

# RESEARCH BRIEF

No. 28-15

June 2015

## Student Profile: Fall 2010 through Fall 2014

### Average Credit Hour Load

From Fall 2010 to Fall 2014, the average full-time credit hour load remained the same at approximately 14 credit hours, and the average part-time credit hour load remained consistent at 6 credit hours.

**Table 1. Average Credit Hour Load: Fall 2010 through Fall 2014**

	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014
Full-Time	13.8	13.9	13.8	13.7	13.7
Part-Time	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0

### Age Distribution

The median student age decreased slightly from 23 to 22 years from Fall 2010 to Fall 2014, and the mean student age also declined from 27 to 26 years of age during this same time period.

**Table 2. Mean and Median Age: Fall 2010 through Fall 2014**

	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014
Median	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.5	22.2
Mean	26.6	26.5	26.5	26.3	25.9

From Fall 2010 to Fall 2014, the percentage of students ages 22 to 24 remained the same at 16 percent. During this same time period, the percentage of students ages 18 to 21 increased from 41 to 42 percent. The percentage of students ages 25 to 29 and the percentage of students ages 30 to 44 decreased from 16 to 14 percent and 18 to 16 percent, respectively.

**Table 3. Age Distribution: Fall 2010 through Fall 2014**

	Fall 2010		Fall 2011		Fall 2012		Fall 2013		Fall 2014	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 18	991	2.0	1,037	2.1	1,228	2.4	1,465	2.8	2,223	4.3
18-21	19,932	40.7	20,081	40.1	20,789	40.1	21,277	41.1	21,653	42.1
22-24	7,925	16.2	8,519	17.0	8,919	17.2	8,757	16.9	8,347	16.2
25-29	7,652	15.6	7,738	15.5	7,854	15.1	7,662	14.8	7,406	14.4
30-44	8,633	17.6	8,894	17.8	9,148	17.6	8,826	17.0	8,364	16.2
45-59	3,208	6.6	3,120	6.2	3,148	6.1	3,001	5.8	2,697	5.2
60 & Over	655	1.3	655	1.3	778	1.5	815	1.6	797	1.6

### Gender Distribution

From Fall 2010 to Fall 2014, the majority of students at NOVA were female; however, the percentage of female students declined during this time period from 53 to 52 percent of all students.

**Table 5. Gender Distribution: Fall 2010 through Fall 2014**

	Fall 2010		Fall 2011		Fall 2012		Fall 2013		Fall 2014	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	23,256	47.5	23,935	47.8	25,037	48.3	25,260	48.8	24,981	48.5
Female	25,740	52.5	26,109	52.2	26,827	51.7	26,543	51.2	26,506	51.5

### Race Distribution

The percentage of White students at NOVA decreased from 44 to 40 percent from Fall 2010 to Fall 2014. The percentage of Hispanic students increased from 16 to 21 percent over the same time period.

**Table 5. Race Distribution: Fall 2010 through Fall 2014**

	Fall 2010		Fall 2011		Fall 2012		Fall 2013		Fall 2014	
	#	%	#	%	#	#	#	%	#	%
White	21,718	44.3	21,417	42.8	21,686	41.8	20,993	40.5	20,358	39.5
Black/African American	8,028	16.4	8,551	17.1	9,139	17.6	9,247	17.9	9,188	17.9
Asian	7,383	15.1	7,671	15.3	8,008	15.4	8,049	15.5	7,856	15.3
Hispanic/Latino	7,771	15.9	8,639	17.3	9,438	18.2	9,988	19.3	10,665	20.7
American Indian/Alaska Native	238	0.5	200	0.4	178	0.3	137	0.3	134	0.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	365	0.7	332	0.7	309	0.6	297	0.6	268	0.5
Two or More Races	627	1.3	1,141	2.3	1,480	2.9	1,720	3.3	1,864	3.6
Unknown	155	0.3	346	0.7	460	0.9	640	1.2	651	1.3
Not Specified	2,711	5.5	1,747	3.5	1,166	2.2	732	1.4	503	1.0

### Domicile

The percentage of in-state students enrolled at NOVA increased from 91 to 93 percent from Fall 2010 to Fall 2014.

**Table 6. Domicile: Fall 2010 through Fall 2014**

	Fall 2010		Fall 2011		Fall 2012		Fall 2013		Fall 2014	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
In-State	44,699	91.2	45,756	91.4	47,593	91.8	47,624	91.9	47,858	93.0
Out-of-State	4,297	8.8	4,288	8.6	4,271	8.2	4,179	8.1	3,629	7.0

### Student Type

First-time students are those attending college for the first time; transfer students are those who attended another college prior to coming to NOVA for the first time, regardless of whether they transferred credits.

