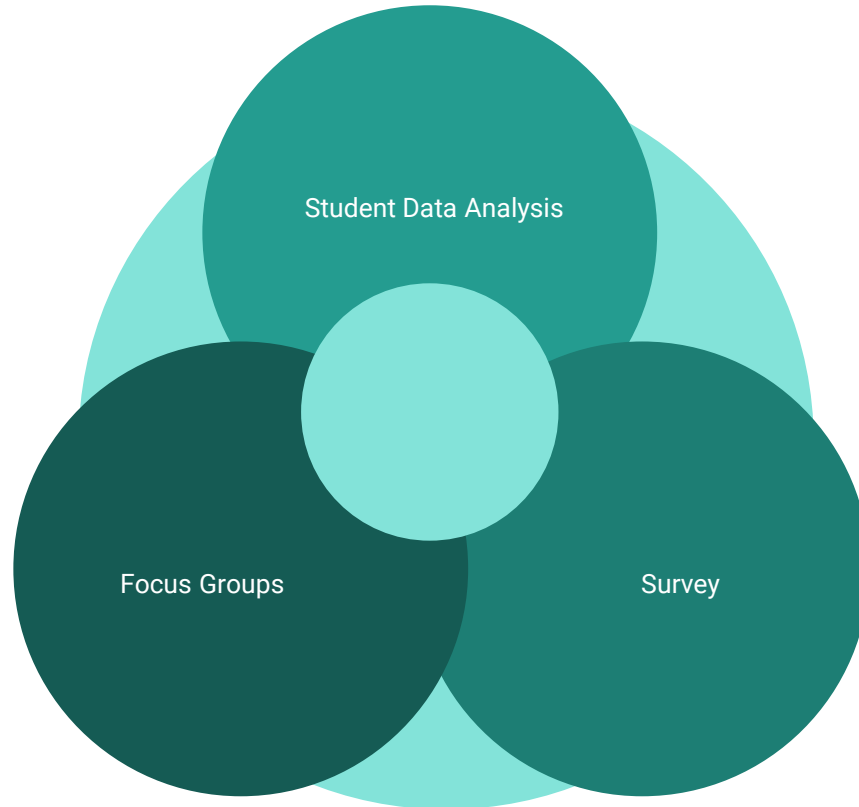


Major and Course Navigation Project Preliminary Results

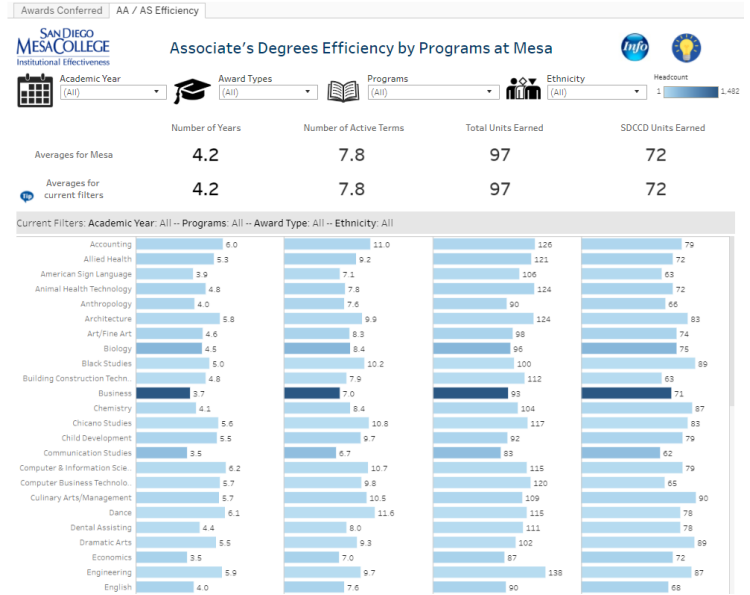
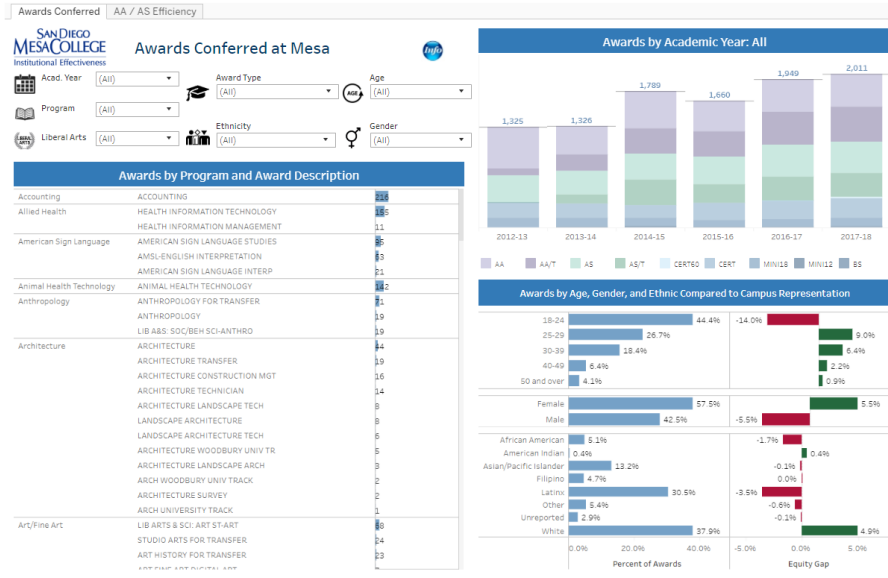
March 2019
Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Bridget Herrin
Hai Hoang
Nancy Cortes
Dr. Jennifer Garza



