

LSU Faculty Senate Committee on Admissions, Standards and Honors

Summary of Analysis of LSU Drops

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1 Data

The file comprises cumulative data for all current LSU undergraduates (26,391) as of the end of Fall 2004. The recommended maximum drops in the catalog are used as an expected value. This calculation is based on hours earned, ranges from zero to seven and is referred to as expected drops. The difference between drops and expected drops is termed excess drops.

2 Executive Summary

Drops and excess drops are extremely right skewed; see Table 1 and Table 2. From Table 2, 86% of the students have five or fewer drops and account for 33,537 drops (46.9%). To turn this around, the remaining 14% of students have 38,000 drops (53.1%). Another interpretation is that 86% of the students have difficulty scheduling classes because the other 14% of students use LSU resources inefficiently. To emphasize this, Table 2 shows that 66% of students have no more than two drops.

From Table 1, the **median** student has three drops **less** than that **recommended**. The broad conclusion is that drops at LSU are mainly an outlier problem.

3 Data Analysis

This section reports summary data on key variables. The drop variables are severely right skewed. Drops due to resignations are 9.5% of total drops.

Table 1: Summary Statistics for Selected Variables

Variable	Minimum	Mean	Median	Maximum	Total
Drops	0.000	2.711	1.000	73	71,537
Resignation Drops	0.000	0.258	0.000	9	6,819
Net Drops	0.000	2.452	1.000	69	64,718
Expected Drops	0.000	4.503	4.000	7	118,845
Excess Drops	-7.000	-1.793	-3.000	66	-47,308

Table 2: Frequencies of Drops Including Resignations

Drops	Students	Cumulative Students	Cumulative Drops	Cumulative Percent Drops	Cumulative Percent Students
0	7,453	7,453	0	0.000	0.282
1	6,319	13,772	6,319	0.088	0.522
2	3,635	17,407	13,589	0.190	0.660
3	2,401	19,808	20,792	0.291	0.751
4	1,670	21,478	27,472	0.384	0.814
5	1,213	22,691	33,537	0.469	0.860
6	830	23,521	38,517	0.538	0.891
7	642	24,163	43,011	0.601	0.916
8	478	24,641	46,835	0.655	0.934
9	311	24,952	49,634	0.694	0.945
10	266	25,218	52,294	0.731	0.956
11	192	25,410	54,406	0.761	0.963
12	173	25,583	56,482	0.790	0.969
13	133	25,716	58,211	0.814	0.974
14	119	25,835	59,877	0.837	0.979
15	74	25,909	60,987	0.853	0.982
16	76	25,985	62,203	0.870	0.985
17	76	26,061	63,495	0.888	0.987
18	56	26,117	64,503	0.902	0.990
19	42	26,159	65,301	0.913	0.991
20	43	26,202	66,161	0.925	0.993
21	23	26,225	66,644	0.932	0.994
22	15	26,240	66,974	0.936	0.994
23	19	26,259	67,411	0.942	0.995
24	23	26,282	67,963	0.950	0.996
25	21	26,303	68,488	0.957	0.997
26	12	26,315	68,800	0.962	0.997
27	7	26,322	68,989	0.964	0.997
28	5	26,327	69,129	0.966	0.998
29	7	26,334	69,332	0.969	0.998
30	7	26,341	69,542	0.972	0.998
31	6	26,347	69,728	0.975	0.998
32	5	26,352	69,888	0.977	0.999
33	3	26,355	69,987	0.978	0.999
34	3	26,358	70,089	0.980	0.999
35	3	26,361	70,194	0.981	0.999
36	1	26,362	70,230	0.982	0.999
37	5	26,367	70,415	0.984	0.999
38	1	26,368	70,453	0.985	0.999
39	2	26,370	70,531	0.986	0.999
40	1	26,371	70,571	0.986	0.999
41	3	26,374	70,694	0.988	0.999
42	2	26,376	70,778	0.989	0.999
43	1	26,377	70,821	0.990	0.999
44	3	26,380	70,953	0.992	1.000
45	1	26,381	70,998	0.992	1.000
47	1	26,382	71,045	0.993	1.000
48	1	26,383	71,093	0.994	1.000
50	3	26,386	71,243	0.996	1.000
51	1	26,387	71,294	0.997	1.000
54	1	26,388	71,348	0.997	1.000
55	1	26,389	71,403	0.998	1.000
61	1	26,390	71,464	0.999	1.000
73	1	26,391	71,537	1.000	1.000