



Does Advanced Registration improve Fall-to-Spring retention and enrollment for first-year, full-time freshman?

Introduction

This study was conducted to determine if there was a benefit to the preliminary registration of first-year students at the University of Nevada, Reno. Currently finishing up its third year at the institution, Advanced Registration has successfully grown, year-by-year, and has now registered approximately 8,000 new students to date.

Advanced registration, while organized out of the Office of Admissions and Records, is a joint effort between many different professional advising staff, administrative faculty, academic faculty, and other staff. The registration for new first-year students is done jointly by Admissions and Records, as well as the University's Advising Offices.

Advanced Registration is offered to all first-year, and first-year transfer (less than 24 transferrable credits) applicants for the fall semester only.

Background

Advanced Registration is a program for first-year, first-time freshmen developed out of the Office of Admissions and Records and division Enrollment Services with the intention of bridging the gap between applicant and matriculated student.

The Advanced Registration program is a recruitment technique that works to reduce the enrollment "melt" that occurs between the applicant status to active student by registering students in their first semester classes for them. A team of registration staff and academic advisors work together to develop an ideal first semester schedule for students by taking into account the students preferred class times, degree, degree progress, and course availability.

Students take part in Advanced Registration by submitting a \$250.00 deposit towards their tuition, as well as completing an Advanced Registration Questionnaire.

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Methods

Primary quantitative data was collected from the Office of Admissions and Records regarding all first-year, full-time students who participated in Advanced Registration. The data included various information including admission term, first semester enrollment units, second semester enrollment units, and academic performance.

