



# UTRN

Urban Transfer Research Network



# There is More Than One Way to Get a BA:

## Multi-institutional Enrollment Patterns of Transfer Students in a Metro Region

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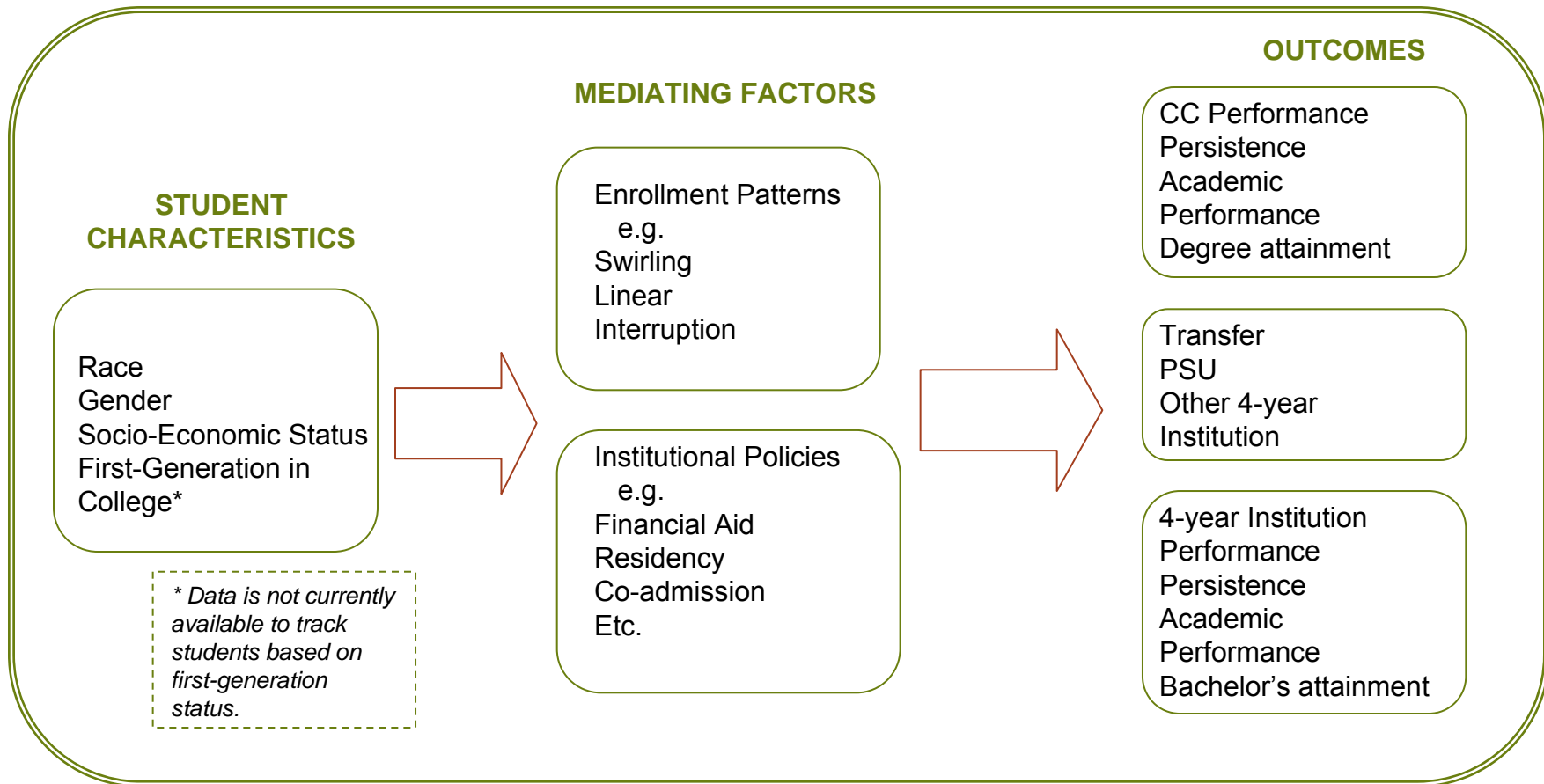
## About UTRN...

