

# **Class Absence, GPA and Returning Next Semester**

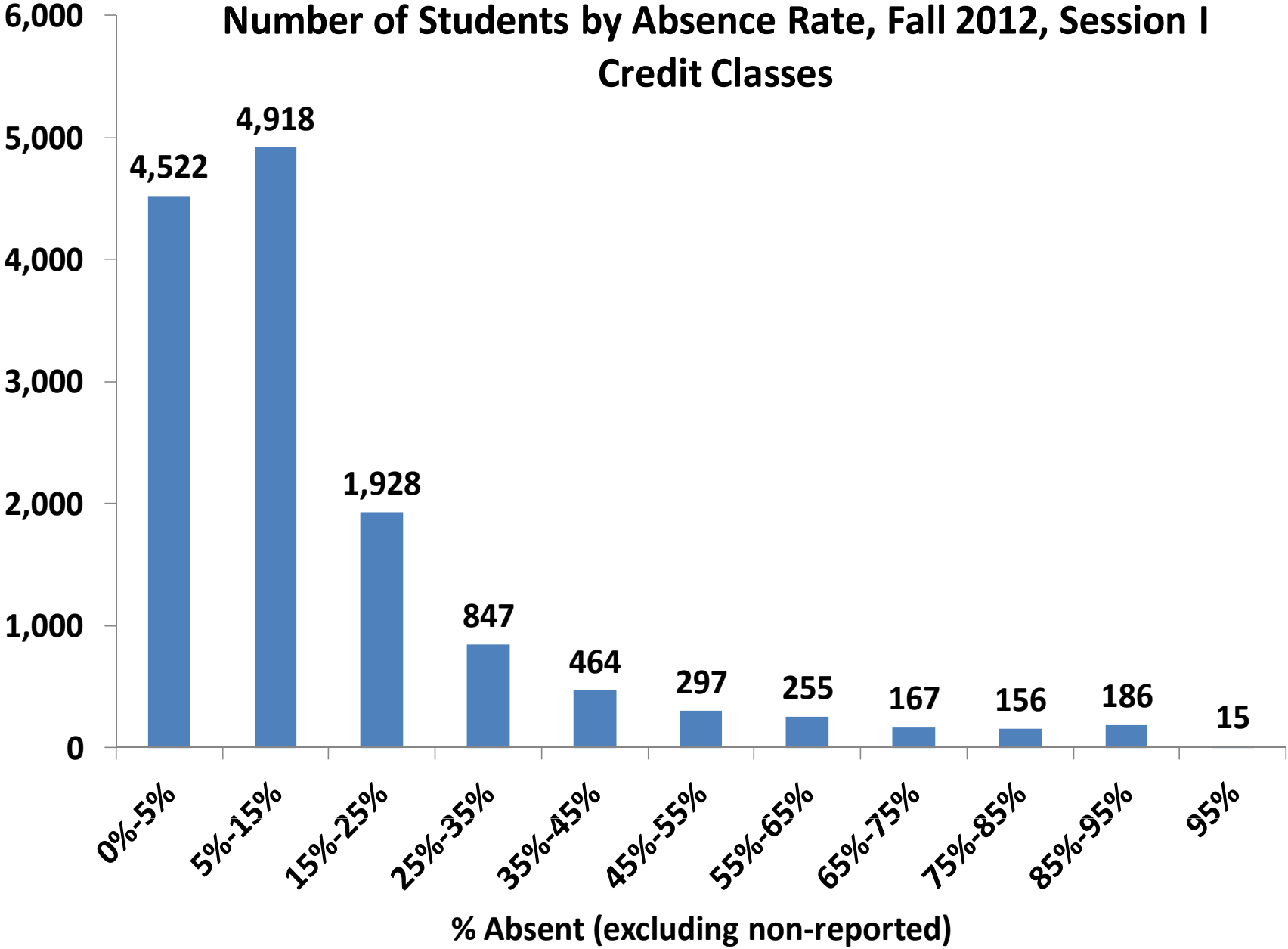
Nathan Dickmeyer, Erez Lenchner, Jenny Zhu  
Institutional Research & Assessment  
LaGuardia Community College  
January 17, 2013

# Fall 2012, Session Absence Rates

- On average the 13,755 degree students in Fall 2012, Session I were **marked absent for 15% of their college-level class meetings.**
- On average the 5,392 degree students in Fall 2012, Session I were **marked absent for 20% of their non-college-level class meetings.**

(Classes with 20% or more non-recorded attendance sessions were excluded. Non-recorded sessions were not included in % absent. Only students with at least one college-level course were included in the first statistic.)

