Probation/Suspension in the Careers of the Freshman Cohort Entering in Fall 1998

Perry Sailor, ODA, January 2005

The study looked at all new freshmen entering in fall 1998 (n = 4,266), currently the most recent entering class to have had 6 years to graduate. All information is through summer 2004, the end of their 6th year. Probation/suspension status was determined by SIS codes for Arts and Sciences students. Other colleges did not consistently use SIS codes for probation during the time period studied, so having a cumulative GPA of below 2.0 was used as a proxy for probation status for those colleges. All colleges used SIS codes for suspension throughout.

An earlier study looked at the fall 1997 entering freshman cohort; overall, the findings below are very similar to those of the earlier study. One exception is in the number who enrolled in B2; in the earlier cohort, only about 22% of students suspended in the first year enrolled in B2 in at least one of the four terms following, while in the current cohort, 41% did.

- How many students from this group were ever on probation? Suspended? Either? Both?
  - Ever on probation only (not suspended) -- 12%
  - Ever suspended only (not on probation) -- 1%
  - Ever on probation AND suspended -- 11%
  - Ever on probation (total) -- 23%
  - Ever suspended (total) - 11%
  - Either or both -- 23%
  - Never either -- 77%

- Did the percentages ever on probation/suspended differ by college

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry college</th>
<th>Ever on probation but never suspended</th>
<th>Ever suspended</th>
<th>Either or both</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BU</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EV</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MB</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Of students ever on probation/suspension, how many were on probation/suspension at the end of their first term? How many first went on probation/suspension in later terms?
  - First term ended on probation for those ever on:
    - End of 1st term: 68% (end of first fall)
    - End of 2nd term: 13% (end of first spring)
    - End of 4th term: 8% (end of second fall)
    - End of 5th term: 3% (end of second spring)
    - Later: 7%
  - First relative term ended on suspension for those ever on:
    - End of 1st term: 5% (end of first fall)
    - End of 2nd term: 45% (end of first spring)
    - End of 4th term: 17% (end of second fall)
End of 5th term: 13% (end of second spring)
End of 7th term: 6% (end of third fall)
Later: 14%

What percentage of students in the cohort graduated in 6 years? How did this differ for students on probation, suspension, or neither
- Overall 6-year graduation rate for all students in cohort -- 66%
- If ever on probation but never suspended -- 43% graduated in 6 years
- If ever suspended -- 25% graduated in 6 years
- If ever either on probation or suspended-- 34% graduated in 6 years
- If never either -- 77% graduated in 6 years
- If first term GPA < 1.0: 17% graduated in 6 years
- So students on probation, even if suspended, do graduate, but their 6-year graduation rate was less than half that of students never put on probation or suspension

Did the 6-year grad rates for students ever on probation/suspended differ by college?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry college</th>
<th>Ever on probation but never suspended</th>
<th>Ever suspended</th>
<th>Overall grad rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BU</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EV</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MB</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many students on probation/suspension returned to good academic standing (whether or not they graduated)?
- Of students ever suspended
  - 25% graduated
  - 27% did not graduate but left in good standing
  - 49% did not return to good standing
- Of students ever on probation but never suspended
  - 43% graduated
  - 32% did not graduate but left in good standing
  - 25% did not return to good standing

For those who graduated, how did probation/suspension relate to time to graduation?
- Mean elapsed terms to graduation for grads (not necessarily enrolled terms):
  - Ever on probation but never suspended: 12.9 (end of fifth fall)
  - Ever suspended: 14.1 (Fifth spring-fifth summer)
  - Never either: 12.1 (Fourth spring)

How did being on probation/suspension at the end of the first term relate to retention rate to 2nd fall?
- Percent returning 2nd fall if on probation/suspension at end of 1st term:
  - On suspension: 0%
  - On probation: 47% enrolled the second fall
  - Not prob/susp but GPA < 2.5: 83%
  - GPA >= 2.5: 89%
• **How many suspended students went to B2?**
  • Of 244 students on suspension at the end of the first fall or spring (spring '99):
    • 67 in B2 following fall (fall 99)
    • 49 in B2 spring 00
    • 35 in B2 fall 00
    • 30 in B2 spring 01
    • Total 101 (41%) in B2 during at least one of four terms after spring 99

• **How did probation/suspension relate to academic qualification at entry (i.e., PGPA, the predicted CU GPA, based on HS GPA and test scores)?**:
  • Mean universal PGPA
    • Ever on probation only: 2.71
    • Ever on suspension: 2.67
    • Never either: 2.88
  • Percent ever on probation/suspension by universal PGPA group:
    • Low-2.59: 39%
    • 2.60-2.79: 26%
    • 2.80-3.09: 21%
    • 3.10-High: 6%