- The Urban Transfer Research Network is a collaborative multi-institutional research project focused on underrepresented students who begin their postsecondary careers at community colleges and have a goal of attaining at least the Bachelor's degree.
- By the end of the project, the network will include urban regions from across the U.S. in order to have a broad impact on Bachelor's degree attainment rates by underrepresented students.

## Research Questions

- What are the pathways through higher education that lead to successful BA completion?
- How do transfer patterns and degree attainment rates of various sub-groups differ?
- What are the major contributors to discrepancies in attainment rates?
- What changes in current policy and practice or new policy and programs would increase BA attainment rates?

# Research Design



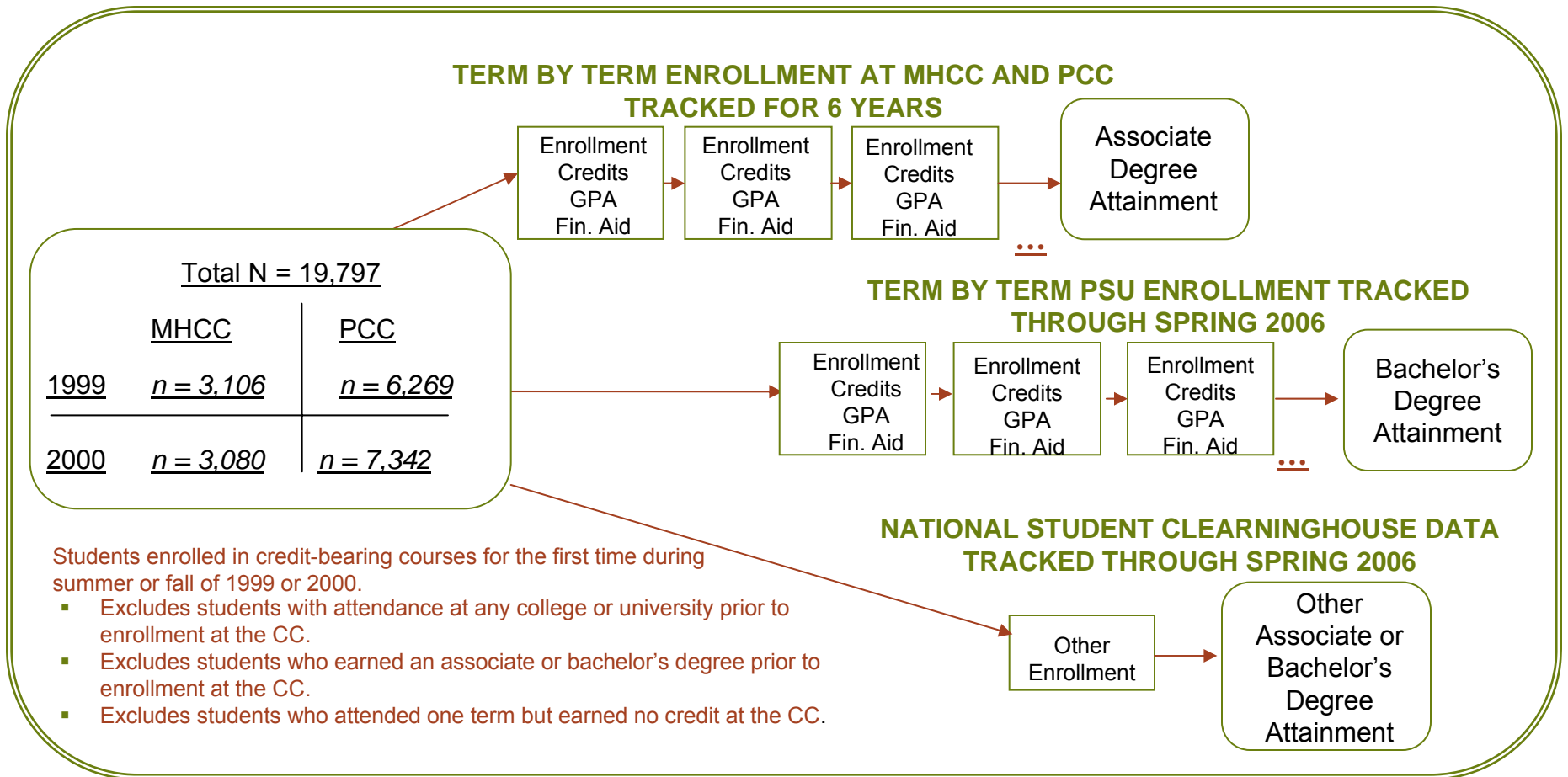
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## Data File Creation

