

Day, Evening or Mixed Schedules and Fall 2015 to Fall 2016 Return Rates

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Among all Fall 2015 students who did not graduate in Fall 2015 or Spring 2016, 59% returned for the Fall 2016 semester. This office was asked whether we could tell whether students who took only evening classes (classes beginning after 5:45 PM on weekdays) had a lower return rate, perhaps because of a lack of service availability.

Table 1 shows a ten percentage point difference in return rates for pure day-scheduled students as against pure evening-scheduled students. (All day/evening/mixed schedules were determined for Fall 2015 only.)

All Non-graduating Return Rates

	Day	Evening	Mixed
No	2,055	383	2,701
Yes	3,362	410	3,642
Total	5,417	793	6,343
Return Rate of Non-grads	62%	52%	57%

Table 1

In Table 2, we see that there is little difference between day and evening students, when we only look at full-time students, although only a handful managed to be full-time and attend only evening classes.

Full-time			
	Day	Evening	Mixed
No	872	42	1,479
Yes	2,202	118	2,528
Total	3,074	160	4,007
Return Rate of Non-grads	72%	74%	63%

Table 2

In Table 3, comparing only part-time students, the difference in return rates narrows to only four percentage points. The original difference of ten points appears to be partially due to an uneven distribution of part- and full-time students.

Part-time			
	Day	Evening	Mixed
No	1,183	341	1,222
Yes	1,160	292	1,114
Total	2,343	633	2,336
Return Rate of Non-grads	50%	46%	48%

Table 3

In Table 4 we look at part-time women. Here the difference narrows to only two percentage points. If women are more help-seeking, as we have proposed in other research, then evening attendance does not seem to disadvantage them. If they need a service, they find it.

Part-time, women			
	Day	Evening	Mixed
No	642	179	680
Yes	688	179	662
Total	1,330	358	1,342
Return Rate of Non-grads	52%	50%	49%

Table 4

In Table 5, we see that this does not appear to be true for men. The disadvantage increases to six percentage points. We might reason that a lower level of service availability affects men who attend part-time the most.

Part-time, men			
	Day	Evening	Mixed
No	539	161	539
Yes	469	112	450
Total	1,008	273	989
Return Rate of Non-grads	47%	41%	46%

Table 5

Special thanks to Professor Jeffrey Weintraub for assembling the data on student class attendance times.