Mixed Method Approach



Data Tools Available



Methodology Overview

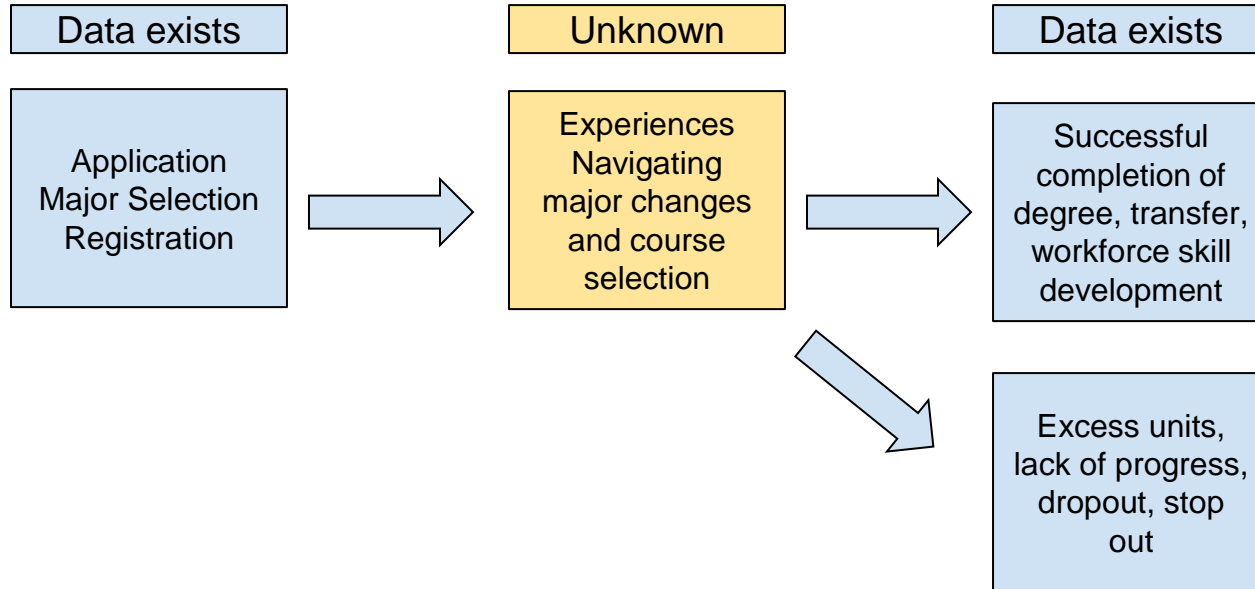
Focus Groups

- Consensus-based methodology
 - identify common issues, generate solutions, and inform decision-making.
- Facilitate structured dialogue around a narrow set of topics
 - prioritize responses and reach consensus
- 15 Focus Groups were conducted with 92 students
- Recruitment email sent to ALL students

Survey

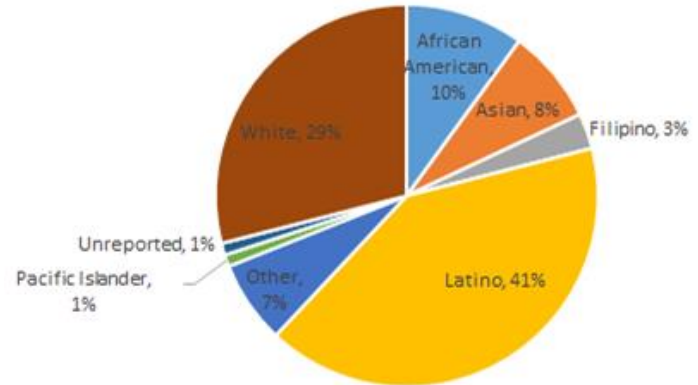
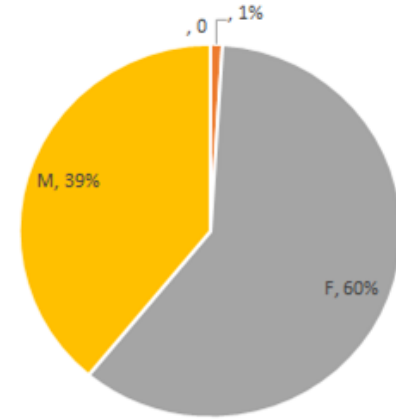
- Development based on Focus Group themes
 - Information, Challenges, Strategies
- The survey was sent to a random sample of 2,000 students who were enrolled at Mesa College during Fall 2018.
- We received 379 responses for a response rate of 19%.

