



Orientation Date Analysis, Fall 2018

Douglas Ducharme EdD, Associate Director

The purpose of this report was to analyze the relationship between attending orientation and retention. Various behaviors and attributes from the Fall 2017 cohort of new students were assessed relative to the likelihood of returning for the Fall 2018 semester. Given those at-risk indicators, a demographic breakdown for the Fall 2018 cohort were presented.

Results

In Fall 2017, there were 3,422 new students. There were three types of orientation sessions offered in the summer of 2017: one-day, two-day, or half-day quick start. Table 1 depicts the breakdown of student types attending the various types of orientation session. These sessions account for only those students that attended an orientation documented by the VZ orientation registration system. Students in the did not attend category may have alternate orientation programs, such as the RN to BSN, CAPS Global Affairs, DSP, matriculating prior non-degree, and partnership (MAIA, UPP) students.

Table 1: *Orientation attendance by orientation type, Fall 2017 Cohort*

	Total attendees	FYR students	TRN students
Two-day	1,353	1,353	0
One-day	1,354	69	1,285
Quick start	183	36	147
Did not attend	532	423	109
Total	3,422	1,881	1,541

Of the 15% of new students that do not attend any orientation session, most were first-time freshmen. There were 22.5% of first-time freshmen that did not attend an orientation session, compared to only 9% of transfer students not attending an orientation. International students were the least likely group to not attend an orientation session, with only 42% of international students attending an orientation. For domestic students only, there were 12% that did not attend an orientation session.

Table 2 depicts the one-year retention rates for students for the Fall 2017 cohort. The baseline retention rate for all students, regardless of student type, was 74%. Part-time students had a much lower retention rate than full-time students. The impact of part-time student retention had a

greater effect on transfer students than full-time students. 96% of first-time students were full-time status, compared to 77% of transfer students were full-time.

Table 2: *Retention rates by student type, Fall 2017 Cohort*

	N	Ret Rate
Full-time	2,978	76%
First-year (FYR)	1,881	75%
All students	3,422	74%
Transfer (TRN)	1,541	73%
Part-time	444	60%

For students that did not attend an orientation session, regardless of type, there was only a slight difference in retention rate, with a 73% retention rate for students not attending orientation compared to a 74% retention rate for orientation students. However, there was no difference in retention rates for first-time students based on whether they attended orientation or not. For transfer students, students that did not attend orientation had a 57% retention rate, compared to 73% retention rate for orientation students. Table 3 depicts the attendance for each orientation session in the summer of 2017.

Table 3: *Retention Rates by Orientation Date and Type, Fall 2017 Cohort*

Orient Nbr	Orient Date	Orient Type	Ret	Total	Ret Rate
2	05/22/2017 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	138	159	87%
3	06/08/2017 8:00 AM - 06/09/2017 4:30 PM	2 Day	187	237	79%
4	06/13/2017 8:00 AM - 06/14/2017 4:30 PM	2 Day	175	222	79%
5	06/15/2017 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	121	156	78%
6	06/20/2017 8:00 AM - 06/21/2017 4:30 PM	2 Day	181	226	80%
7	06/22/2017 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	98	123	80%
8	06/26/2017 8:00 AM - 06/27/2017 4:30 PM	2 Day	140	195	72%
9	06/29/2017 8:00 AM - 06/30/2017 4:30 PM	2 Day	168	224	75%
10	07/18/2017 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	110	146	75%
11	07/27/2017 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	109	145	75%
12	08/08/2017 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	110	153	72%
13	08/15/2017 8:00 AM - 08/16/2017 4:30 PM	2 Day	166	249	67%
14	08/17/2017 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	106	144	74%
15	08/22/2017 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM 08/24/2017 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	145	216	67%
16	08/31/2017 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	92	112	82%
17	09/01/2017 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM 09/01/2017 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Quick Start	70	128	55%
18	09/05/2017 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Quick Start	34	55	62%
			2,150	2,890	74%

Overall retention rate for students attending a one-day orientation session was 76%, compared to 75% for students attending a two-day orientation session. Orientation session #16 was comprised of international students, a group that normally has higher retention rates than other student types.

Orientation session #13 was comprised of students that registered late. The number of days before the first day of classes that a student registers was positively correlated with retention one year later ($r = .1, p = .000$). Students that register late have significantly lower one-year retention rates than students that register early. Specifically, students that registered before July 19, 2017 had an average retention rate of 79% ($N = 1,972$), compared to a retention rate of 71% for students that registered on or after July 19, 2017 ($N = 1,368$).

In addition to registration date, deposit date and application completion date were also predictors of retention. The number of days before the first day of classes that a student made the deposit was positively correlated with retention one year later ($r = .09, p = .000$). Specifically, students that deposited before March 26, 2017 had an average retention rate of 77% ($N = 1,954$), compared to a retention rate of 72% for students that registered on or after March 26, 2017 ($N = 1,430$). The number of days before the first day of classes that a student completed the application was positively correlated with retention one year later ($r = .06, p = .000$). Specifically, students that completed the application before March 15, 2017 had an average retention rate of 77% ($N = 1,823$), compared to a retention rate of 73% for students that registered on or after March 15, 2017 ($N = 1,551$).