- Description
  - Unit-record data for about 20,000 students
  - Demographic, academic, and enrollment data at CC and PSU (supplemented by NSC data)
- Facilitators
  - History of collaboration with CCs
  - All Oregon CCs produce common data elements for state-level reports
- Challenges
  - No common student identifiers among institutions
  - Low Income/First Generation status problematic

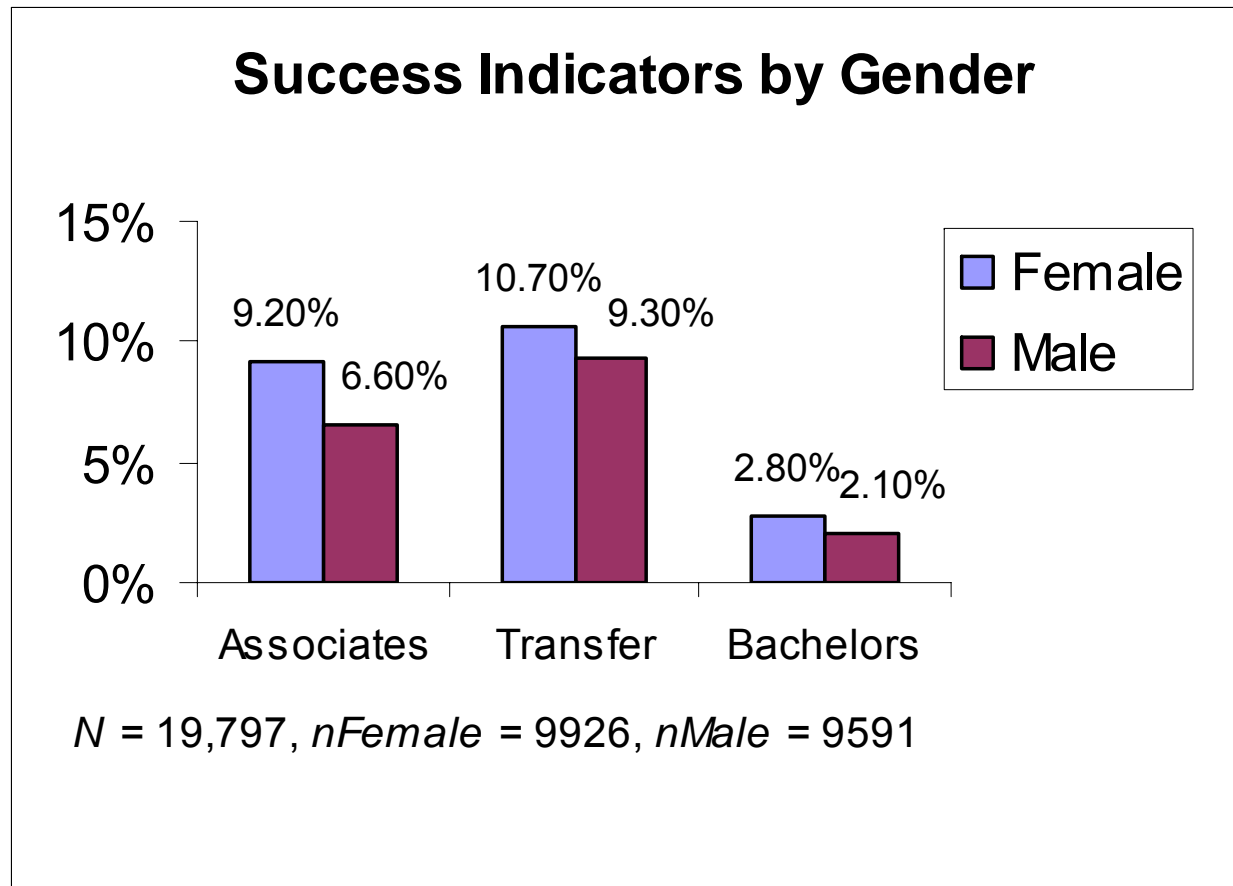
## Research Design - Detail



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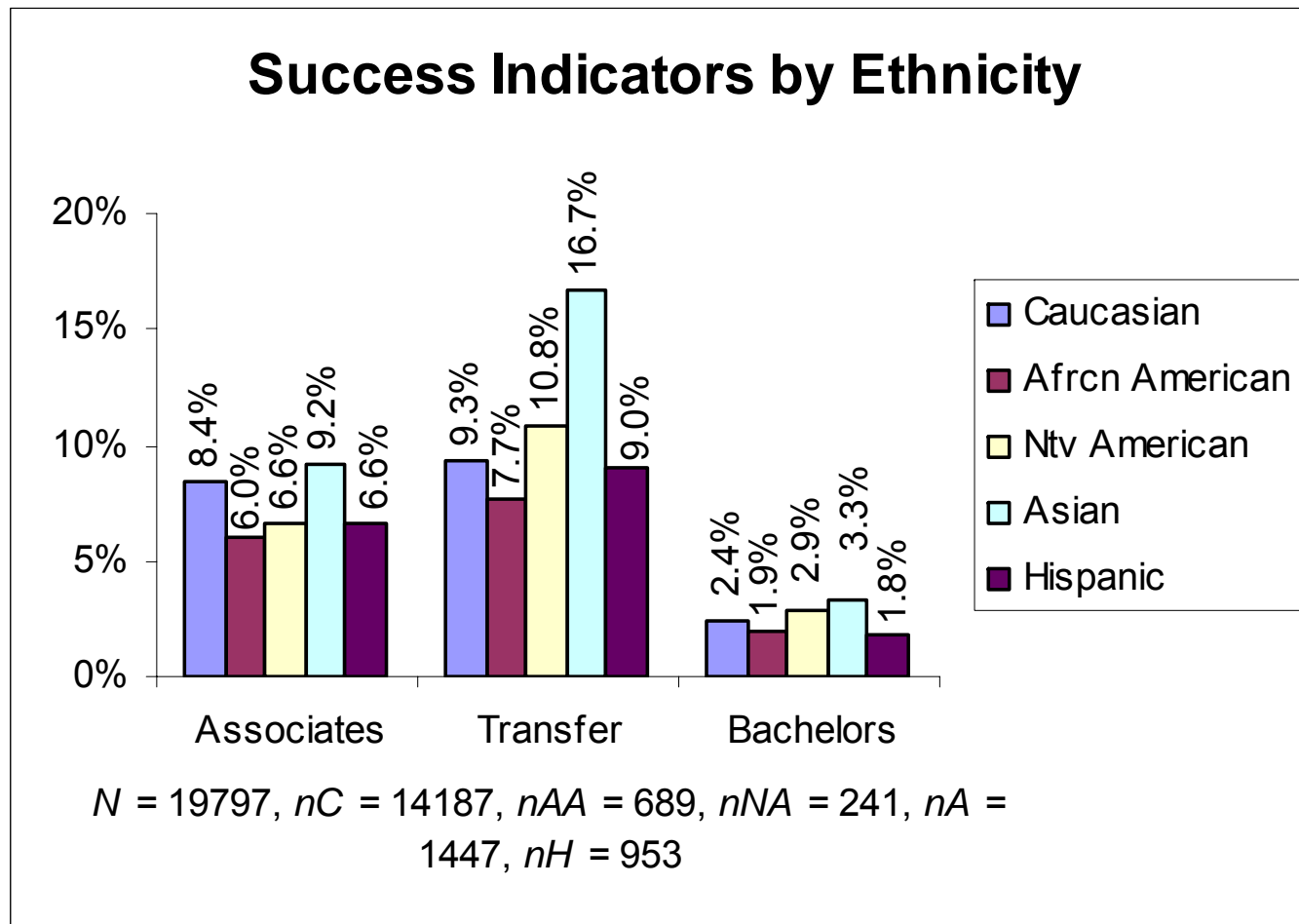
## Student Outcomes by Gender



