

First Year Spring Admits: The Neglected Population

FYE Conference, Dallas, February 9, 2015

First-year students who begin college in the spring semester rather than the fall remain a largely unexamined population, particularly at institutions with high acceptance rates. While most colleges and universities have extensive programs in place to support first year students who enter in the fall, many still lack robust structures to guide spring admits. Spring admits represent a small but important percentage of first year students. With those premises in mind, this session will work to bring the issues of this under-represented student population to through focused questions and sharing ideas and experiences.

Background Information

University of Wyoming:

- Land Grant University
- 95.5% Acceptance Rate
- The only 4 year college or University in the State

Synergy Program at the University of Wyoming

- First year learning community for students who are academically at risk
- Required first year seminar course for fall admits
- Optional first year composition course for fall admits
- Recently began to require a first year seminar course for spring admits

Comparison of Fall and Spring Admits at the University of Wyoming (2009-2014)		
	Fall Admits	Spring Admits
Average Age	19.78	21.09
ACT Scores	24.259	21.969
High School GPA	3.471	3.191
Students entering below 3.0	1443/9337 (.1545)	99/297 (.3333)
First Semester GPA	2.707	1.998
Cumulative UW GPA	2.570	1.966

Spring Admit Perspectives (extrapolated from surveys and interviews)

- Students struggle to integrate academically and socially
- Students lack awareness of existing systems of support
- Students lack a sense of indignation about their lack of support

Questions to Consider

- What is the process of spring admission at your university?
- To the best of your knowledge, are there important distinctions between Fall Admits and Spring Admits at your university? If so, what are they?
- What pre-existing systems of support does your university currently offer to Spring Admits?
- How could pre-existing systems of support at your university be tailored to fit Spring Admits?
- In order to better support Spring Admits, what new systems of support might your university need to consider?
- What additional data would you need to inform decisions about Spring Admits at your university?

Contact:

David Bray, Synergy Seminar Coordinator, University of Wyoming, dbray1@uwyo.edu