April 14, 2016

Siena Fast Facts

Last week our Fast Facts looked at class attendance by time slot. We’ll continue that theme this week, looking at a few other data points related to course and room capacity. Once again, data are taken from fall 2015; only lecture / seminar sections are included here.

The chart below shows percent course capacity by starting time. (Percent course capacity is defined here as the ratio of actual enrollment to maximum enrollment. For example, if 20 students are actually enrolled in course ABCD101, and the maximum enrollment for that course is 25 students, then the course is at 80% capacity. Starting times are rounded to the nearest hour. The number in parentheses shows the number of sections meeting at that time.)

Courses with a starting time between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM have a relatively high percent capacity, close to 90%. The apparent dip at 2:00 PM is misleading, as very few classes actually have a starting time at or near that time. Early morning classes and late afternoon classes have a somewhat lower percent capacity.

The chart below shows similar data, but for course schedule (where M stands for Monday, T for Tuesday, etc.).
The handful of MF classes have a very high percent capacity, while the handful of Friday-only sections have a rather low percent capacity. MWF courses have a slightly higher percent capacity than TR courses, although both are quite high. For the most part, courses meeting on only one day of the week have relatively low percent capacity, but this may reflect the fact that many of these courses are upper-division courses or seminars, which tend to be smaller classes.

Finally, the chart below shows percent classroom capacity by building. Note that here we’re using a different definition of percent capacity; for example, a course with 20 students enrolled which meets in a classroom with a capacity of 40 students would be at 50% room capacity. (RB202 is excluded from this analysis, since its unusually large room size would skew the data.)
Padua Hall wins the prize for optimal space utilization, although relatively few classes are held there. The primary instructional buildings range from 69.2% capacity for Siena Hall, to 80.2% capacity for Kiernan Hall.

As always, if you have any ideas for future Fast Facts, please let us know.