

Probation/Suspension in the Careers of the Freshman Cohort Entering in Fall 1997

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Summary, July 2004, Lou McClelland

The study looked at all CU-Boulder freshmen entering in fall 1997 (n = 4,239). This cohort was chosen because it's the most recent entering class to have had 6 years to graduate. All information is through spring 2003, 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.

Definitions (Arts and Sciences, for most typical cases; for catalog definitions [click here](#))

Probation: Continued enrollment allowed for one term; student must bring CU GPA to 2.00 or better in that term or be suspended.

Suspension: Continuing enrollment in CU-Boulder regular courses not allowed. May be readmitted with above 2.0 GPA work in summer, through continuing education, or at another institution.

- **How many freshmen entering in 1997 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 -- 10%
 - Ever on probation (total) -- 22%
 - Ever suspended (total) - 11%
 - Either or both -- 22%
 - Never either -- 78%

- **What percentage of students in the entry 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 -- 68%
 - If ever on probation but never suspended -- 46% graduated in 6 years
 - If ever suspended -- 23% graduated in 6 years
 - If ever either on probation or suspended-- 35% graduated in 6 years
 - If never either -- 78% graduated in 6 years
 - If first term GPA < 1.0: 15% graduated in 6 years
 - So students on probation, even if suspended, do graduate, but their 6-year graduation rate is a bit less than half that of students never put on probation or suspension.

- **How did probation/suspension relate to academic qualification at entry -- to PGPA, the predicted CU GPA, based on HS GPA and test scores?:**
 - Percent ever on probation/suspension by universal PGPA group:
 - Low-2.59: 40%

- 2.60-2.79: 27%
- 2.80-3.09: 17%
- 3.10-High: 6%

[Click here](#) for graduation rates and average PGPA by entry college and by ethnic group and gender, see text, plots, and an Excel file with entry qualifications

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