# Number of Students by Absence Rate, Fall 2012, Session I Credit Classes



# GPA and Attendance

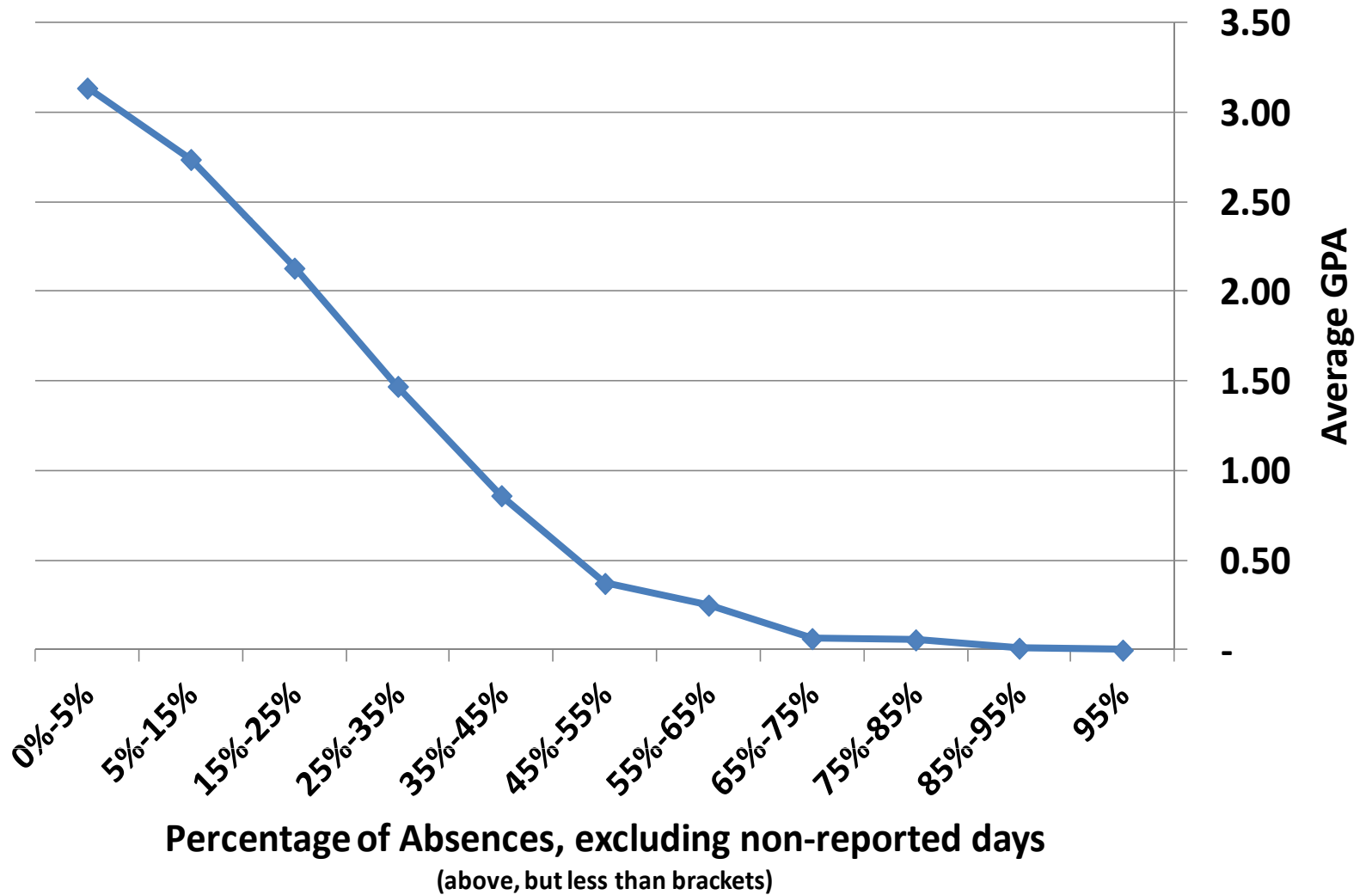
- Any student who missed more than **8%** of his or her college-level class meetings (two or more classes out of 24 class meetings, for example) had only a **50-50 chance** of getting a GPA for those classes of **2.00 or higher**.
- For every **ten percentage point increase in a student's absence rate**, the average student's **GPA** for those courses **falls more than half a grade** (until the student reaches a 50% absence rate and the GPA can hardly fall any more).
- 100% attendance does not guarantee a 4.00, but it helps.

(GPA for college-level courses with >80% of sessions attendance recorded, Fall 2012, Session I.)

# Average GPA For Credit Courses by % of Absences

## Fall 2012, Session I

(>=80% attendance-taken classes only)



# GPA and % Absence

- All students with the lowest attendance rate (highest absence rate and highest bar in the following figure) had GPA's below 0.25. Very few (but a handful) of students with the highest attendance rates (lowest absence rate and lowest bar) had GPA's below 0.25.

Key to following figure:

The higher bars indicate high levels of absence by students in the groups.

The redder the section of the bar, the lower the GPA.

Pure red represents a group of students with GPA's between 0.00 and 0.25 GPA for college-level courses in Fall 2012, session I, where the student's attendance was recorded at least 80% of the time.

Pure yellow represents average Fall 2012 session I college-level course GPA of between 3.75 and 4.00.



# Class Attendance, GPA & Next Semester Return

- Higher absence rates and lower GPA's both predict higher rates of non-return to the next semester.
- But higher absence rates are a more sensitive predictor.
- Both together in a logistic regression correctly predicted 79% of the time whether a student would or would not continue on from Fall 2011 Session I to Spring 2012.

