

## A Review of Late Registration Participants of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

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This report is for the Late-Registration Subcommittee of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Student Services Council (SSC). The purpose of this report is to provide a research-based answer to the following questions:

1. Are students who register during late-registration less academically successful as a group than students who register during pre-registration or regular registration?
2. Are students who register during late-registration more likely to drop out before the six week census date as a group than students who register during pre-registration or regular registration?
3. Are students who register during late-registration more likely to default on payment of tuition and fees as a group than students who register during pre-registration or regular registration?
4. Are students who register during late-registration less likely to be retained the following spring as a group than students who register during pre-registration or regular registration?
5. When, if any, is the peak registration activity during MGCCC's traditional five-day late registration period?

### Research Design

Two independent samples of students were taken from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Banner database. The first sample, referred to as the late registration sample, has the following attributes:

- Registered student in fall 2002 or fall 2003 or fall 2004<sup>1</sup>,
- Initial registration records occur between the first day of late-registration and the last day of late-registration for the term corresponding to the student enrollment term given in Table 1.

The second sample, referred to as the non-late registration sample, has the following attributes:

- Registered student in fall 2002 or fall 2003 or fall 2004,
- Initial registration records occur during pre-registration or regular registration for the term corresponding to enrollment.

Table 1 Fall 2002-2004 Pre-Registration and Census Date

TERM	FIRST DAY LATE-REG	LAST DAY LATE-REG	CENSUS DATE
Fall 2002	Aug 21 2002	Aug 27 2002	Oct 1 2002
Fall 2003	Aug 25 2003	Aug 29 2003	Oct 1 2003
Fall 2004	Aug 23 2004	Aug 27 2004	Oct 1 2004

<sup>1</sup> The Katrina-affected fall 2005 term was not included in this study.

The samples include part-time and full-time students. The late registration sample is composed only of those students who initiate their registration process during the late registration period. For example, a student who registers during pre-registration and changes his or her schedule during late registration was not included in the late registration sample.

To answer the question of academic success, an analysis is conducted comparing the mean grade point average (GPA) of the late registration sample with the mean GPA of the non-late registration sample.

To answer the question of withdrawal rates, an analysis is conducted comparing the relative amount of full time equivalent (FTE) units lost before the six week census date of the late registration sample and the non-late registration sample.

To answer the question of outstanding tuition and fees owed to the College, an analysis is conducted comparing the proportion of students with unpaid fees from the late and non-late registration samples.

To answer the question of retention, an analysis is conducted comparing the fall-to-spring retention rate of the late registration sample with the fall-to-spring retention rate of the non-late registration sample.

To identify peak late-registration time, the registration activity count per day for each fall five-day late-registration cycle is tabulated.

### Summary of Data

Based on the sample data, a student who registers during pre-registration or regular registration has on average a 26.53% higher GPA than a student who registers during late registration. The sample data summary of GPA for late and non-late registrants is given in Table 2.

Table 2 Summary of GPA of Late-Registrants and Non-Late Registrants

TERM CODE	LATE REGISTERED	LATE-REG AVG. GPA	NON LATE REGISTERED	NON-LATE AVG GPA	NUM CHANGE	% DIFF CHANGE
Fall 2002	570	2.21	9393	2.62	0.41	18.55%
Fall 2003	390	1.99	10315	2.64	0.65	32.66%
Fall 2004	428	1.94	10606	2.58	0.64	32.99%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1388</b>	<b>2.06</b>	<b>30314</b>	<b>2.61</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>26.53%</b>

The sample data also reveals that a student who registers during late registration drops nearly 11% more credit hours before the six week census date than a student who registers during pre-registration or regular registration. The sample data summary of FTE is given in Table 3.

Table 3 Summary of FTE Analysis for Late and Non-late Registrants.

TERM CODE	LATE REG FTE	LATE REG FTE WD < 6-WK	% LATE FTE LOST	NON LATE FTE	NON LATE FTE WD < 6-WK	% NON LATE FTE LOST
Fall 2002	177.21	42.75	24.12%	4586.63	539.33	11.76%
Fall 2003	119.00	18.96	15.93%	4935.88	427.38	8.66%
Fall 2004	126.21	22.29	17.66%	5111.88	337.75	6.61%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>422.42</b>	<b>84.00</b>	<b>19.89%</b>	<b>14634.38</b>	<b>1304.46</b>	<b>8.91%</b>

Based on MGCCC's current subsidiary balance, the sample data shows that a late registrant is more likely (4.48%) to have an unpaid balance than a non-late registrant. The summary of current amounts owed to the college by late and non-late registrants is given in Table 4.

Table 4 Summary of Outstanding Fees of Late and Non-Late Registrants

TERM CODE	LATE REGISTERED	LATE REG UNPAID FEES	% LATE UNPAID FEES	NON LATE REGISTERED	NOT LATE REG UNPAID FEES	% NOT LATE UNPAID FEES
Fall 2002	570	34	5.96%	9393	398	4.24%
Fall 2003	390	56	14.36%	10315	603	5.85%
Fall 2004	428	57	13.32%	10606	851	8.02%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1388</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>10.59%</b>	<b>30314</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>6.11%</b>

When following-year spring enrollment records are cross-referenced with sample data from each corresponding fall semester, the study shows the retention rate for non-late registrants is 26.77% higher than that of late registrants over the three-year fall period.

