

RESEARCH BRIEF

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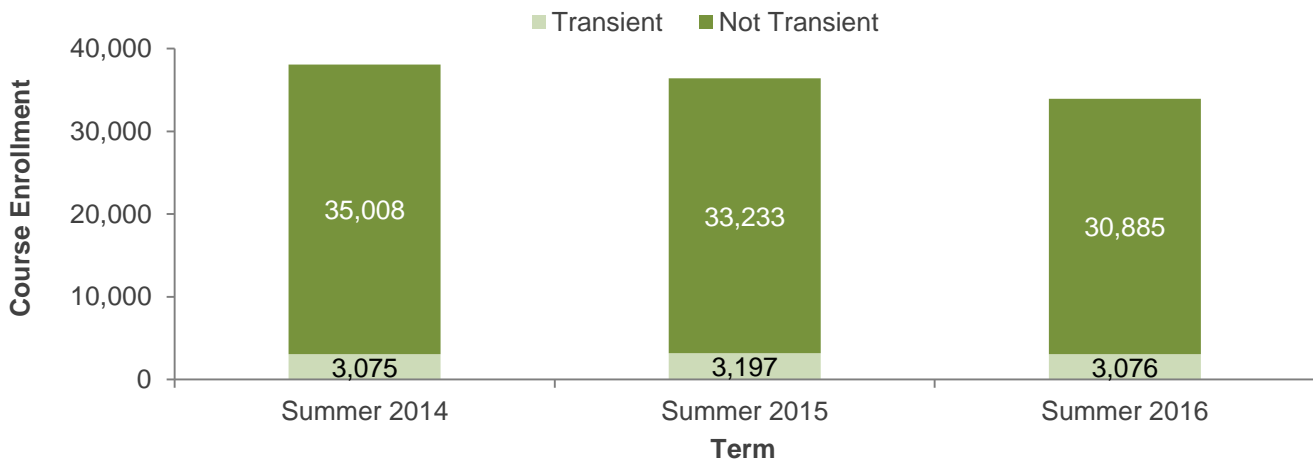
Transient Student Enrollment in Summer Sessions: Summer 2014 through Summer 2016

A transient, or visiting, student is a student enrolled in Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) courses while maintaining primary enrollment at another institution. Often, transient students are enrolled full-time in a four-year college or university but choose to take advantage of NOVA course offerings during the Summer semester. This Research Brief presents enrollment trends of transient students from Summer 2014 through Summer 2016.

Finding #1: Transient student course enrollment in Summer sessions has remained stable, while total course enrollment in Summer sessions declined 11 percent over the past three years.

Overall, Summer enrollment declined over the past three years, from 38,083 course enrollments in Summer 2014 to 33,961 course enrollments in Summer 2016 (an 11 percent decrease). Transient student course enrollment remained stable during this time, while non-transient student course enrollment declined by an average of 6 percent every year (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Course Enrollment in Summer Sessions by Transient Student Status: Summer 2014 through Summer 2016



Finding #2: Transient students enrolled most often in the dynamic session and least often in 8-week or 12-week sessions.

Dynamic sessions have a variable duration and accounted for 51 percent of all transient student course enrollments in Summer 2016, an increase from 43 percent in Summer 2014.¹ Other popular Summer sessions for transient students were both 6-week sessions. However, transient student enrollment in

¹ Dynamic sessions include ELI (distance learning).

courses in the 1st 6-week session declined 23 percent as enrollment in dynamic courses increased 19 percent over this time period (Figure 2).

Comparatively fewer transient students enrolled in courses in the 12-week and 1st 8-week Summer sessions, and few to no transient students enrolled in courses in the 2nd 8-week Summer session (Figure 2). This suggests transient students may have scheduling conflicts with longer sessions, possibly due to NOVA Summer session schedules conflicting with the beginning of the Fall semester at their primary institution.