The Unknown

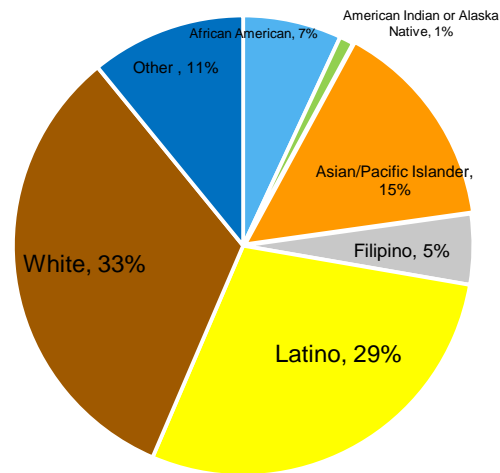
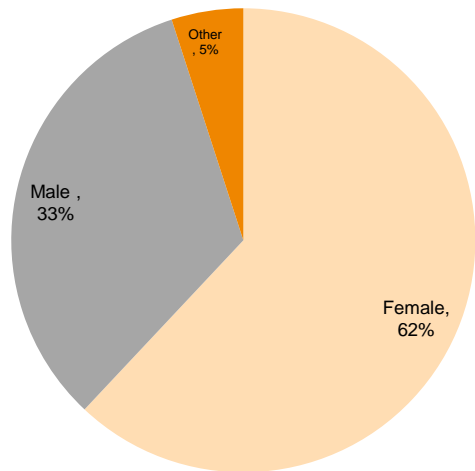


Focus Group Participants

- Target audiences: Current students, Completers, Leavers
 - 72% were current Mesa students
- $\frac{2}{3}$ reported they had not changed their major
- 25% were in their first 2 terms, 36% were in term 3 or 4
- Mixture of majors
 - 25% Social/Behavioral, 16% STEM, 12% CTE



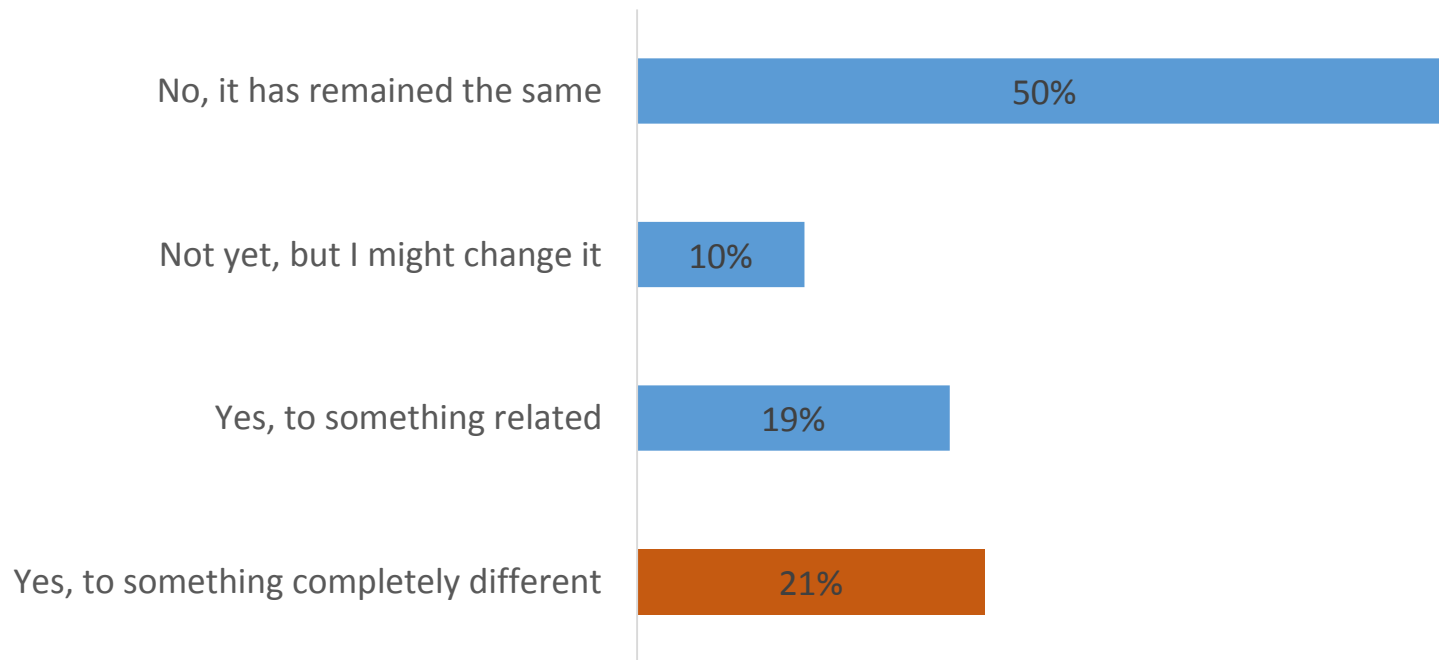
Survey Respondents



Focus Group Themes

Question	Major Themes
What information did you use to choose your major?	Career Experience in the field Passion/Interest Exploration Learning/Growth/Skill Development
How close is the major you identified on your application to what your major is today? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5= exactly the same• 3 = similar course req./skills• 1 = totally different field/req.	Average score = 3.8 5 = 57% 4 = 10% 3 = 8% 2 = 4% 1 = 21%

Has your major/educational goal changed since you first enrolled at Mesa College?