Table 5 Summary of Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates for Late and Non-Late Registrants

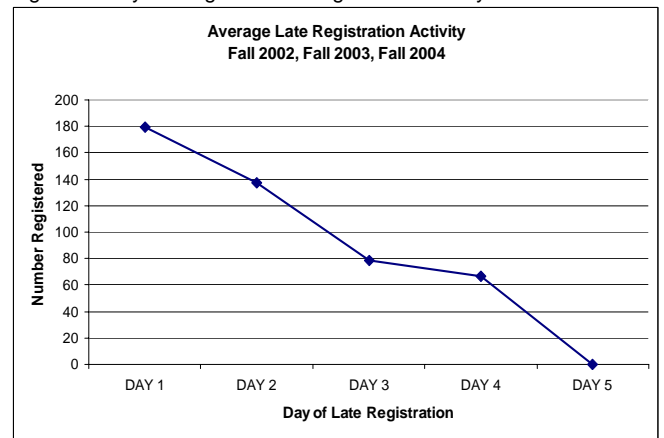
TERM CODE	LATE REGISTERED	LATE RETURN SPRING	% LATE RETAINED	NON LATE REGISTERED	NON LATE RETURN SPRING	% NOT LATE RETAINED
Fall 2002	570	251	44.04%	9393	6573	69.98%
Fall 2003	390	155	39.74%	10315	7151	69.33%
Fall 2004	428	181	42.29%	10606	7211	67.99%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1388</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>42.29%</b>	<b>30314</b>	<b>20935</b>	<b>69.06%</b>

The distribution of registrants for the three-term study shows that on average nearly 70 percent of all late-registrants register during the first and second day of late-registration. During fall 2002, fall 2003, and fall 2004, no student was late-registered on the last day of late-registration.

Table 6 Summary of Late Registration Activity

TERM CODE	LATE REG	LATE REG DAY 1	LATE REG DAY 2
Fall 2002	570	228	140
Fall 2003	390	125	159
Fall 2004	428	186	114
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>138</b>
TERM CODE	LATE REG	LATE REG DAY 3	LATE REG DAY 4
Fall 2002	570	91 <sup>2</sup>	111
Fall 2003	390	66	40
Fall 2004	428	79	49
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>67</b>

Figure 1 Daily Average of Late Registrants Activity



## Data Analysis

The test of equality of means<sup>3</sup> is used to test for significance between the mean GPA of late registrants and the mean GPA of non-late registrants. The test about proportions<sup>4</sup> is used to test for significance between FTE, retention, and lost fee proportions for each sample group. All statistical tests indicate the sample measures for GPA, FTE, retention, and fees lost are statistically significant at the 0.01 level. A summary of statistical measures used to perform statistical tests are given in Table 7.

<sup>2</sup> Day three for fall 2002 late-registration was a Monday. Fall 2003 and fall 2004 late registration periods were Monday-Friday.

<sup>3</sup> *Probability and Statistical Inference, Fourth Edition, Hogg and Tannis P430.*

<sup>4</sup> *Probability and Statistical Inference, Fourth Edition, Hogg and Tannis P398.*

Table 7 Summary of Sample Statistical Measures

SAMPLE	SAMPLE SIZE	MEAN GPA	GPA STDEV	% LOST FTE	% RETAINED	% LOST FEES
Late	1,388	2.06	1.58	19.89%	42.29%	10.59%
Non-Late	30,314	2.61	1.25	8.91%	69.06%	6.11%

## Conclusions

- On average, the GPA of a late registrant is lower than the GPA of a non-late registrant (0.01 level).
- A late-registrant is more likely to withdraw from coursework prior to the six-week census date than a non-late registrant (0.01 level).
- A late-registrant student is more likely to leave the college with unpaid fees and tuition than a non-late registrant (0.01 level).
- Non-late registrants are more likely to be retained than late-registrants (0.01 level).
- Fall 2002, fall 2003 and fall 2004 late-registrants currently owe the College \$60,370 in unpaid tuition and fees.
- Over fall 2002, fall 2003 and fall 2004 a student registered during pre-registration or regular registration was 26.77% more likely to be retained the following semester than a student who registered during late registration.
- Over fall 2002, fall 2003 and fall 2004, the average GPA of students who late-registered was 2.06 compared with an average GPA of 2.61 for students who registered during pre- or regular registration.
- On average for fall 2002, fall 2003 and fall 2004 a student who registered during pre- or regular final registration had a 26.53% higher GPA than a student who registered during late registration.
- In fall 2002, fall 2003 and fall 2004, MGCCC lost funding for nearly 11% more FTE units to late-registrants than non-late registrants.
- In fall 2002, fall 2003 and fall 2004, 39% of late-registrants registered for courses on the first day of late-registration, 30% on the second day of late-registration, 17% on the third day of late-registration, 14% on the fourth day of late-registration, and none on the last day of late-registration.