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## BACKGROUND

Historically high graduation rates

31 out of 41 majors: high entry requirements

An exploratory study

Goal: Developing a nuanced understanding of premajor experiences and premajor-to-major status change

Goal: Identifying possible structural changes to curriculum offerings, advising strategies and initiatives to support students' progress to graduation

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Terms in premajor status, terms to degree once admitted to major, terms to degree total

2. Cumulative GPAs each term as a premajor, vis-a-vis required major GPA

3. Major change at all? Major change pattern?

4. Course repeats at all? Bottlenecking courses?

5. Earned units as a premajor vs. as a major?

6. Most recent transfer institutions?

## METHODS

2010 2011 2012

First-Time Freshmen Cohorts (N = 1265)

Declared and graduated as a PSFA major

2012 2013 2014

Transfers Cohorts (N = 1786)

Analysis

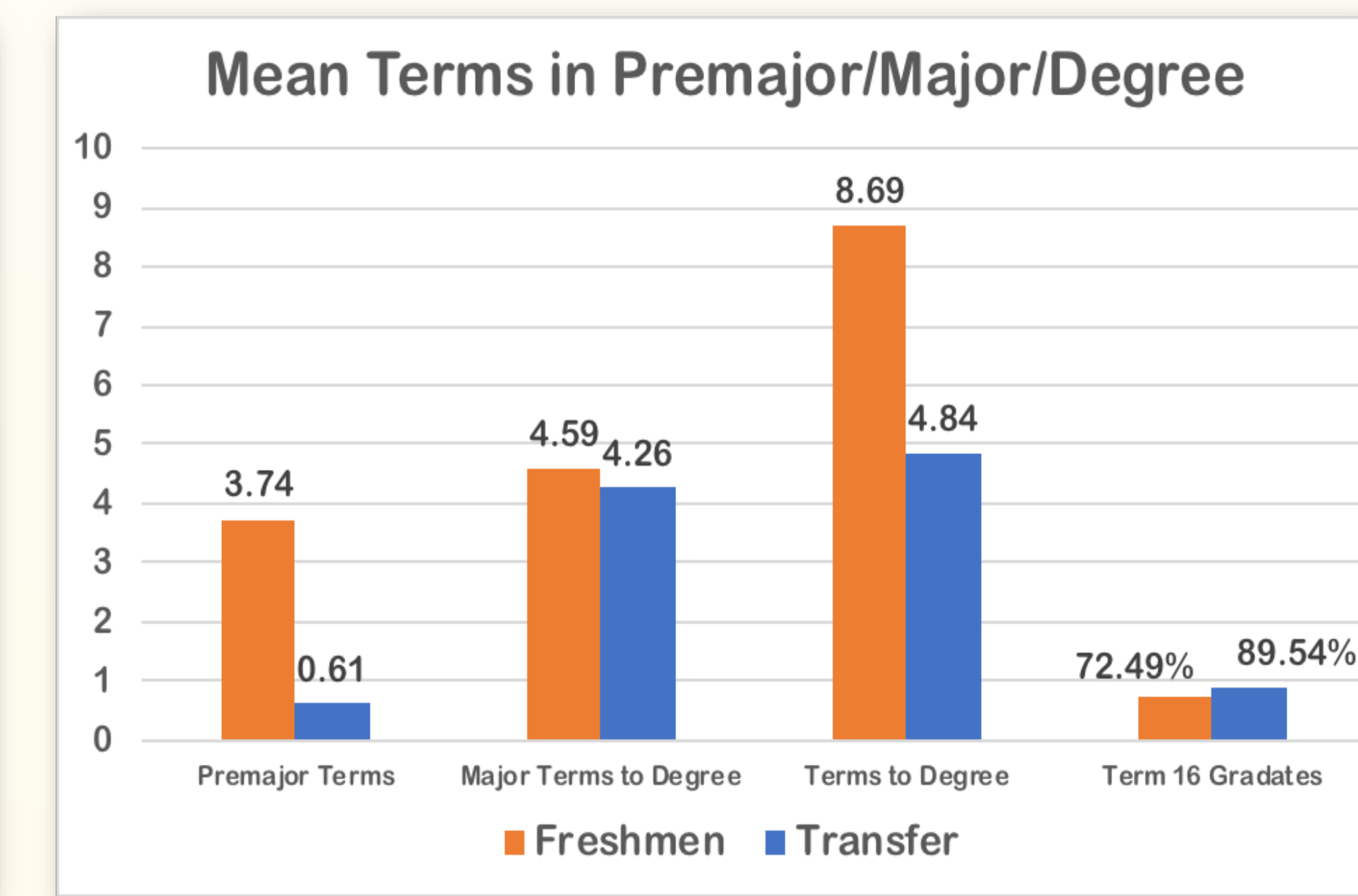
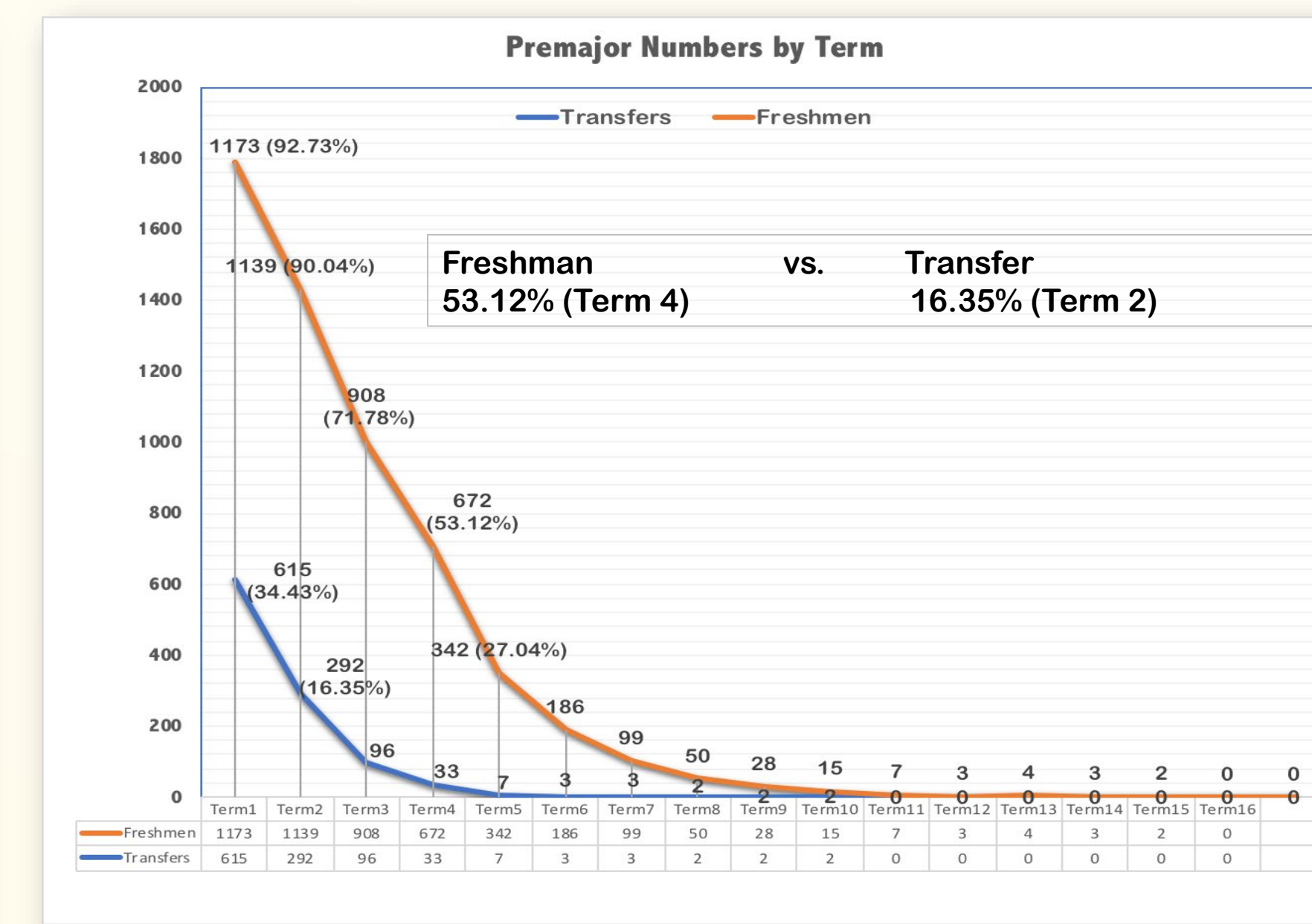
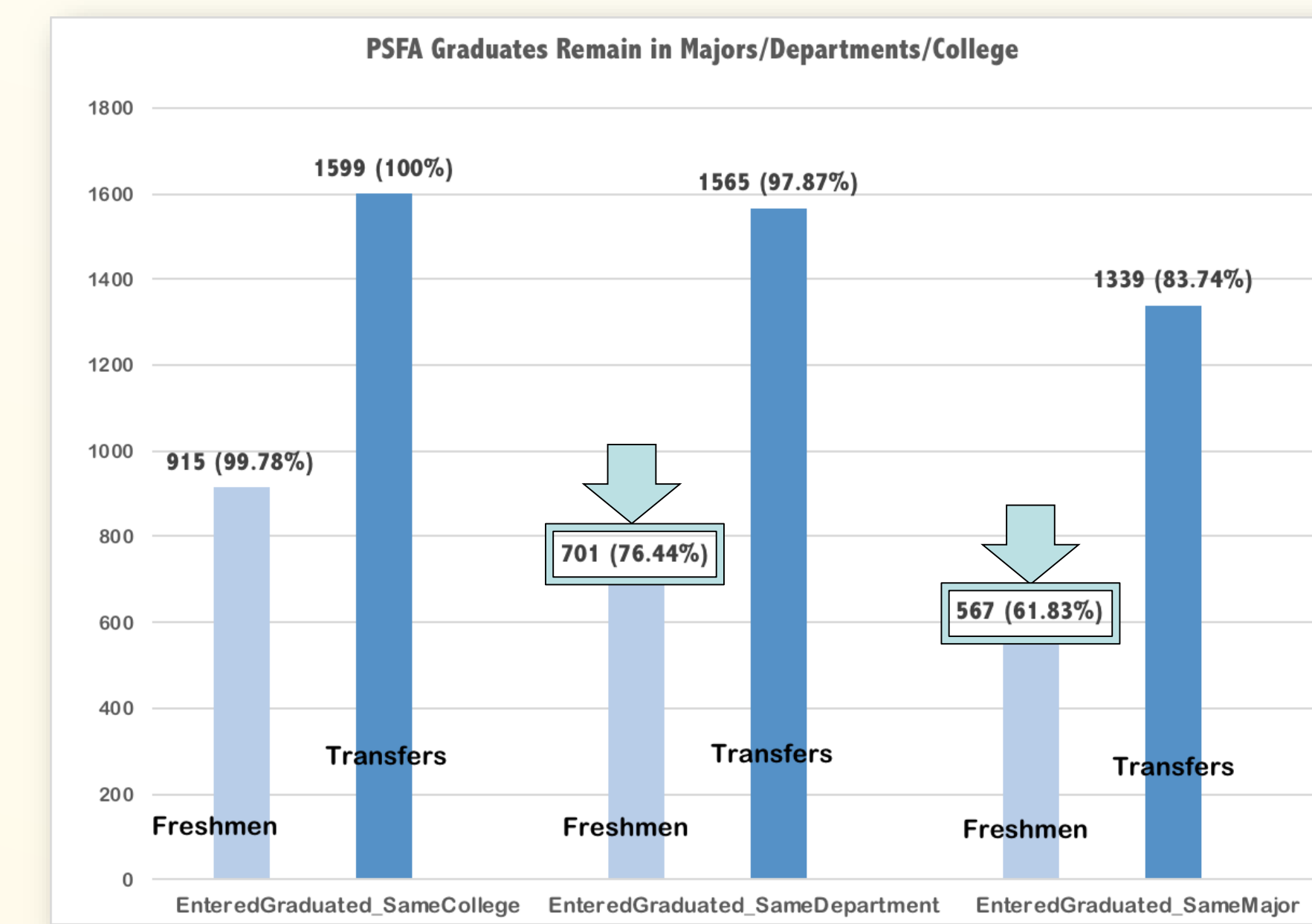
Python