What information did you use to choose your major?

Career

“ I needed a job with a decent income potential”

Experience in the field

“I had the opportunity to go for supervisor but I needed more education...
I am reinvesting in myself”

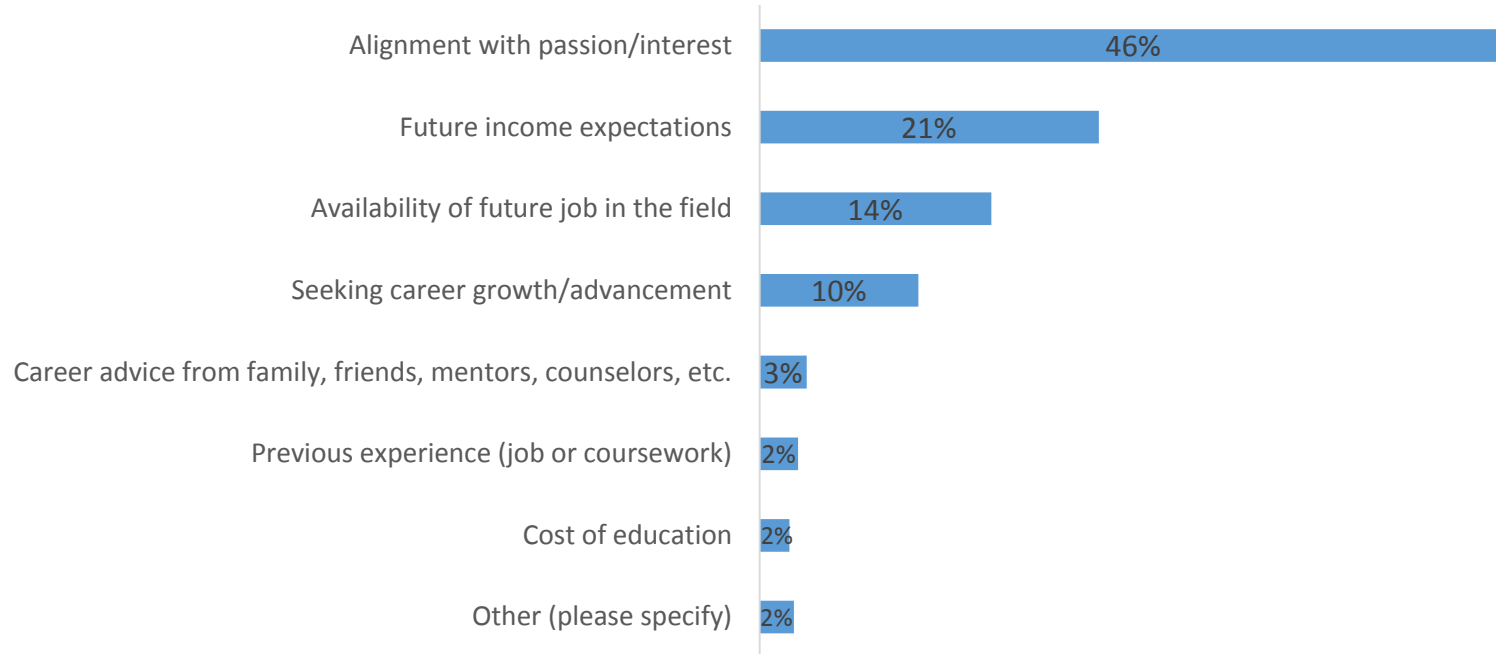
Passion/Interest

“I decided to follow my passion which is writing”

