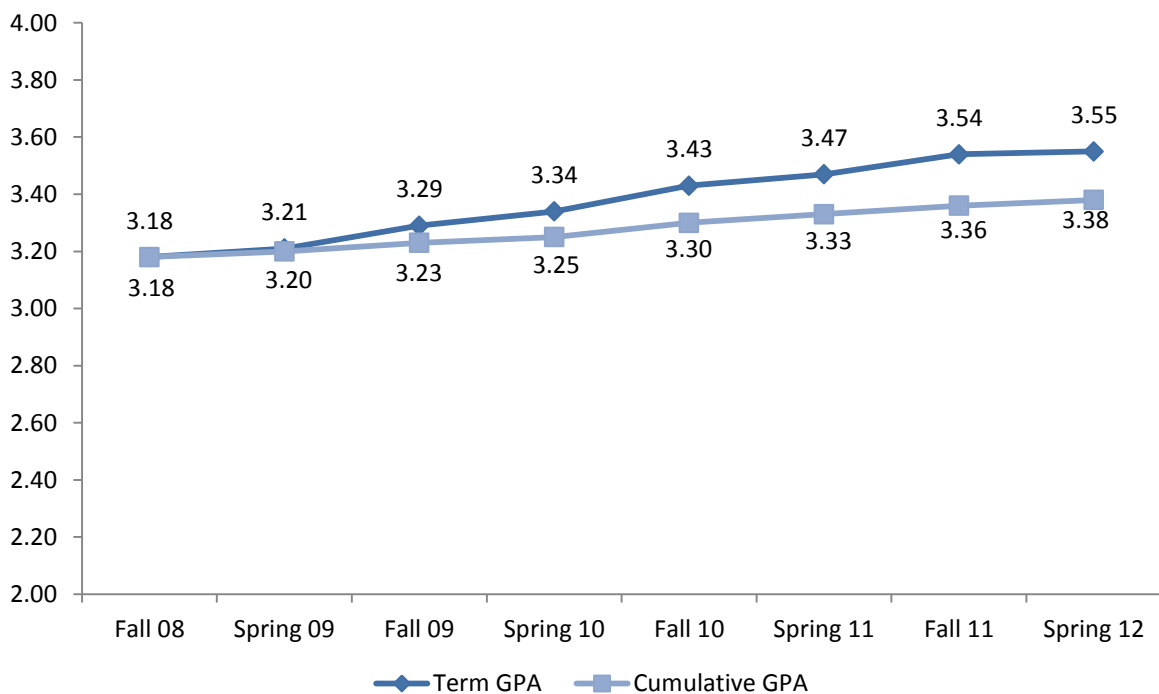


**Institutional Research Update (April 2015)**

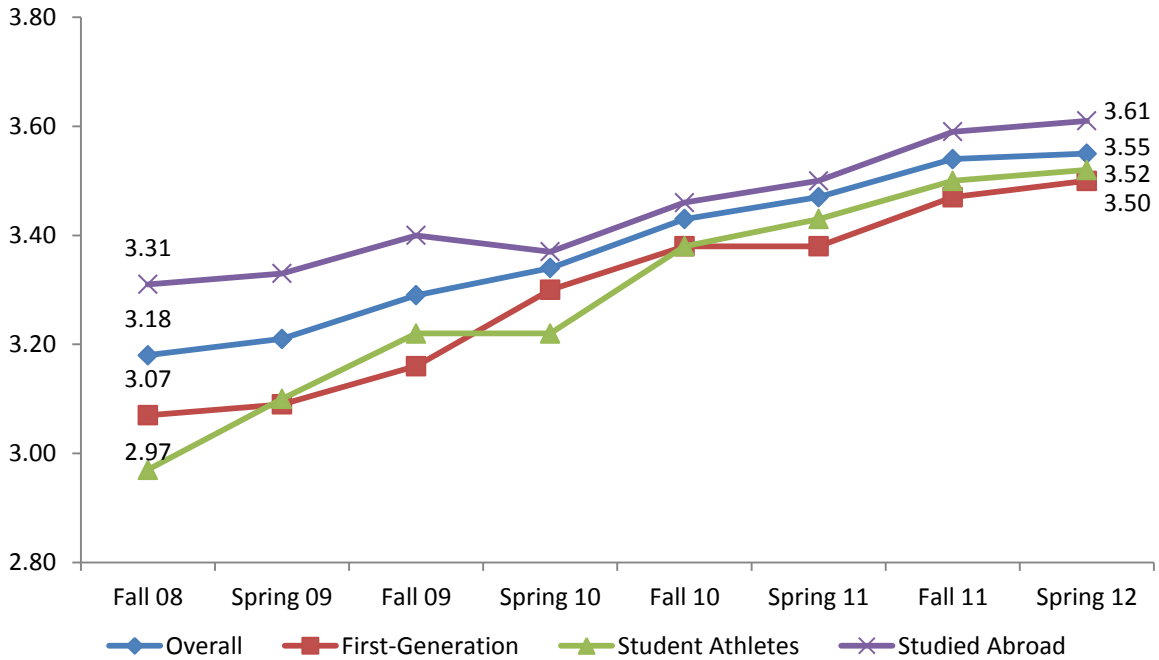
This month's update investigates average Saint Mary's GPAs of entering students as they progress towards graduation. Data below focuses on first-year, full-time students entering in Fall 2008. To control for attrition and ensure we are tracking the same students across time, we isolate to only those who completed a degree at Saint Mary's within six-years (a standard federal calculation for cohort completion). In tracking across four-years, we find that GPAs steadily improve as a student progresses through her Saint Mary's education toward graduation. Students entering in Fall 2008 who eventually graduated began with a term GPA in Fall 2008 of 3.18 on average and four-years later earned an average Spring 2012 term GPA of 3.55. This note next examines selected sub-populations of students and finds that while gaps existed in average GPA between the groups during their first-semester, these gaps substantially narrowed beginning with the fall semester of their third year. Finally, for those students who did not graduate, average cumulative GPAs at withdrawal are provided by the number of credit hours completed at time of withdrawal. Not surprisingly, these students had lower GPAs than students who remained at the College. Interestingly, those that left the College with between 31 and 45 credit hours completed exited with notably higher GPAs than those leaving at earlier and later points.

