

Road to Success (RTS) Actual vs. Expected Return Rates

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Findings

- Fall 2015 RTS students returned to (or graduated before) Fall 2016 at a rate only slightly above their average expected probability of return. The improvement over expected was less than the improvement for the cohort as whole, which included ASAP students (Table 1).
- Tier I RTS students returned at levels well above expected, while Tier II students returned at expected rates and Tier III students returned well below expected rates (Table 1).
- Some of the lack of response to RTS by Tier II students can be attributed to higher than average early transfer rates (Table 1).
- Tier III students responded below expectations in both low and moderate-low expected return levels (Table 2 and Figure 1). There were almost no Tier III students with higher levels of expected return.
- Tier II students with moderate levels of expected return did not respond well to their RTS program (Table 2 and Figure 1). Only high and low expected return rates for Tier II students show good response to the RTS program. Moderate risk Tier II students appear to have opted for early transfer at higher than average rates.
- Low and moderate low risk Tier I responded well to RTS, but the 24 moderate-high risk Tier I students failed to exceed expected return rates (Table 2 and Figure 1).
- For those RTS students who actually visited advisors (eliminating those with zero SEMS tickets to the RTS service area), the benefit was strong (although only three Tier I students were recorded in SEMS for RTS during that academic year, Table 3).

Conclusions

- The RTS interventions were most effective, in general, with low to moderate-low risk students, regardless of the student's tier.
- Increased advising opportunities appear to best benefit only those who partake of them, who are also already well invested in their education (low risk). Thus,

- Voluntary advising activities are not reaching those who are going to drop out and who could make a difference in the graduation rate, and
- Advising as an intervention is not strong enough to affect high risk students.

Fall 2015 Degree Students with Adequate Data: Actual-Expected Return

Tier	Count	Expected Probability of Two-Semester Return	Actual Two-Semester Return (or Grad)	Actual-Expected	Early Transfer % of Non-Returning
I	103	77.5%	83.5%	6.0%	3.4%
II	235	75.4%	75.7%	0.3%	22.8%
III	61	61.5%	52.5%	-9.1%	11.8%
All RTS	399	73.8%	74.2%	0.3%	15.5%
All in Degree Cohort	14,654	63.9%	65.0%	1.1%	12.8%

Table 1

Fall 2015 Degree Students with Adequate Data: Actual-Expected Return by Expected Range

Probability of 2-Sem Return	Number			Expected % Return			Actual % Return			Actual-Expected		
	Tier I	Tier II	Tier III	Tier I	Tier II	Tier III	Tier I	Tier II	Tier III	Tier I	Tier II	Tier III
<64% (Low)	4	22	29	56%	59%	54%	75%	64%	45%	19%	4%	-9%
64% to <75% (Moderate Low)	24	61	31	71%	71%	68%	71%	62%	58%	-1%	-9%	-10%
75% to <80% (Moderate High)	32	90	1	78%	78%	79%	84%	78%	100%	7%	0%	21%
80% + (High)	43	62		83%	83%		91%	90%		8%	8%	

Table 2

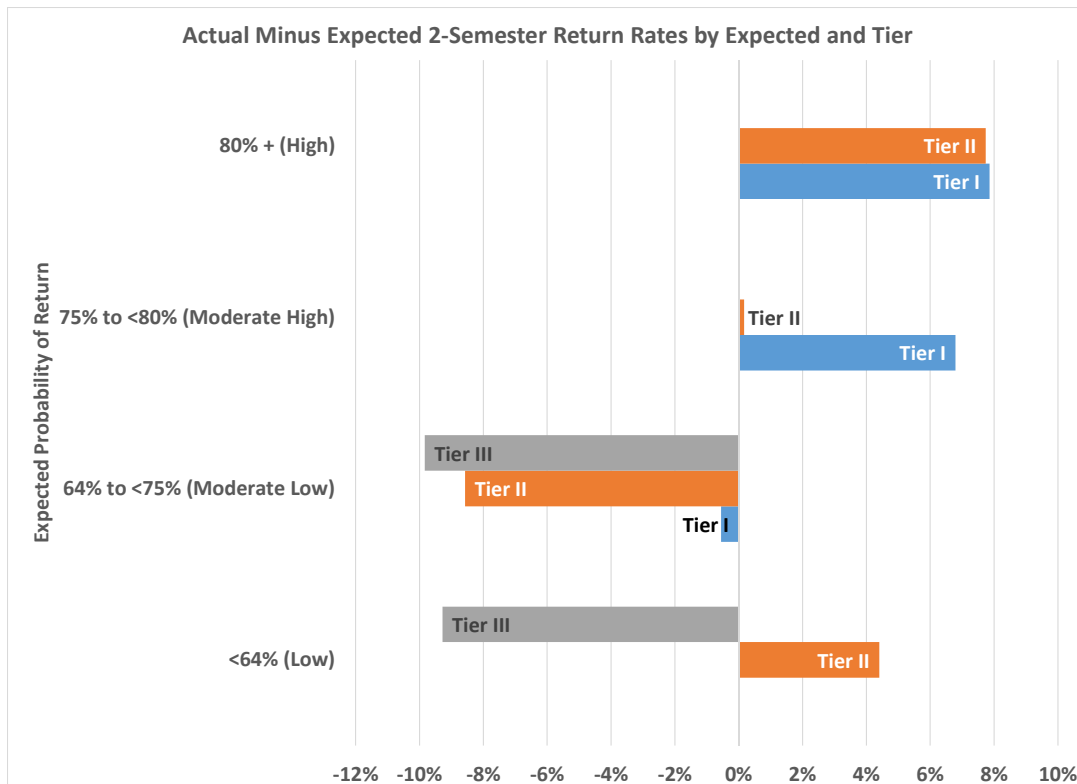


Figure 1

Actual vs. Expected for Only Those RTS Students Who Show Up in SEMS data as Visiting a Peer/Coach/Other

Tier	Count	Expected Probability of Two-Semester Return	Actual Two-Semester Return (or Grad)	Actual-Expected
I	3	75.7%	100.0%	24.3%
II	186	75.7%	79.6%	3.9%
III	44	61.2%	63.6%	2.4%
All RTS	233	72.9%	76.8%	3.9%
All in Degree Cohort	14,654	63.9%	65.0%	1.1%

Table 3

A discussion of the calculation of expected return rates can be found online at <http://www.laguardia.edu/IR/IR-facts/> under “Recent Research Reports: Retention & Graduation Intervention Analyses,” as: “[Developing a Single Tool for Assessing Student Retention Interventions.](#)”