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## Student Outcomes by Ethnicity



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## Student Enrollment Patterns

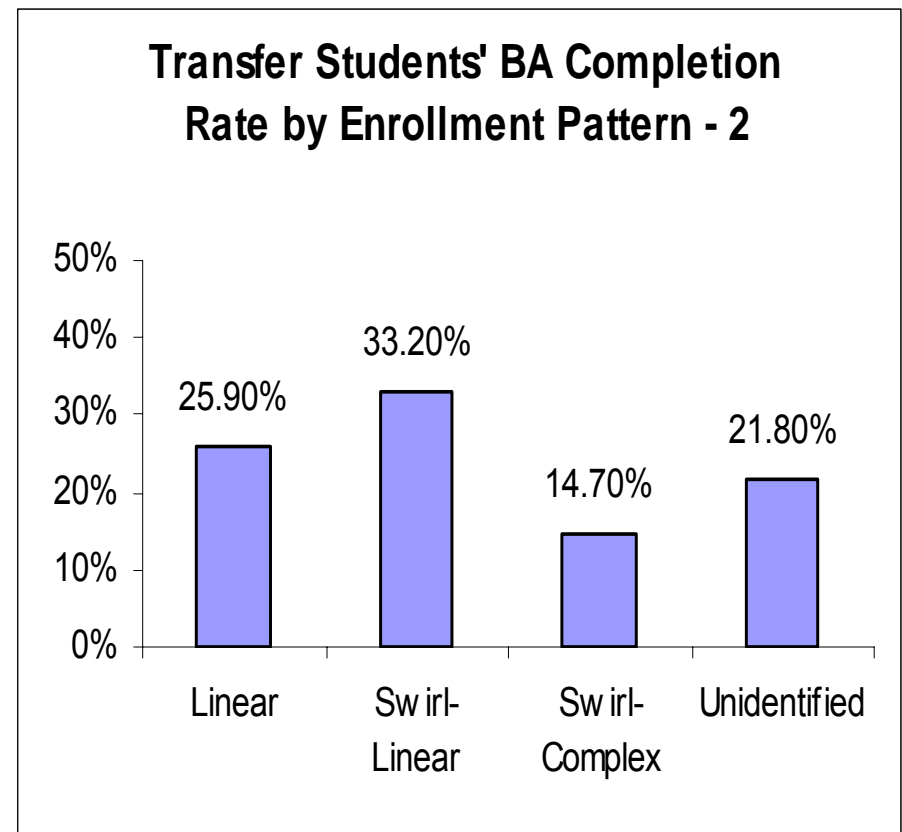
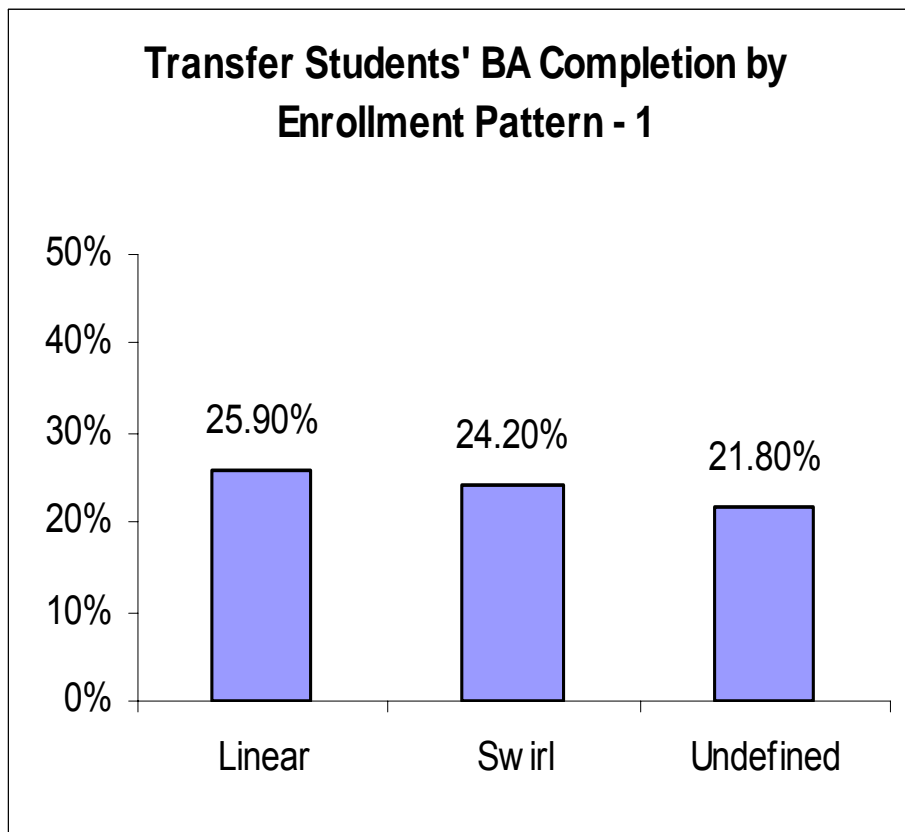
### ■ Data