**Average Term and Cumulative GPA Tracking of First-Time, Full-Time Students Entering in Fall 2008 who Graduated within Six-Years**



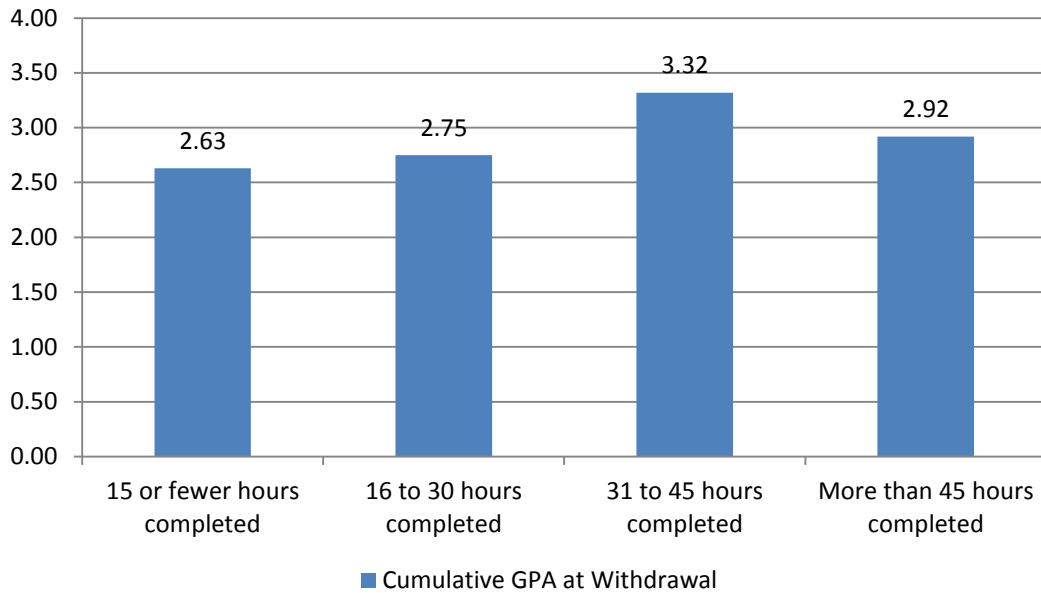
Gaps in term GPA narrow between sub-populations from first semester forward.

**Average Term GPA Tracking of First-Time, Full-Time Students Entering in Fall 2008 who Graduated**



- Overall, students entering in Fall 2008 who graduated from Saint Mary's experienced steady growth in term GPAs as they progressed at Saint Mary's from 3.18 in their first-term to 3.55 on average in the spring semester of their fourth year.
- Student athletes entering in Fall 2008 experienced remarkable growth in term GPA from their first semester through the spring semester of their fourth year (2.97 to 3.52).
- Similar growth in term GPA also occurred for first-generation and students who studied abroad. Students studying abroad earned the highest GPAs on average of the sub-populations examined.
- While notable gaps in term GPA existed in the first semester between these sub-populations, the gaps narrowed substantially as the students progressed at Saint Mary's.

**Average Cumulative GPA of First-Time, Full-Time Students Entering in Fall 2008 who did not Graduate by Credit Hours Completed at Withdrawal**



- Withdrawing students exit the College with lower GPAs on average.
- Interestingly, those who left the College with between 31 and 45 hours completed (equivalent to approximately one full-year at the College) earned notably higher GPAs suggesting this group may have different reasons for leaving the College than those leaving at earlier and later points. Importantly, between the end of the first year and beginning of second year is the most common time for students to exit the College (more than half of those who withdraw leave at this point).