

Success of Students Enrolled in 15+ Credits

The University of Alaska launched the *Stay on Track* campaign in fall 2011 to promote timely graduation.

A key element of the campaign encouraged students to enroll in 15 credits per semester, the number needed to finish most degrees within four years. The first results were seen in spring 2012.

One concern about the campaign was whether the students' rate of successful course completion might decline due to the heavier course load.



METHODOLOGY:

- The total undergraduate enrollment in 15+ credit hours for UAA from fall 2008 through spring 2014.
- Enrollment data were extracted for first-time freshmen from fall 2007-fall 2013.
- Successful Learning Rate* (SLR) for first-time freshmen fall 2007-2013 enrolled in 15 or more credits and those enrolled in less than 15 credits.

DEFINITIONS:

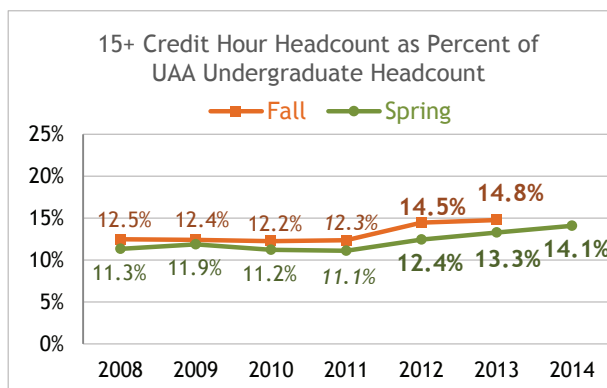
- Successful Learning Rate* (SLR) is the proportion of courses passed compared to the total courses attempted.
- First-time freshmen are students enrolled in the university for the first time after completing high school. May include students who earned college credits during high school and/or the summer term immediately prior to the entering fall term.

SOURCES:

- UA Statewide IR DSD data system at semester closings.
- UAA *Student Learning Model* data for Fall 2007-2013 entry cohorts

Since the launch of the *Stay on Track* campaign the percent of undergraduate students enrolling in 15 or more credits has increased. Based on the student learning rate, the increased credit load has not had a negative impact on student achievement.

Are more UNDERGRADUATES enrolling in 15+ credits?



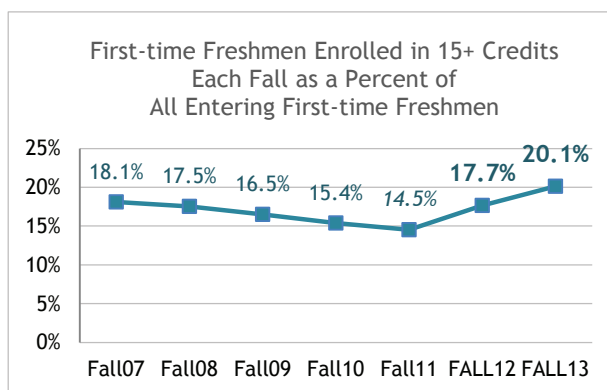
↑ 19.5%
Fall '11 to Fall '13

The greatest gain occurred in fall '12 (+17%), the first fall semester following the launch of *Stay on Track*.

↑ 27.1%
Spring '11 to Spring '14

Each spring has seen increases: up 12.3% in spring '12, with 6% increases in each of the following spring semesters.

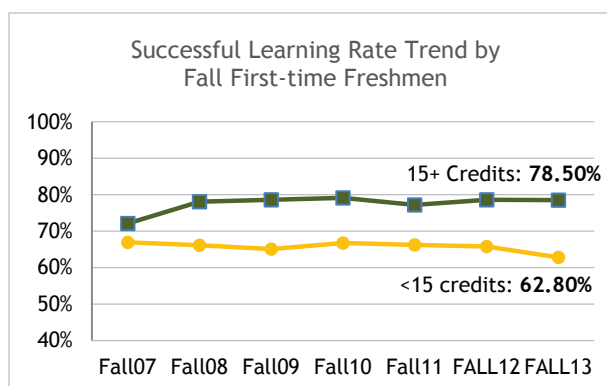
Are more FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN enrolling in 15+ credits?



↑ 38.4%
Fall '11 to Fall '13

Since the launch of *Stay on Track*, the percent of first-time freshmen enrolling in 15 or more credits increased from a low of 14.5% to 20.1%. This compares to a 2.5% drop in the number of first-time freshmen enrolling in fewer than 15 credits for the same time period.

Are students SUCCESSFUL at this higher credit load?



↔ Historically students enrolled in 15+ credits achieve a higher SLR than those enrolled in less than 15 credits.

This rate has remained stable as more first time freshmen enrolled in 15+ credits their first fall semester while the rate for those enrolled in fewer than 15 credits declined.