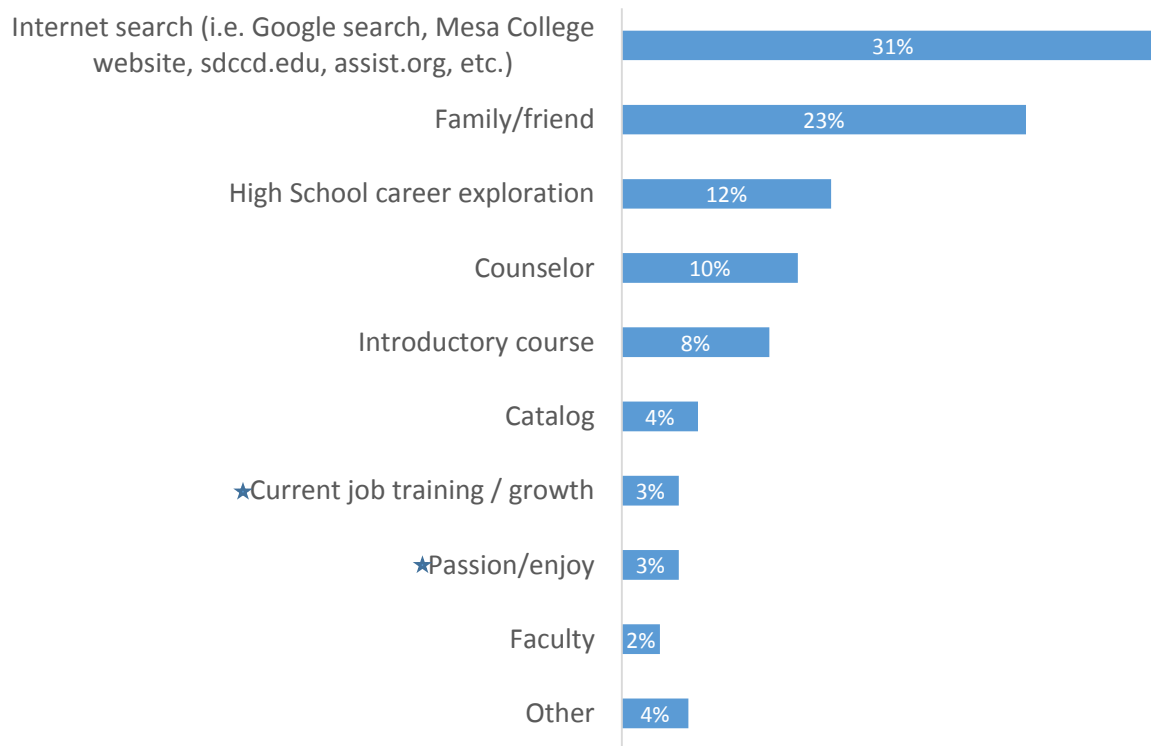
Learning/Growth/Skill Development

“I want to feel challenged”

Which of the following was the most important factor in your choice of major / educational goal?



How did you first learn about your major course of interest?



★ Grouped from "Other" categories

Think-Pair-Share

- What (if anything) surprises you?
- What is your major take-away?
- How does this inform your practice?

Challenges/Strategies

Question	Major Themes
What challenges/barriers have you faced, if any, around your major and course selection?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Class AvailabilityCommunication/InformationFinancial ChallengesTransportationExternal ResponsibilitiesCounseling ChallengesMajor Requirements
What strategies/knowledge have used to help you navigate course selection and choices around your major?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seek out InformationSee a counselorSeek out resourcesOrganize self/manage time

Most Common Challenges

Class Availability

- *“I want to take classes for my major but certain classes are only available some semesters... the classes that are available have conflicting schedules”*

Communication/Information

- *“Lack of knowledge on the best path, shortest path”*
- *“Mesa online stuff is confusing... outdated information”*