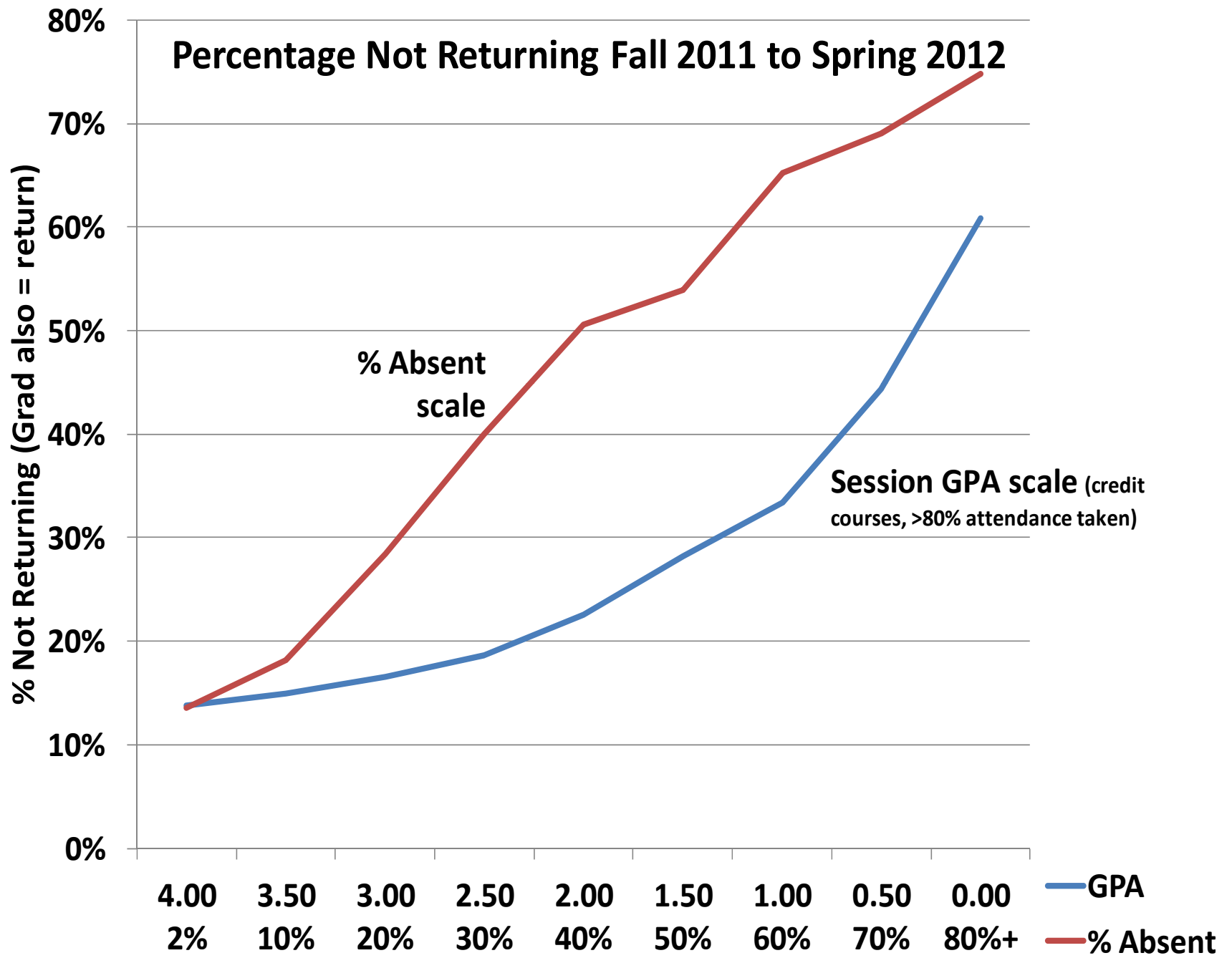
(Graduating at the end of Fall 2011 was counted as continuing).



# Class Attendance, GPA & Next Semester Return

- Very high GPA and very low absence rates, however, do not guarantee that students will move on to the next semester.
- Approximately 14% of students with a GPA in college-level courses above 3.50 did not continue on from Fall 2011 to Spring 2012.
- Also, approximately 14% of students who missed fewer than 2.5% of their college-level course class sessions did not continue on from Fall 2011 to Spring 2012.

# Percentage Not Returning Fall 2011 to Spring 2012



# Class Attendance, GPA & Next Semester Return

- Next is a three-dimensional graph that demonstrates the interrelation of absence rates, GPA and % not returning.
- Higher “elevations” indicate higher rates of non-return. Clearly low GPA and high absence rate are closely, but not perfectly, related.
- The highest rate of non-return (red peak) is in the rear right corner with the group that had both the lowest GPA and highest absence rate.
- The graph is uneven in the central area. This shows that GPA at higher levels of absence is less accurate as a predictor of whether or not a student will return.

