

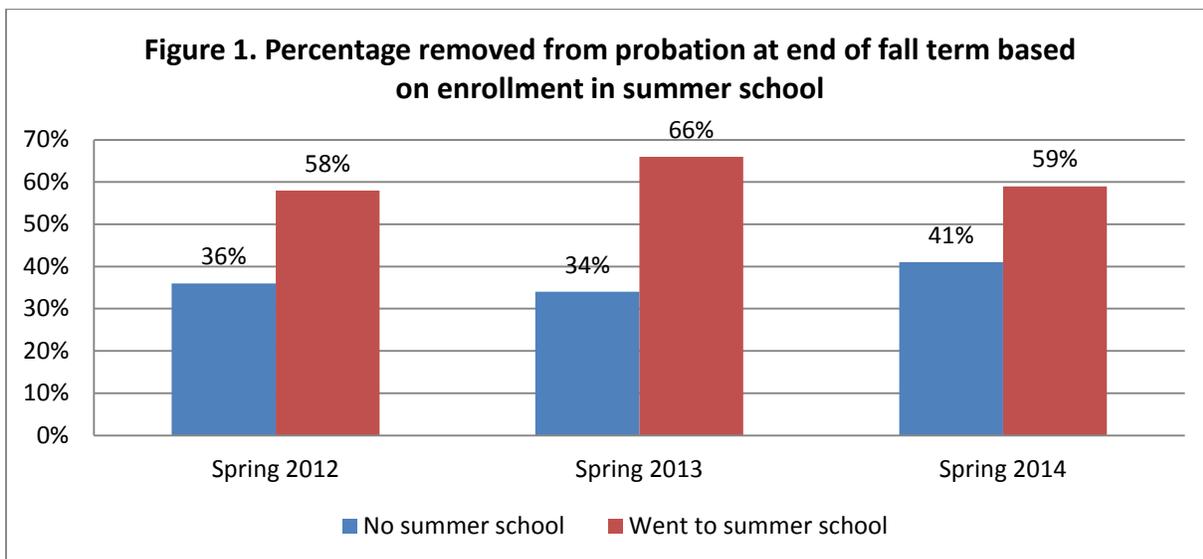


Does attending summer school have an impact on removal from probation?

The purpose of this study was to determine if students who were on probation and who enrolled in summer school were less likely to get off of probation by the end of the fall compared to students who did not attend summer school. The study was limited to students who were on probation at the end of the spring term in 2012, 2013, or 2014. Some students attended summer school the following term, and some did not. The number on probation at the end of the fall term and their cumulative GPAs at that point were then compared based on summer school enrollment.

The study was limited to students who were on probation in the spring and who re-enrolled in the fall. Therefore, anyone who did not return in the fall term was excluded from the study. Table 1 (see next page) displays the number of students included in the study based on their academic levels and cumulative GPAs at the end of the spring term. As shown, most students were freshmen, and only about 30% of students on probation chose to enroll in summer school. Overall, students who enrolled in summer school appeared to have slightly higher cumulative GPAs compared to those who did not enroll, indicating that we should control for differences in cumulative GPAs at the end of spring in our analyses.

Figure 1 displays the percentage of the group who were removed from probation at the end of the fall term based on enrollment in summer school for the three years of data included in the study. Note that for each year, students were more likely to be removed from probation if they had attended summer school.



This analysis, however, fails to account for the GPA differences seen in Table 1. Therefore, a logistic regression model was developed that calculates the probability of being on probation at the end of fall term based on enrollment in summer school (yes or no) after controlling for spring cumulative GPA. Separate analyses were conducted for spring 2012, spring 2013, and spring 2014. In each case, after controlling for the spring GPA, the effect of attending summer school was non-significant. It seems likely, therefore, that the positive effects of summer school shown in Figure 1 were due to the fact that students with higher spring

GPA's were more likely to go to summer school. Adding information about the academic level of the student produced similar results.

Table 1. Enrollment in summer school and cumulative GPA based on academic level for students who were on probation in the spring and returned in the fall

		Enrolled in Summer			
		Not enrolled		Yes, enrolled	
		N	Mean Spring Cum GPA	N	Mean Spring Cum GPA
Spring 2012	Freshman	123	1.44	11	1.76
	Sophomore	81	2.08	16	2.11
	Junior	51	2.4	22	2.36
	Senior	21	2.46	30	2.49
	Total	276	1.88	79	2.27
Spring 2013	Freshman	73	1.49	10	1.94
	Sophomore	63	2.14	14	2.2
	Junior	61	2.36	18	2.44
	Senior	23	2.45	19	2.67
	Total	220	2.01	61	2.37
Spring 2014	Freshman	71	1.55	6	1.42
	Sophomore	54	2.19	13	1.95
	Junior	63	2.43	23	2.21
	Senior	30	2.43	31	2.41
	Total	218	2.08	73	2.18

As a final analysis, we modeled the prediction of fall cumulative GPA based on summer school enrollment after accounting for spring term cumulative GPA. This analysis offers a finer look at changes in GPA compared to a simple yes/no indicator of whether or not the student was removed from probation.

All three models accounted for a significant portion of variability in fall term GPA's, but the effect of enrollment in summer school was significant only for spring 2012 and 2013 models. The combination of spring cumulative GPA and summer school attendance (1=yes, 0=no) accounted for 68% of the variability in fall GPA for the spring 2012 group, 78% of the variability for the spring 2013 group, and 81% of the variability for the spring 2014 group.

Conclusion: It appears therefore, that summer school attendance does not harm students on probation and may even be helpful. The results suggest that students who choose to go to summer school may find it a helpful tool for getting off of probation, especially if their GPA is not too far from the cut-off for being on probation. In any case, even if they do not get off probation, their GPA's may be higher at the end of the fall term compared to those who do not go to summer school.

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