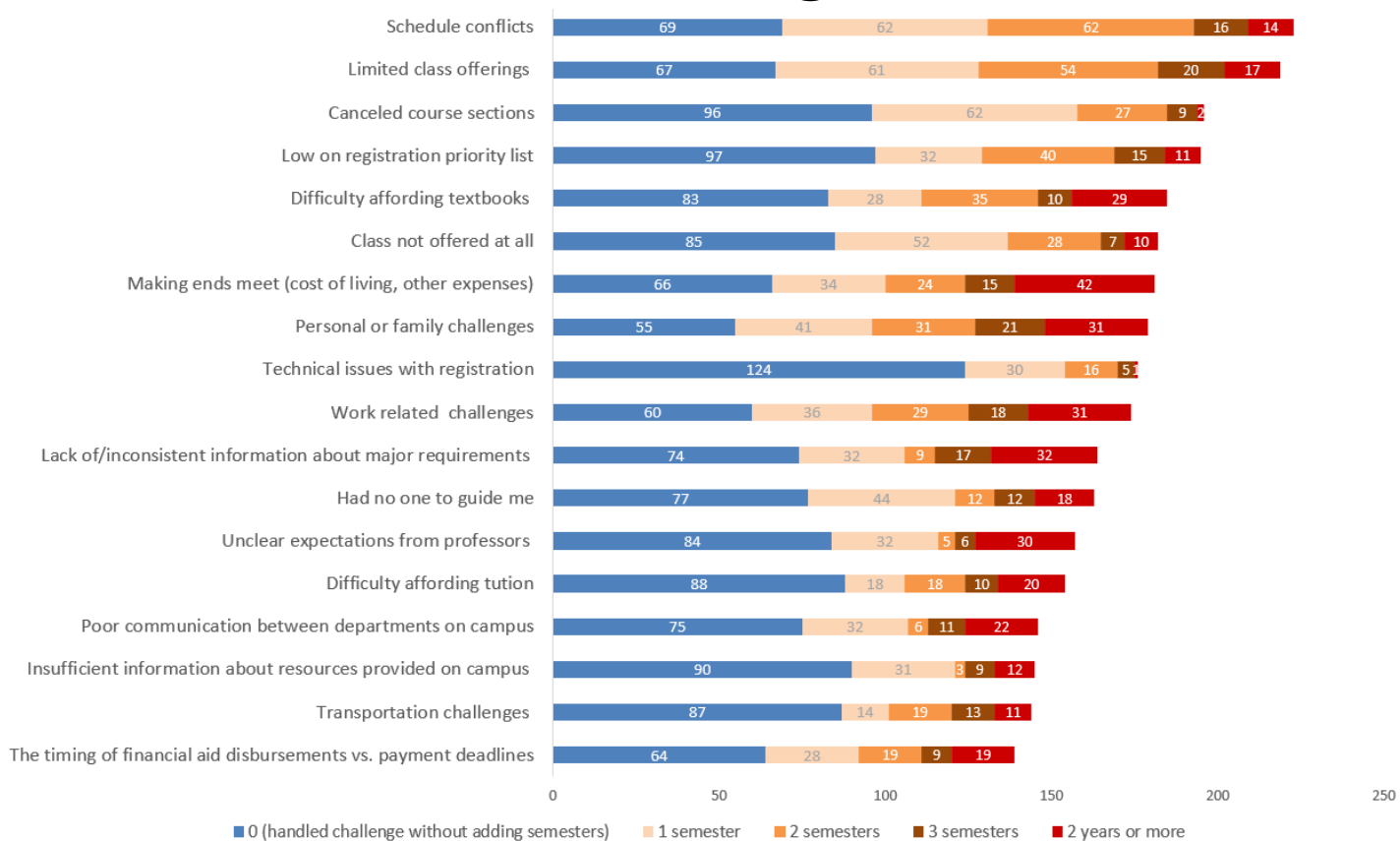
Counseling Challenges

- *“I had a Counselor tell me I needed to take something I didn’t need to take. I took it twice even though they were named differently”*

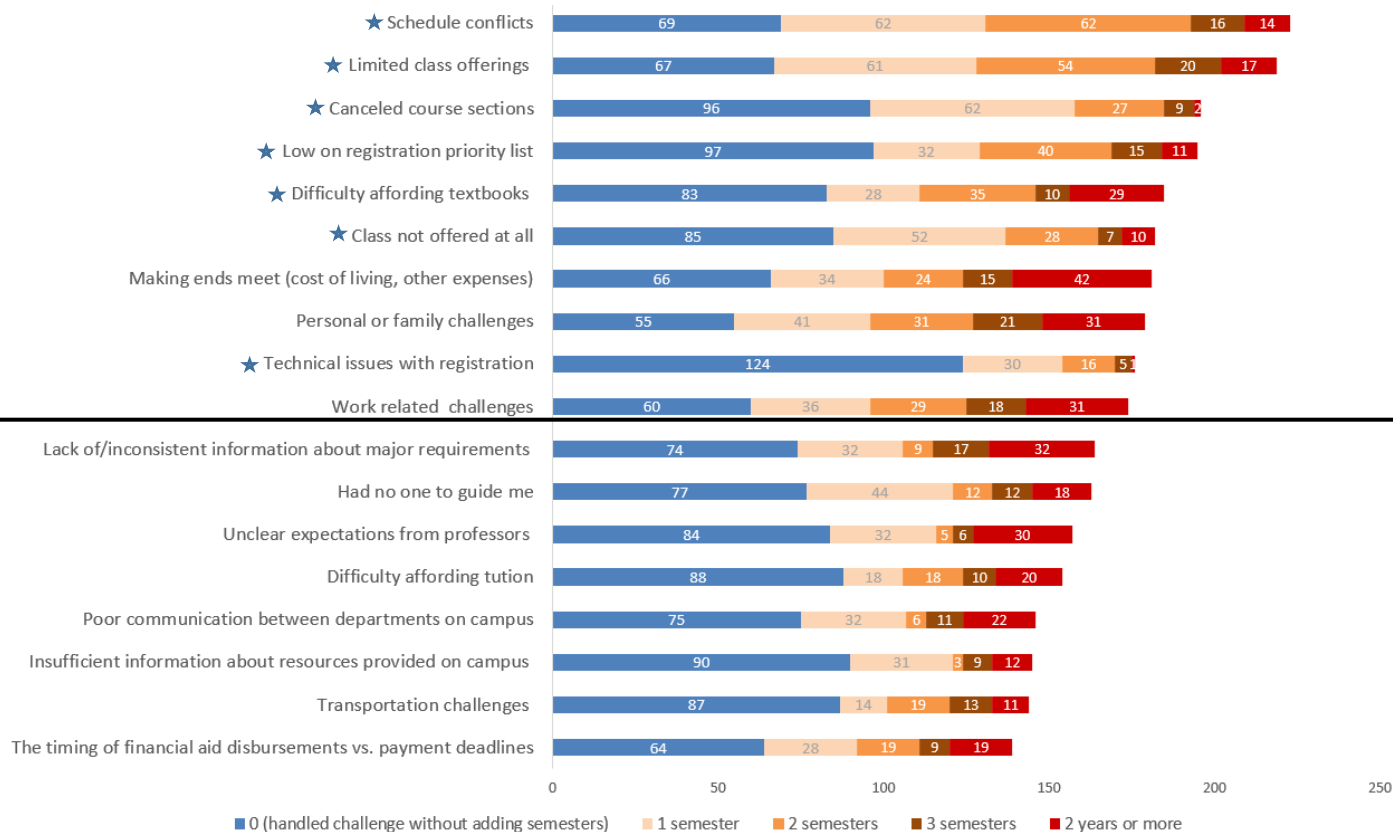
Major Requirements

- *“Not enough classes for STEM majors.”*
- *“ There needs to be more sections for required courses”*

