

# Enrollment Patterns

We (researchers as much as anyone) tend to view students using overly simple distinctions such as Full-Time/Part-Time or Persisting/Not Persisting. Reality is more complex.

An inventory of enrollment patterns among credit students new to Lane in Fall 2014 shows that many students oscillate between Full- and Part-Time status, and many resume studies after one or more terms away.

There are 54 possible enrollment patterns in the first 4 terms (Fall through Summer), and students in the sample display 44 of these. For example, 2 different students were Part-Time in Fall, Full-Time in Winter, Not Enrolled in Spring, and Part-Time again in Summer, a pattern abbreviated **PFXP**.

**2,248 Credit Students New to Lane in FALL 2014**

Full-Time, F  
 Part-Time, P  
 Not Enrolled, X

Start Here →

**Extending the Analysis:** Tracking students for a full 8 terms, we observe 416 distinct patterns such as **PFXPFFXX**. (We will not show the tree diagram with  $2 \times 3^7 = 4374$  branches!)

Steady Full-Time with Summers off (**FFF?FFF?**) is the 4<sup>th</sup> most prevalent pattern, displayed by 5.7% of students. In total, all steady Full- and Part-Time patterns with any Summer status (**FFF?FFF?** and **PPP?PPP?**) account for 13.4% of students.

The top 3 patterns?

#1	PXXXXXXXX	10.0%
#2	PPXXXXXXXX	6.0%
#3	FXXXXXXXXX	5.8%

A sobering fact based on #1 and #3:

**“ONE and DONE”** describes about 16% of Lane students.

