



First Year Spring Admits: The Neglected Population

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First Year Spring Admit

A student who enrolls as a first-time, non-transfer, college student in the spring semester rather than the fall semester. At some institutions, spring admission is actually deferred fall admission*. At other institutions, students may enroll in the spring for other, more heterogeneous reasons.

*Roth-Francis, Chrissy, *A Semester Late: A Phenomenological Study Examining the Experiences of Spring Admits in Higher Education*. 2013



Some Background

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

Some Background

- The 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



The Impetus for Examining Spring Admits

- This was unlike any group of students I had ever taught
 - Out of 16 students:
 - 9 older, nontraditional students
 - 4 military veterans
 - 2 younger, nontraditional students
- Gap in literature on the topic with no substantial literature on Spring Admits at a similar institution.



Comparison of Fall and Spring Admit Entry Characteristics (Fall 2009-Spring 2014)

■ Fall Admits ■ Spring Admits

19.78

21.09

Average Age



Comparison of Fall and Spring Admit Entry Characteristics (2009-2014)

■ Fall Admits ■ Spring Admits

24.259



ACT

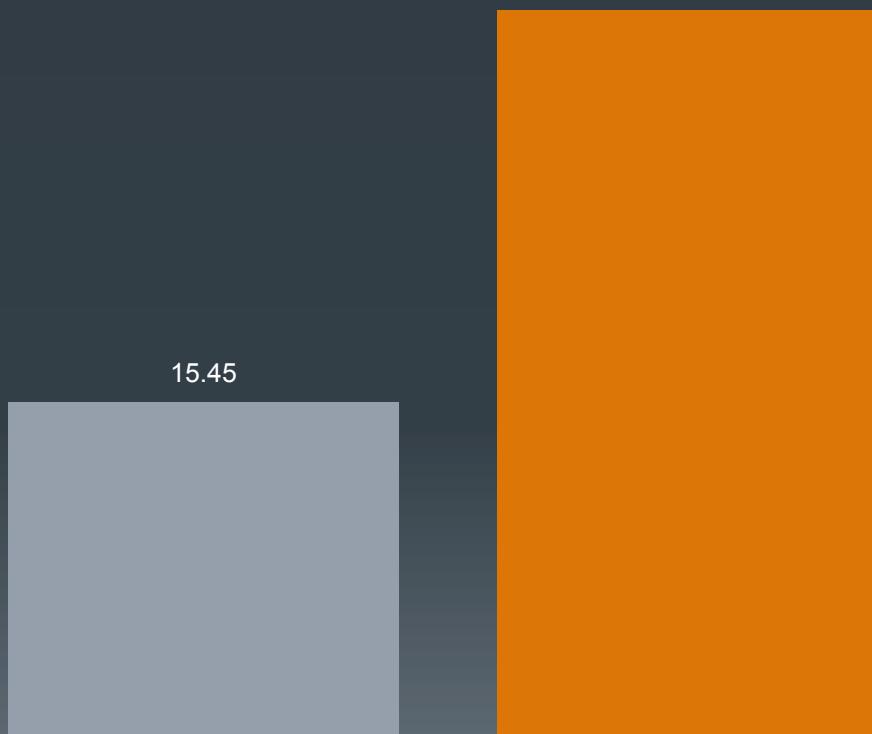


Comparison of Fall and Spring Admit Entry Characteristics (2009-2014)