Figure 2. Transient Student Course Enrollment in Summer by Session: Summer 2014 through Summer 2016

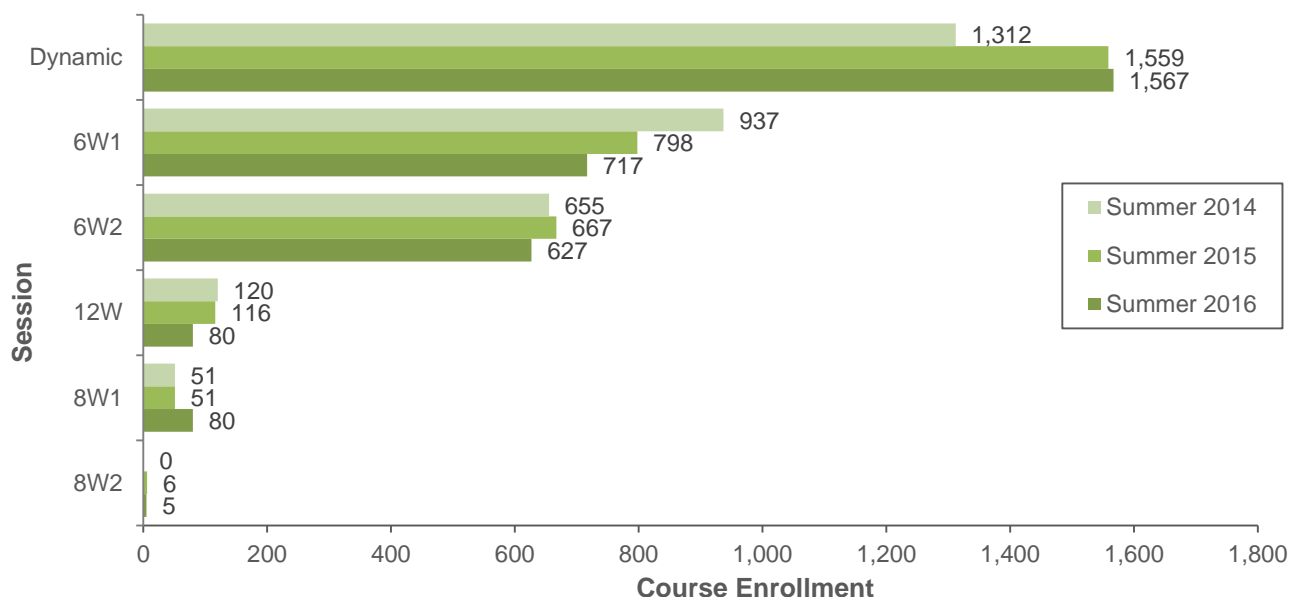


Table 1. Transient Student Course Enrollment: Summer 2014 through Summer 2016

Session	Transient Student Status	Summer 2014		Summer 2015		Summer 2016	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
12-Week	Transient	120	2.6	116	2.6	80	2.0
	Not Transient	4,506	97.4	4,281	97.4	3,830	98.0
	Subtotal	4,626	100.0	4,397	100.0	3,910	100.0
1 st 6-Week	Transient	937	8.2	798	7.9	717	8.0
	Not Transient	10,488	91.8	9,340	92.1	8,285	92.0
	Subtotal	11,425	100.0	10,138	100.0	9,002	100.0
2 nd 6-Week	Transient	655	7.8	667	8.2	627	8.4
	Not Transient	7,788	92.2	7,508	91.8	6,809	91.6
	Subtotal	8,443	100.0	8,175	100.0	7,436	100.0
1 st 8-Week	Transient	51	4.9	51	4.1	80	5.4
	Not Transient	985	95.1	1,201	95.9	1,399	94.6
	Subtotal	1,036	100.0	1,252	100.0	1,479	100.0
2 nd 8-Week	Transient	0	0.0	6	2.1	5	1.6
	Not Transient	191	100.0	285	97.9	307	98.4
	Subtotal	191	100.0	291	100.0	312	100.0
Dynamic	Transient	1,312	10.6	1,559	12.8	1,567	13.3
	Not Transient	11,050	89.4	10,618	87.2	10,255	86.7
	Subtotal	12,362	100.0	12,177	100.0	11,822	100.0
Transient Total		3,075	8.1	3,197	8.8	3,076	9.1
Not Transient Total		35,008	91.9	33,233	91.2	30,885	90.9
Course Enrollment Total		38,083	100.0	36,430	100.0	33,961	100.0
Unduplicated Headcount		28,296		27,407		25,639	

Note: The duplicated headcount, or course enrollment total, is the total student enrollment across all courses; a student taking more than one course would be counted for every course they were enrolled in. The unduplicated headcount is the total number of *unique* students enrolled in Summer courses; each student is counted one time regardless of how many courses they were enrolled in.