Quick Start Orientation. The 183 students that attended orientation late during the Quick Start sessions (#17 & #18) were less likely to be retained one year later, with a 57% retention rate. While female students comprised the majority of students attending any orientation session (53%), male students comprised the majority attending the Quick Start orientation sessions (58%). Those students attending the Quick Start sessions had substantially later dates for application completion (average of 100 days later), deposit (70 days later), and registration (42 days later).

20% of Quick Start students were first-time freshmen versus 80% transfer students. Those first-time freshmen had a 61% retention rate, compared to a 56% retention rate for transfer students. 73% of Quick Start students were full-time status versus 27% part-time. Those full-time students had a 63% retention rate, compared to a 42% retention rate for part-time students.

For students attending Quick Start orientation sessions, there were no differences in retention rates based on Pell eligibility or first generation status. However, out-of-state students and Boston Public School students had retention rates of 73% and 70% respectively. These rates were higher than the retention rate of 53% for non-BPS in-state students. While the retention rate for students attending the Quick Start sessions were low regardless of College enrolled, the Colleges with the lowest retention rates for these students included CNHS (43%), SFE (38%), and CSM (55%). Finally, there were no differences between the Quick Start students and overall

measures for SAT scores, high school GPA, transfer GPA, or Aleks scores, as well as no differences in those measures based on whether Quick Start students that were retained or not.

Fall 2018 Cohort. In Fall 2018, there were 3,639 new students. Again, there were three types of orientation sessions offered in the summer of 2018: one-day, two-day, or half-day quick start. Table 4 depicts the breakdown of student types attending the various types of orientation session.

Table 4: *Orientation attendance by orientation type, Fall 2018 Cohort*

	Total attendees	FYR students	TRN students
Two-day	1,890	1,862	28
One-day	1,034	1	1,033
Quick start	220	75	145
Did not attend	495	377	118
Total	3,639	2,315	1,324

More students attended an orientation session in 2018 than 2017. Of the 14% of new students that do not attend any orientation session, most were first-time freshmen. There were 16% of first-time freshmen that did not attend an orientation session, compared to only 9% of transfer students not attending an orientation. International students were the least likely group to not attend an orientation session, with only 52% of international students attending an orientation, but more international students attended an orientation session in 2018 than 2017. For domestic students only, there were 11% that did not attend an orientation session.

Table 5 depicts the attendance for orientation sessions for the Fall 2018 cohort. Orientation session #16 was dedicated to international students. There was a decrease in attendance for session #16, reflecting an 11% decrease in overall international student enrollment from 2017 to 2018.

Orientation session #13 comprised of students that typically registered late. The attendance total for that higher risk session increased by 39%. The average date of registration for these students was about 26 days later than the average student. Overall, students in the Fall 2018 cohort completed applications, deposited, and registered earlier than students in the Fall 2017 cohort.

Quick Start Orientation. 220 students attended the Quick Start orientation sessions (#17 & #18). The following is a list of demographic information for the students attending Quick Start sessions compared to all students:

- Gender – 56% male; all students = 43%
- Race – 52% U.S. students of color; all students = 52%
- Residency – 84% in-state; all students = 86%
- Citizenship – 7% international; all students = 8%
- Age group – 35% > 21 yrs old; all students = 21%
- Admit type – 66% transfer; all students = 36%
- Status – 24% part-time; all students = 9%

- Pell eligible – 49%; all students = 48%
- Residence Hall – 13%; all students = 28%
- College – 36% either CNHS, CSM, or SFE; all students = 49%

Table 5: Attendance by Orientation Date and Type, Fall 2018 Cohort

Orient Nbr	Orient Date	Orient Type	Total
1	04/06/2018 12:00 AM - 4:00 PM	1 Day	28
2	05/30/2018 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	143
3	06/07/2018 8:00 AM - 06/08/2018 4:30 PM	2 Day	227
4	06/12/2018 8:00 AM - 06/13/2018 4:30 PM	2 Day	309
5	06/14/2018 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	124
6	06/19/2018 8:00 AM - 06/20/2018 4:30 PM	2 Day	312
7	06/21/2018 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	108
8	06/25/2018 8:00 AM - 06/26/2018 4:30 PM	2 Day	305
9	06/28/2018 8:00 AM - 06/29/2018 4:30 PM	2 Day	303
10	07/17/2018 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	149
11	07/26/2018 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	134
12	08/08/2018 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	113
13	08/14/2018 8:00 AM - 08/15/2018 4:30 PM	2 Day	345
14	08/16/2018 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	104
15	08/21/2018 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	1 Day	131
16	08/28/2018 11:30 AM - 08/31/2018 4:30 PM	2 Day	89
17	08/31/2018 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM 08/31/2018 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Quick Start	178
18	09/04/2018 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Quick Start	42

3,144

Finally, Quick Start students completed application, deposited, and registered much later than the average student, representing 67% of Quick Start students late for all three milestones compared to just 26% of all students late for all three.