■ Fall Admits ■ Spring Admits

33.33

15.45

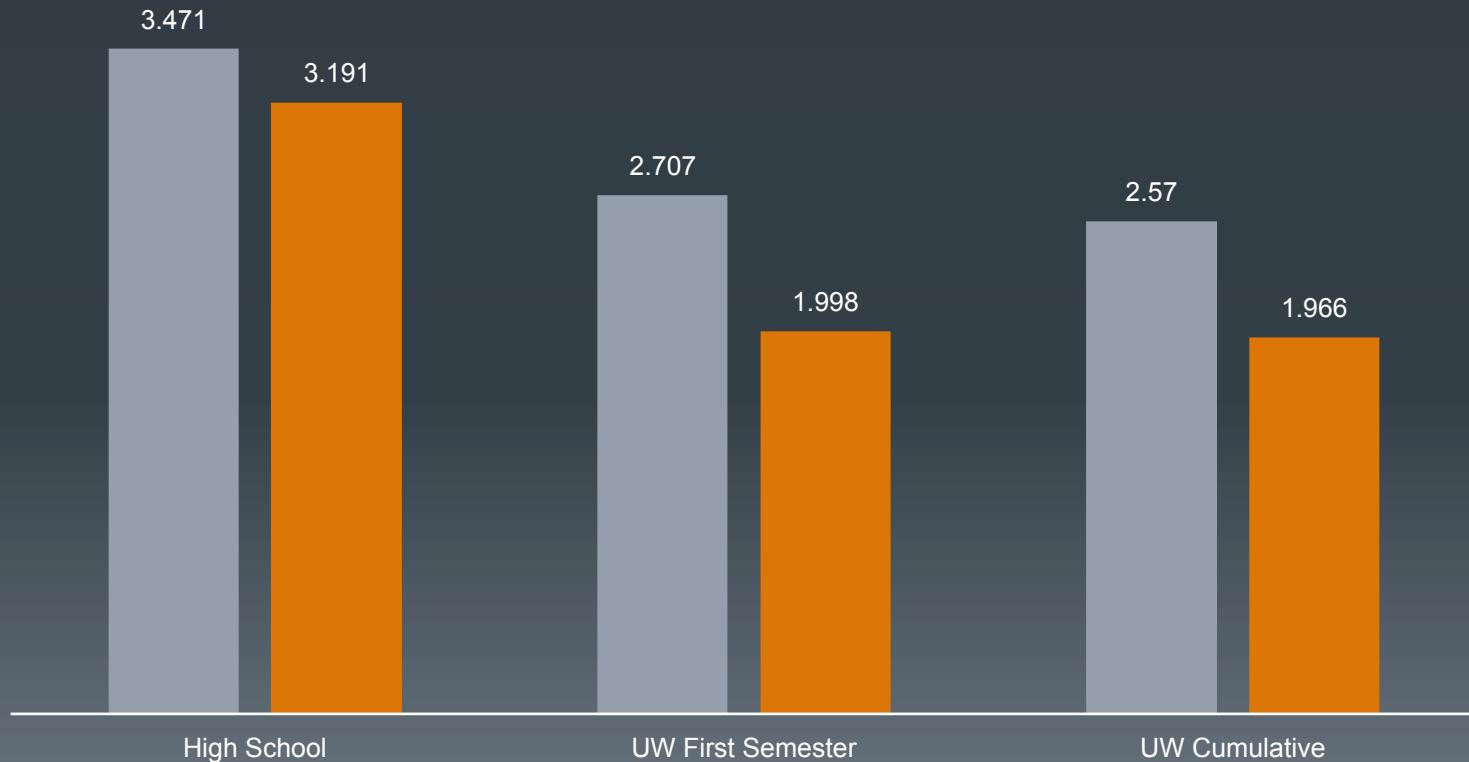


% of Students Entering Below 3.0



Comparison of Fall and Spring Admit GPA (2009-2014)

■ Fall Admits ■ Spring Admits



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 minimal opportunities for support

Important Questions

- Who are these Spring Admits?
- Are we fulfilling our obligations to these students?
- What systems of support already exist?
- How can we tailor these systems of support to better fit Spring Admits?
- What new systems of support do we need to create?

Interventions

- Tours and other introductions to campus
- Transition skills as assignments
- Advocate for Spring Admits
- Teach self-advocacy to Spring Admits

Discussion Questions

- 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?