The percentage of first-time students increased from 16 percent in Fall 2010 to 21 percent in Fall 2014. The percentage of transfer students decreased from 10 percent in Fall 2010 to 7 percent in Fall 2014. The percentage of returning/reapplying students declined slightly from 74 to 72 percent during this time period.

**Table 7. Student Type: Fall 2010 through Fall 2014**

	Fall 2010		Fall 2011		Fall 2012		Fall 2013		Fall 2014	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
First-Time	7,897	16.1	8,333	16.7	8,888	17.1	9,657	18.6	10,534	20.5
Returning/Reapplying	36,461	74.4	37,286	74.5	38,428	74.1	38,159	73.7	37,287	72.4
Transfer	4,638	9.5	4,425	8.8	4,548	8.8	3,987	7.7	3,666	7.1

### Program Placement

The majority of NOVA students continued to be program placed. The percentage of students not program placed decreased from 16 percent in Fall 2010 to 15 percent in Fall 2014. The percentage of A.S. students increased from 49 percent in Fall 2010 to 59 percent in Fall 2014, while the percentage of A.A.S. students decreased from 19 to 14 percent during the same time period.

**Table 8. Program Placement: Fall 2010 through Fall 2014**

	Fall 2010		Fall 2011		Fall 2012		Fall 2013		Fall 2014	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
A.A.	5,252	10.7	5,133	10.3	5,059	9.8	4,592	8.9	4,366	8.5
A.S.	24,039	49.1	26,457	52.9	28,597	55.1	29,853	57.6	30,297	58.9
A.A.A.	437	0.9	391	0.8	352	0.7	269	0.5	212	0.4
A.A.S.	9,380	19.1	8,772	17.5	8,561	16.5	7,995	15.4	7,319	14.2
Certificate	2,180	4.4	2,055	4.1	2,026	3.9	1,883	3.6	1,677	3.3
Not Placed	7,708	15.7	7,236	14.5	7,269	14.0	7,211	13.9	7,616	14.8

### Full-/Part-Time Status

The percentage of full-time students decreased overall from 38 to 36 percent from Fall 2010 to Fall 2014. Conversely, the percentage of part-time students increased overall from 62 to 64 percent during the same time period.

**Table 9. Full-/Part-Time Status: Fall 2010 through Fall 2014**

	Fall 2010		Fall 2011		Fall 2012		Fall 2013		Fall 2014	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Full-Time	18,579	37.9	18,887	37.7	19,209	37.0	19,700	38.0	18,742	36.4
Part-Time	30,417	62.1	31,157	62.3	32,655	63.0	32,103	62.0	32,745	63.6

**Day/Night Status**

From Fall 2010 to Fall 2014, the portion of NOVA students taking either only day courses or a combination of both day and night courses each increased from 44 to 46 percent. In contrast, the portion of NOVA students taking night only courses decreased from 12 to 8 percent.

**Table 10. Day/Night Status: Fall 2010 through Fall 2014**

	Fall 2010		Fall 2011		Fall 2012		Fall 2013		Fall 2014	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Day Only	21,572	44.0	22,701	45.4	23,737	45.8	23,396	45.2	23,525	45.7
Night Only	5,886	12.0	5,267	10.5	5,170	10.0	4,653	9.0	4,187	8.1
Both	21,538	44.0	22,076	44.1	22,957	44.3	23,754	45.9	23,775	46.2

\*Based on SCHEV standards, night classes begin at 6:00 PM or later.

**Fall-to-Fall Retention**

Fall-to-Fall retention is defined as the percentage of students attending NOVA in a Fall semester who re-enroll in classes at the College during the subsequent Fall semester.

From Fall 2010 to Fall 2014, the Fall-to-Fall retention rate for all students at NOVA decreased from 47 to 44 percent. During the same five-year period, the percentage of first-time students returning to the College the following Fall also decreased from 57 to 52 percent.

**Table 11. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates: Fall 2009 through Fall 2014**

	Fall 2009 to Fall 2010		Fall 2010 to Fall 2011		Fall 2011 to Fall 2012		Fall 2012 to Fall 2013		Fall 2013 to Fall 2014	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
All Students	21,722	46.6	22,521	46.0	23,429	46.8	23,423	45.2	22,827	44.1
First-Time Students	4,680	56.6	4,415	55.9	4,823	57.9	4,754	53.5	5,057	52.4