

Course Enrollment Prediction: Estimating the Whims of Brown's Student Body

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1 Abstract

Predicting course enrollment at Brown has posed challenges for students, professors, and administrators who have to allocate finite resources. Departments are not-infrequently surprised by the number of students interested in particular courses, and must scramble to find space, recruit additional teaching assistants, and create extra sections. We attempt to predict course enrollment based on eight years of extracted Courses@Brown data, starting since its introduction at Brown in 2016. We apply several models and find success in predicting whether or not a course will hit its enrollment cap, but slightly less success in predicting actual enrollment. Future work might be aided by integrating some understanding of degree-specific requirements as well as language-model-based course title/description evaluation.

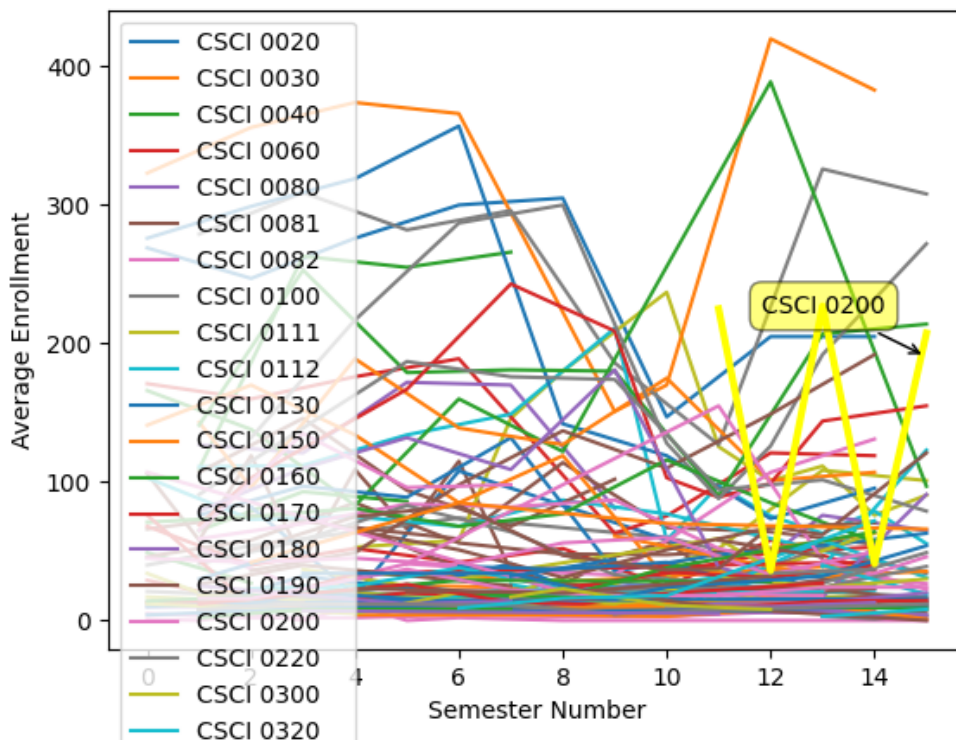


Figure 1: Enrollment by Course Code in CSCI