Impact of Students' Challenges



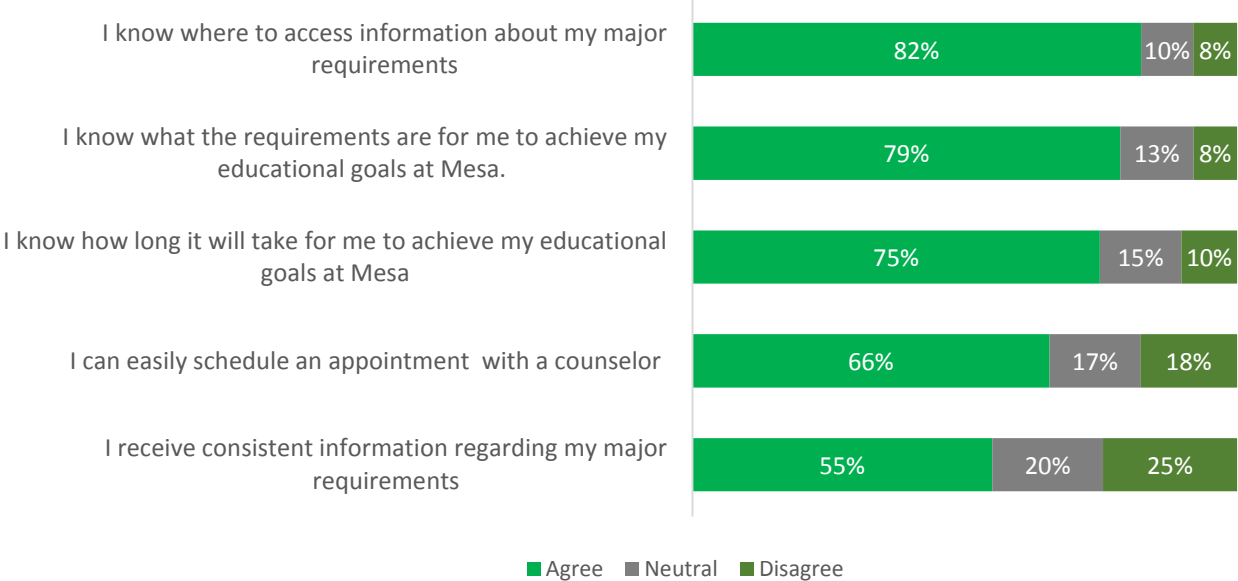
Student's Challenges – Top 10



Strategies

	Challenges	Top three strategies		
Top 3 most common	Schedule conflicts	Take other classes in the meantime (n=88)	Plan ahead (n=87)	Take classes at a different college (n=69)
	Limited class offerings	Plan ahead (n=103)	Talk to Counselor (n= 101)	Take other classes in the meantime (n=98)
	Cancelled course sections	Take other classes in the meantime (n=51)	Talk to Counselor (n=46)	Seek out information online (n=39)
Top 3 most impactful	Making ends meet	Work and go to school (n=113)	Study part-time (n=52)	Seek out alternative source of income (n=43)
	Personal or family challenges	Talk to others / ask for help (n=75)	Take online classes (n=53)	Plan ahead (n=43)
	Work related challenges	Take online classes (n=64)	Study part-time (n=54)	Talk to others / ask for help (n=47)
	Lack of / Inconsistent information about major	Talk to counselor (n=88)	Seek out information online (n=85)	Talk to faculty (n=35)

Major requirements



Think-Pair-Share

- What (if anything) surprises you?
- What is your major take-away?
- How does this inform your practice?

What's working/Recommendations

Question	Major Themes
What's working, if anything, in helping you make choices around your major and course selection? (people, programs, information, etc.)	<p>Campus Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• E.g. EOPS, DSPS, VRC <p>Tutoring Counseling Equity Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• STAND, Farmer's Market
What suggestions do you have to college leadership to improve the supports/services around Major and course selection?	<p>Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved access to, more consistent, more reliable <p>Low/no Cost options for services/supplies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Texts, access codes, parking <p>Counseling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required, Specialized, more access, more reliable <p>Schedule</p>

Programs Helpfulness

Programs	Heard of it and used it (unhelpful resources)	Heard of it and used it (helpful resources)	Heard of it, but never used it	It does not apply to me	Never heard of it
Program 1					
...					
.....					
Program 29					
TOTAL	221	1001	1446	824	3275

Program/Service Usage

- 26 of 29 programs had usage of less than 30%
 - Only 3 Programs had usage above 50%
- 13 programs with more than 50% of students indicating they had never heard of it

