Academic success is vital to retention of students beyond the first semester. This brief details the academic/classroom experiences of freshmen who entered fall, 1999 during their first semester at Buffalo State.

The fall, 1999 freshmen class enrolled in 242 different courses in their first semester. Each freshman spent an average 13.19 hours per week in class enrolled in an average 4.40 courses. Their experiences are described in terms of percentages of contact hours (time spent in class) that a typical freshman encounters.

**Class Size**

A typical Buffalo State freshman spends 30% of his/her instructional time in classes enrolling 100 or more students, 18% in classes enrolling 51-99 students, 16% in classes enrolling 26-50 students and the remaining 36% of his/her time in classes enrolling 1-25 students.**

**Percent of Time in Class by Class Enrollment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Enrollment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-25</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100+</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-50</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-99</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Type of Class**

In their first semester 22 (1.8%) freshmen took nine different courses designated as "W" or writing intensive and 205 (17%) took 65 different courses that are 300 level and six different courses that are 400 level. In many of the 300 level courses, no freshmen earned passing grades. Many of these courses have
prerequisites. Four out of ten freshmen (40%) enrolled in developmental courses (EDU 120, 150, EDF 207) and 14% took non-credit bearing remedial courses (ENG 099, MAT 097, MAT 098).

**Instructional Method**

A typical Buffalo State freshman spends 95% of his/her instructional time in lecture classes and 5% in lab classes. A few also take tutorials or independent studies.

**Instructor**

Buffalo State freshmen encounter a wide variety of instructors during their first semester. Typically, a freshman spends 42% of his/her time in a class taught by a "lecturer," 7.2% in classes taught by assistant professors, 17.5% in classes taught by associate professors, 24.5% in classes taught by professors. In addition, librarians account for .5% of instructional time and professional staff, 8.1%.

![Pie chart showing time in class by instructor rank]

- **Lecturers**: 41%
- **Professors**: 25%
- **Associate Professors**: 18%
- **Assistant Professors**: 7%
- **Professional Staff**: 8%
- **Librarians**: 1%
Grades

A typical freshman earned a 2.34 grade point average during the first semester at Buffalo State. Over half (54.5%) earned a B or better, 29.2% earned a C and 16.3% were seriously challenged earning a D or below average.

Fall 1999 Grade Distribution

* Includes 85 part-time freshmen.
**Class enrollment is determined by class quotas. The actual number of students in class is likely to be fewer than the quota.

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