Excel

SPSS

## FINDINGS

Premajor/Graduate Trends: Primarily within-PSFA Migration; Longer in Premajors/Majors, Later to Graduate

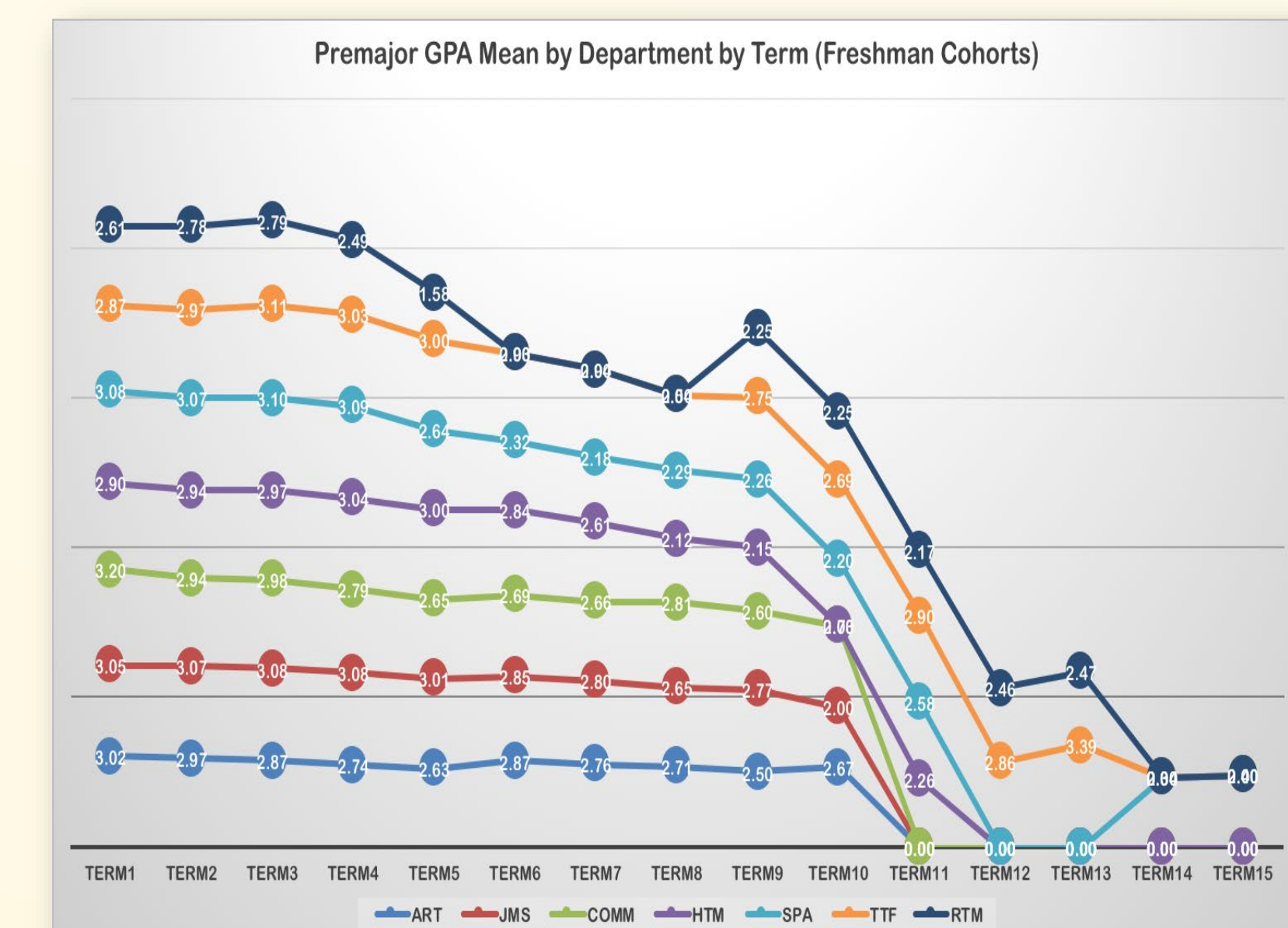


Correlating premajor & major terms to degree with terms to degree: all significant