Findings

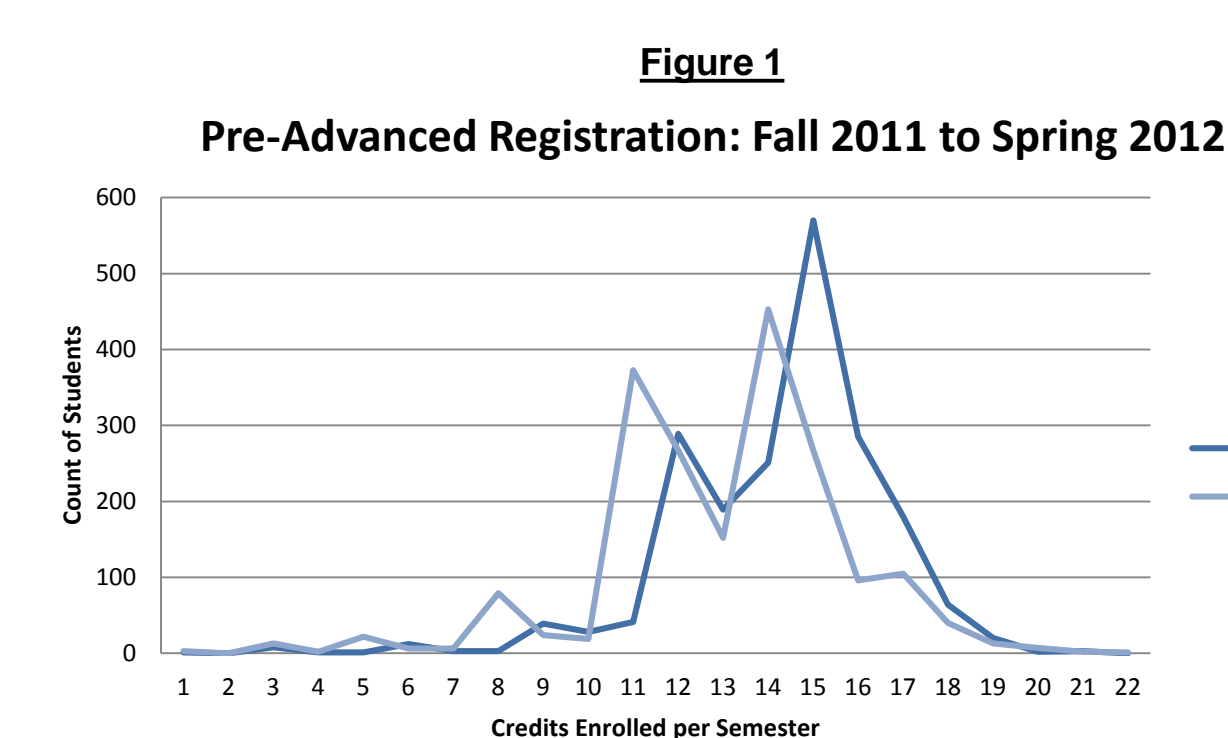
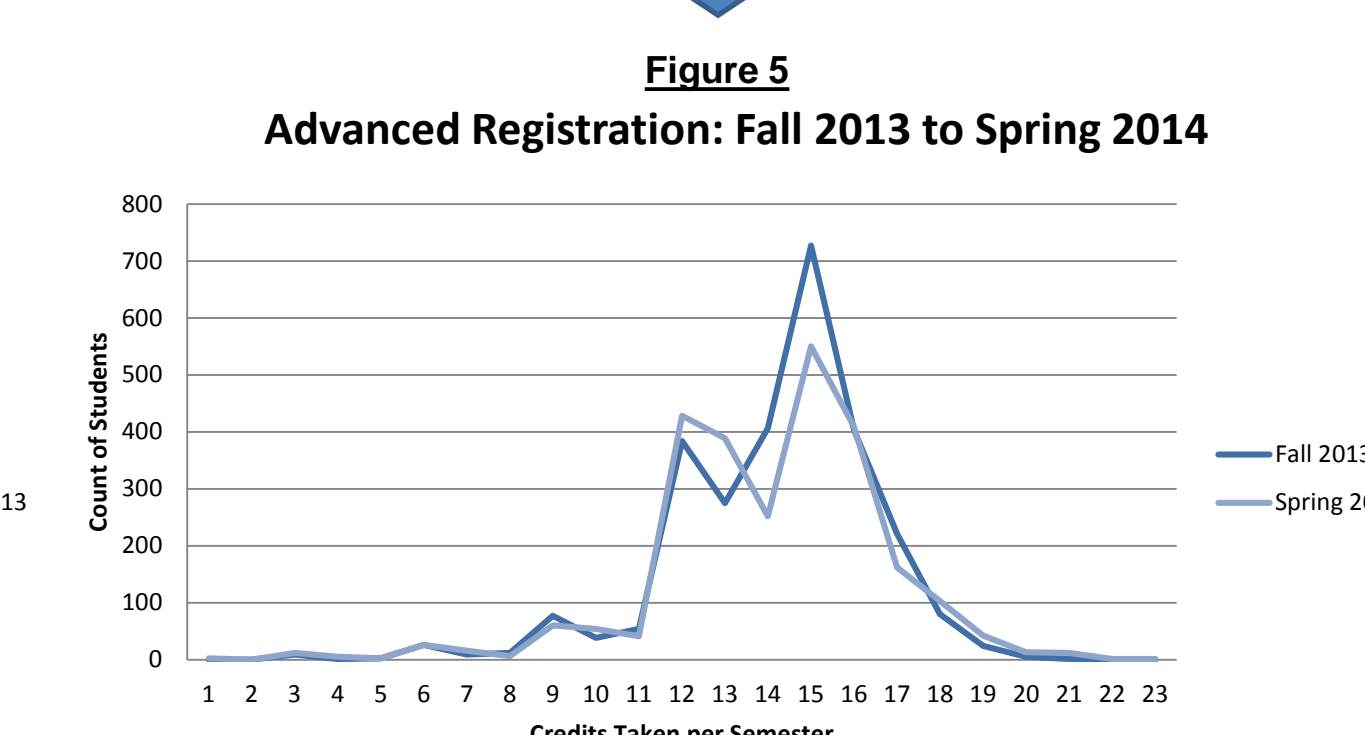
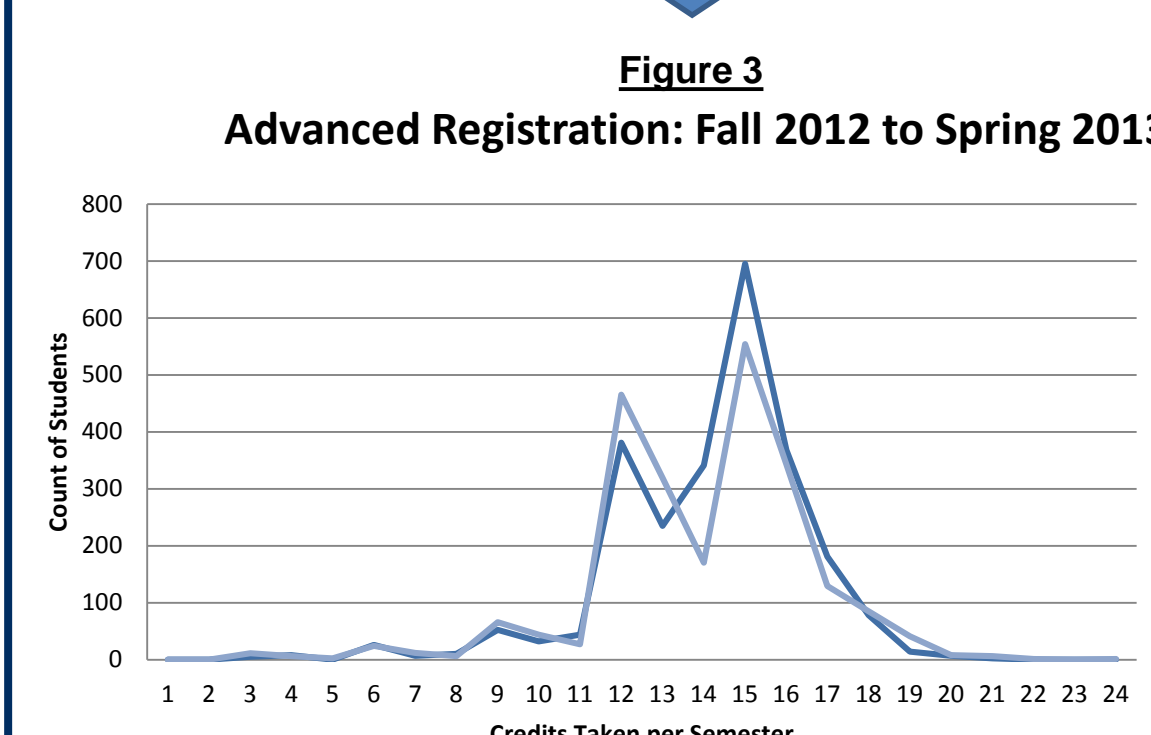
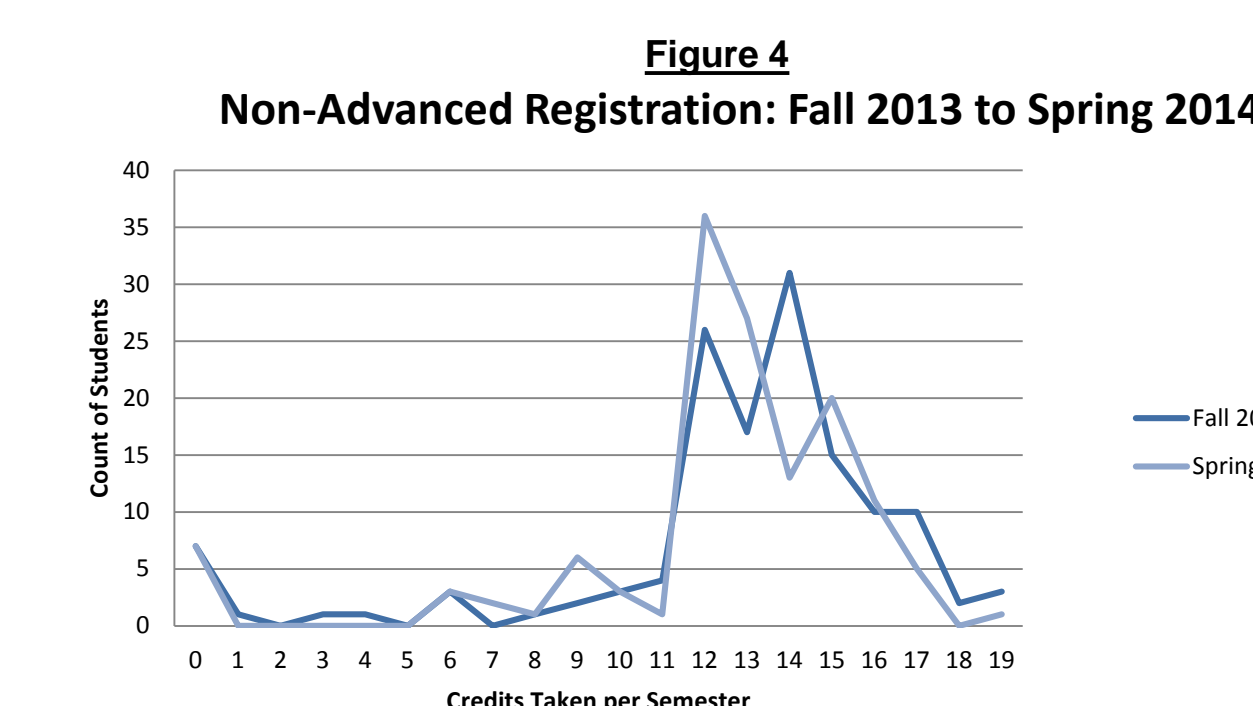
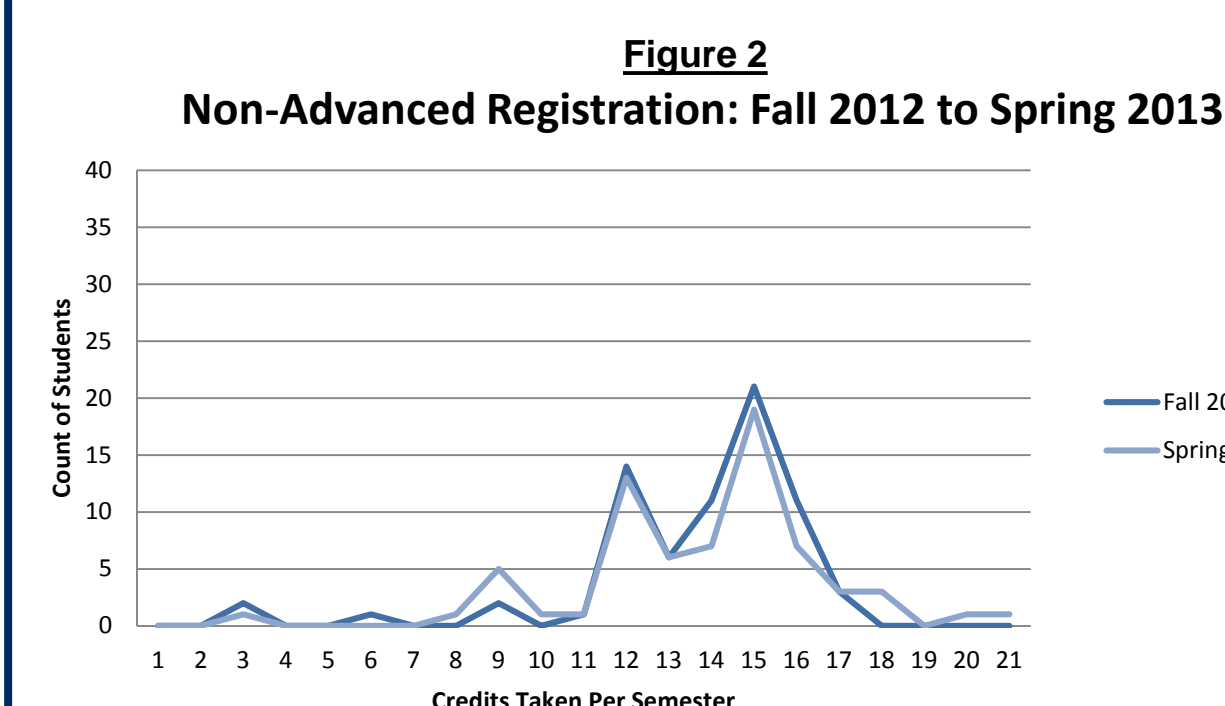


Figure 1: Students who attended prior to the development of Advanced Registration averages a lower number of credits in the successive semester.



Conclusion

Overall, the study found that Advanced Registration does positively effect the credit load that students take over their first academic year. From analyzing three consecutive years of student enrollment data, the research found the following:

- Students who participated in Advanced Registration averaged a higher amount of credits taken in the first semester of enrollment (Fall admit term)
- Students who participated in Advanced Registration averaged a higher amount of credits taken in the sequential semester (Spring semester)
- Students who did not participate in Advanced Registration were more likely to register late
- Students who did not participate in Advanced Registration had lower Fall-to-Spring retention levels

These findings supported the hypothesis that Advanced Registration does have an effect on first-year, full-time student enrollment. It positively effects the registration, and continuation of students by promoting a higher number of credits, and ensuring students remain in degree progress.

In conclusion, Advanced Registration is statistically significant in improving the enrollment melt, term-to-term attrition, and the average credit load of students on who attend the University of Nevada, Reno.

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