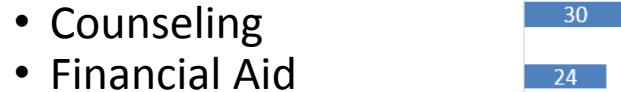
Programs	Heard of it and used it (unhelpful resource)	Heard of it and used it (helpful resource)	Heard of it, but never used it	It does not apply to me	Never heard of it	Total
<i>Sort by "Heard of it and used it (helpful resource)"</i> <i>Highlights are the top 2 program per each category</i>						
Counseling Center	13%	69%	14%	3%	2%	100%
Library Services	4%	63%	16%	6%	12%	100%
Financial Aid	10%	53%	21%	11%	3%	100%
Health Services	4%	22%	54%	5%	15%	100%
Transfer Center	4%	22%	38%	6%	29%	100%
MT2C/Tutoring	5%	20%	28%	9%	38%	100%
Career Center	6%	17%	57%	8%	13%	100%
Testing Center	4%	17%	28%	9%	42%	100%
Evaluations	8%	16%	22%	9%	46%	100%
STEM Center	1%	14%	33%	5%	48%	100%
EOPS	4%	12%	31%	19%	33%	100%
The Stand	1%	12%	11%	4%	72%	100%
Peer Navigator	5%	11%	12%	7%	64%	100%
Promise	2%	11%	9%	9%	69%	100%
Disability (DSPS)	3%	9%	30%	39%	19%	100%
Veterans	3%	9%	19%	41%	28%	100%
CRUISE	1%	9%	13%	5%	72%	100%

Programs Helpfulness: Top Programs by Categories

- **Heard of it and used it (helpful services)**



- **Heard of it and used it (unhelpful services)**



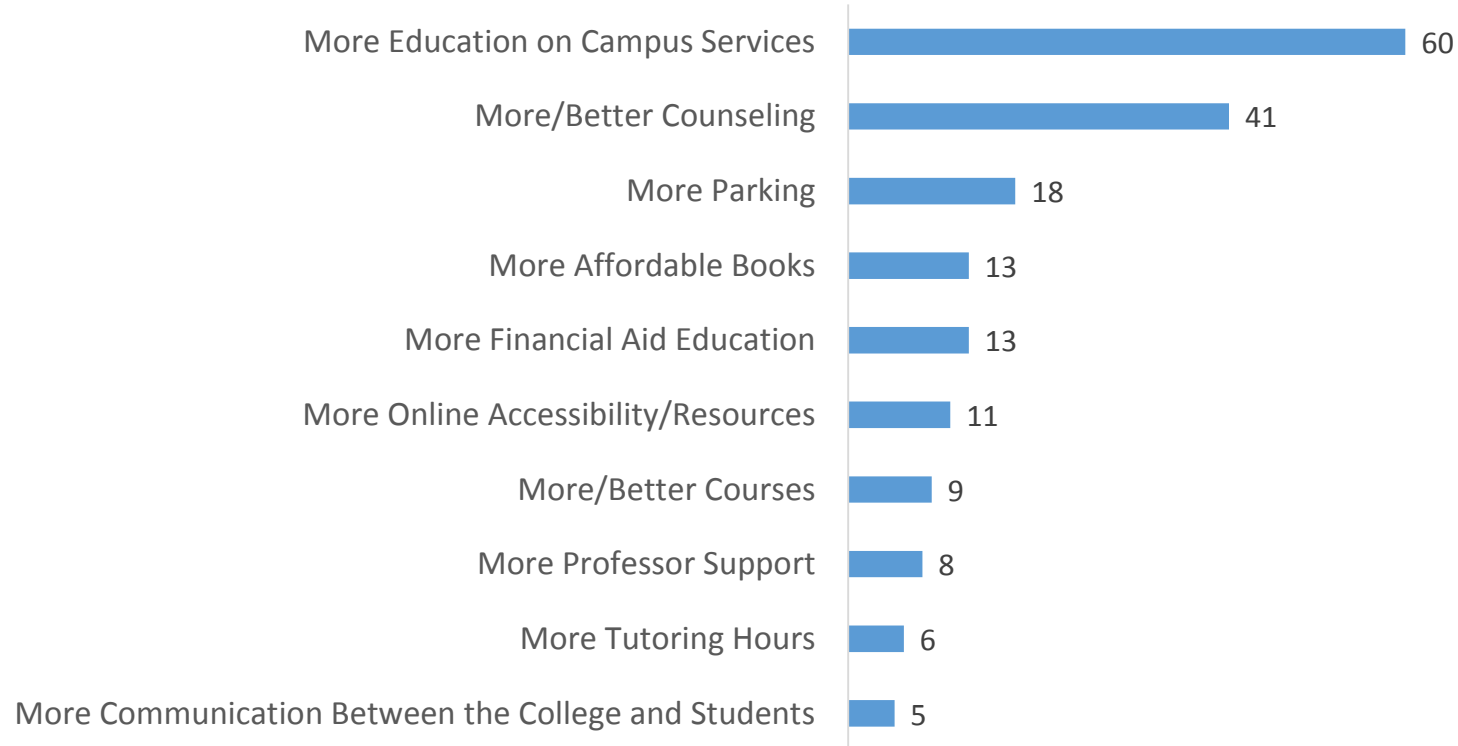
- **Heard of it but never used it**



- **Never heard of it**



What would you change at Mesa to benefit the greatest number of students?



Think-Pair-Share

- What (if anything) surprises you?
- What is your major take-away?
- How does this inform your practice?

Wrap-up

- What is working? Not working?
- How can we use these data while we design Guided Pathways?
 - What is 1 thing we can do differently?
- What else do we want to know?