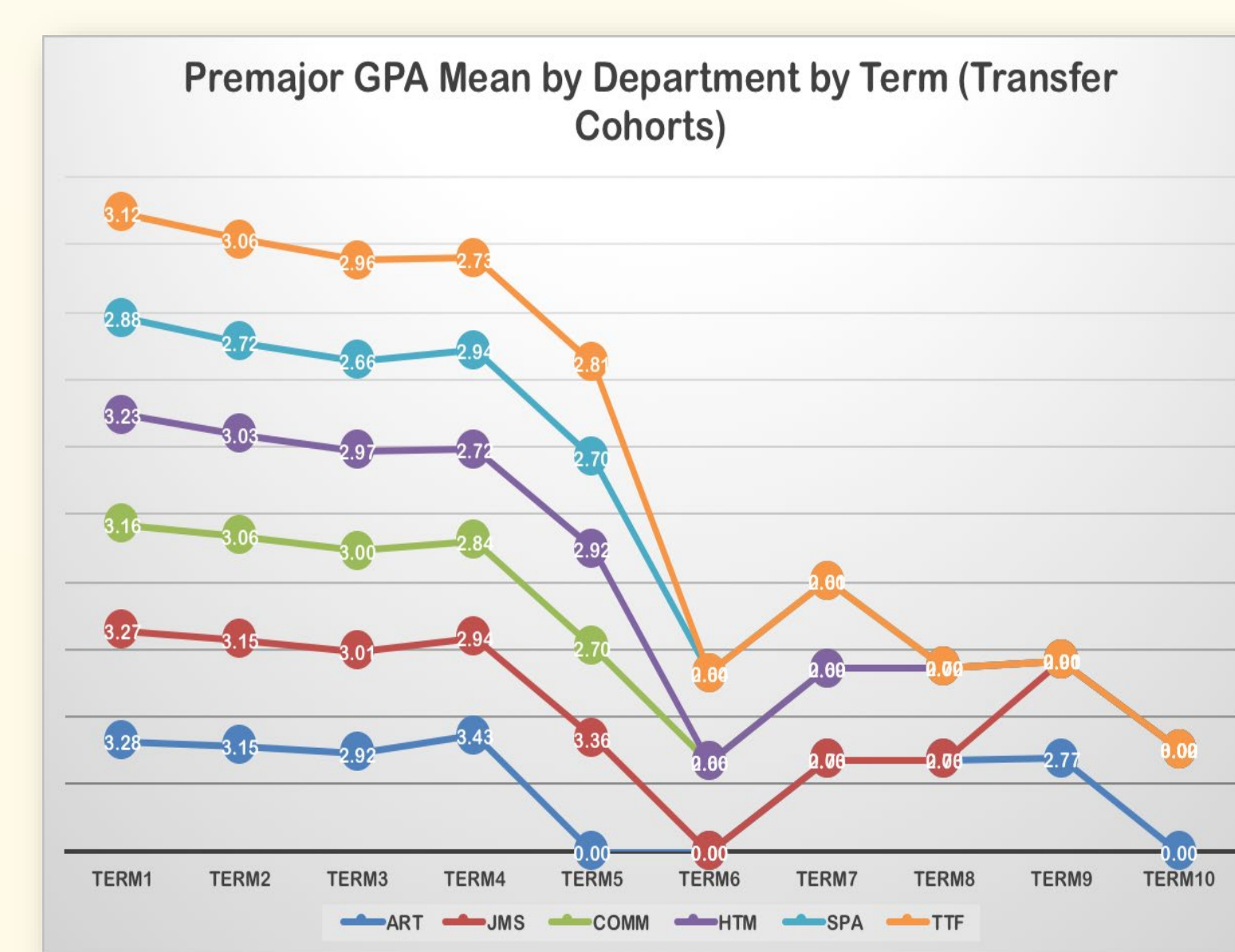
□ Freshmen:  $r_{\text{premajor terms \& terms to degree}} = .36$ ,  $r_{\text{major terms \& terms to degree}} = .07$ ,  $p < .00$