- 24 Terms (6 years) worth of enrollment data
- Approx. 7,000 unique enrollment patterns

### ■ Pattern Definition

- Home CC only
- Linear
- Swirl
  - Swirl linear
  - Swirl CC
  - Swirl Complex

## BA Completion by Enrollment Pattern



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## More Coding of Student Enrollment Patterns

- Pattern Characteristics
  - Number of institutions
  - Interruptions (number, length)
  - Presence of dual-enrollment
  - Timing of transfer

## Data and Policy Interacting

- Linking Data to Policy
  - Direct links
    - Co-admission program participation
    - Orientation attendance
  - Indirect links
    - Articulation agreements
  
- Data Informing Policy

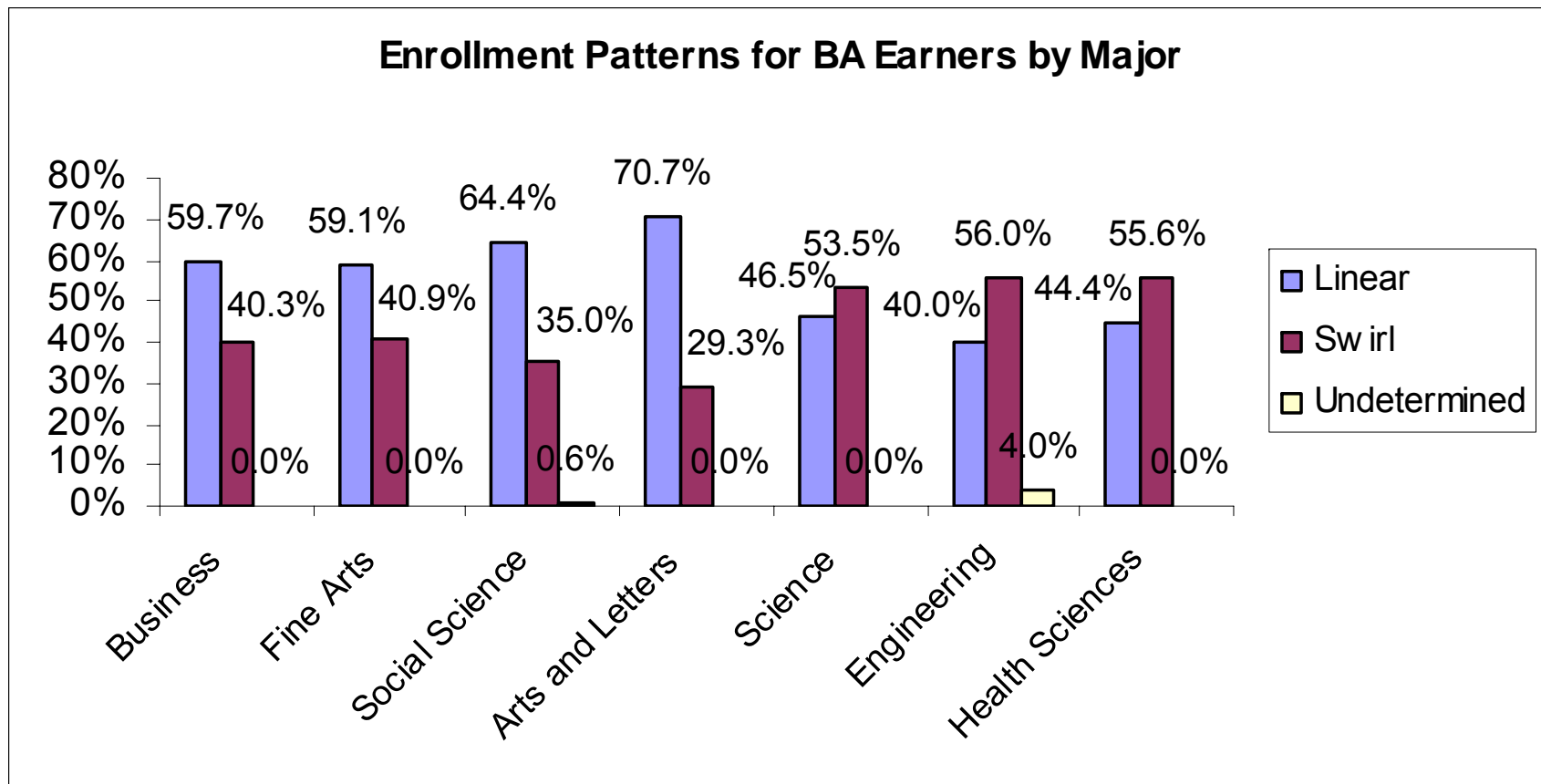
## Policy/Data Connections

Stage	Policy/Factor	Data Elements	Notes
Readiness	Financial Affordability		
	•Perception of Affordability		Not currently available
	Academic Preparedness		
	•Placement test scores	Test score	Are these available for the 1999 and 2000 cohorts?
	•Placement indicator	Math/Reading/Writing needed	Currently have data for those who took the test during Summer or Fall 1999 or 2000. If a student took the placement test during another term, that data is not reflected here yet, but can be provided.
	•Course taking behavior	Remedial course taken – term taken, grade earned	Not in the database currently, but can be provided by CCs

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## BA Majors and Articulation



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## Next Steps

- Further analysis of enrollment pattern characteristics
- Addition of course-taking data
- Tracking BA earners backward to CCs
- Direction emerging from qualitative data

## Overall Lessons

- Work with what you have
  - If research questions are important, it is better to use limited data than not to do the analysis
  - Attempting to use the limited data can be beneficial to the goals of the project
  
- Build in flexibility
  - Need to address current research questions, but allow for emerging directions

## Questions?

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