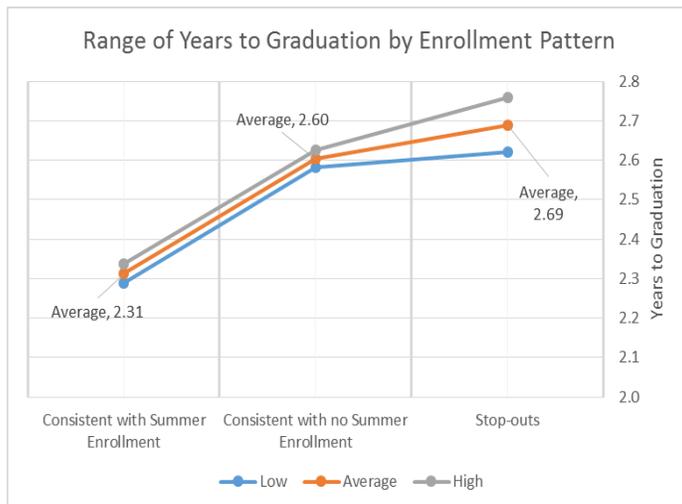


Graduation

Among all the new freshmen in this time frame, 4,238 graduated by June 2018. Since the students started at different times, we instead take a backward look at the average number of years taken by the enrollment intensity. This is the orange line in the chart below. Based on the number of graduates and an analysis of the variation in time to degree, we calculated 95% confidence intervals to show the likely low and high bounds that might be expected if we were to repeat this with other students in other years. The variability with Stop-outs who graduated is not surprising because they stopped out at some point, but also because there are only 354 stop-outs who graduated in the database compared to 1,764 with summer enrollment and 2,120 with no summer enrollment in their first four terms.



The pie chart above shows that only 8% of the graduates among these students were those with stop-outs in their first 4 terms, while half the students were continually enrolled for fall and spring over 4 consecutive terms, and 42% were enrolled consistently with summer sessions included in their first 4 terms.



Note: The methodology used here has many similarities to the work of Crosta, Peter M. "Intensity and Attachment: How the Chaotic Enrollment Patterns of Community College Students Relate to Educational Outcomes" in *Community College Review* 2014, Vol 42(2) pp. 118-142.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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