□ Transfers:  $r_{\text{premajor terms \& terms to degree}} = .21$ ,  $r_{\text{major terms \& terms to degree}} = .75$ ,  $p < .00$

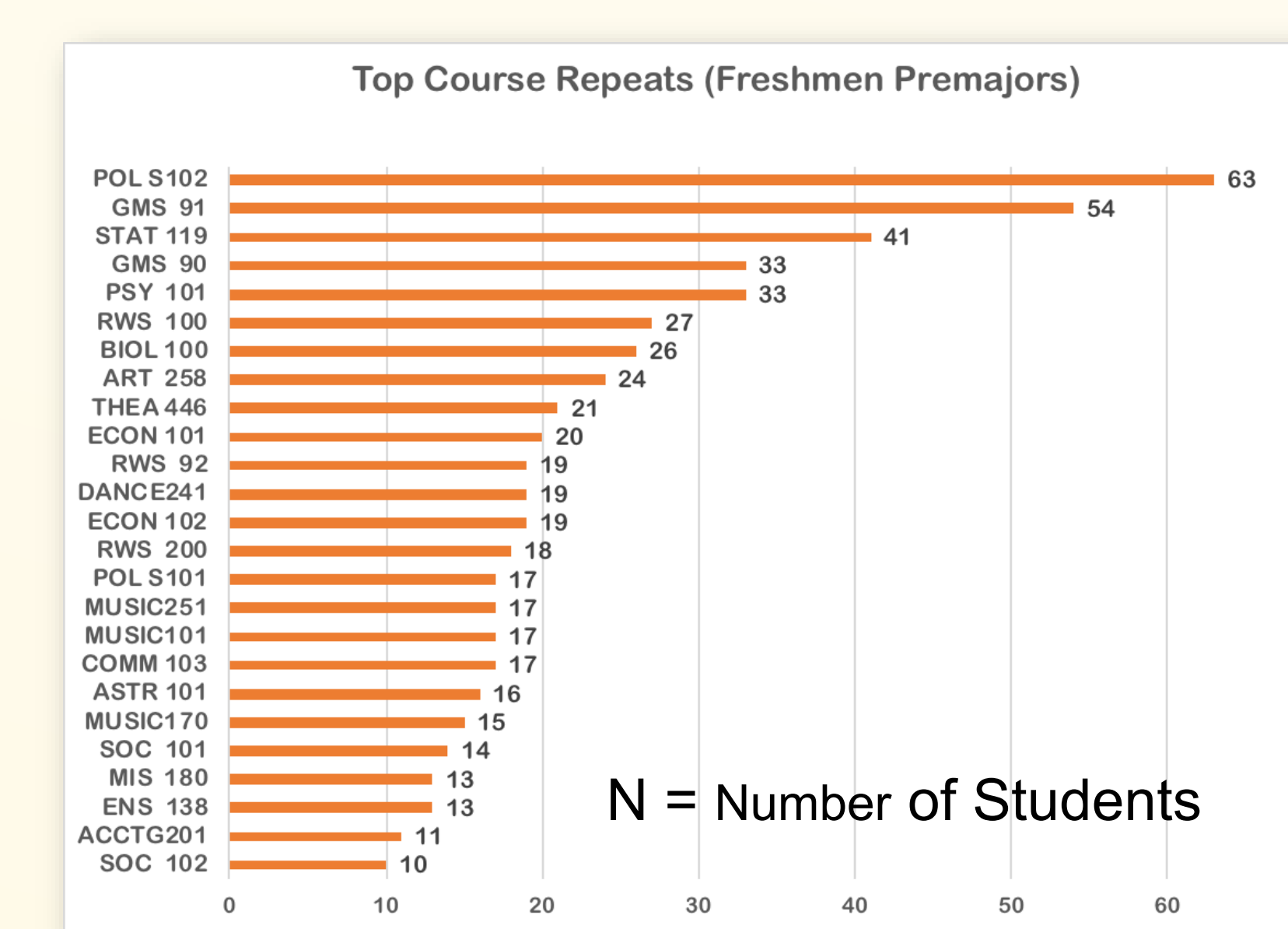
Potential Culprits: GPA, Course Repeat, Major Change, Units, Demographics



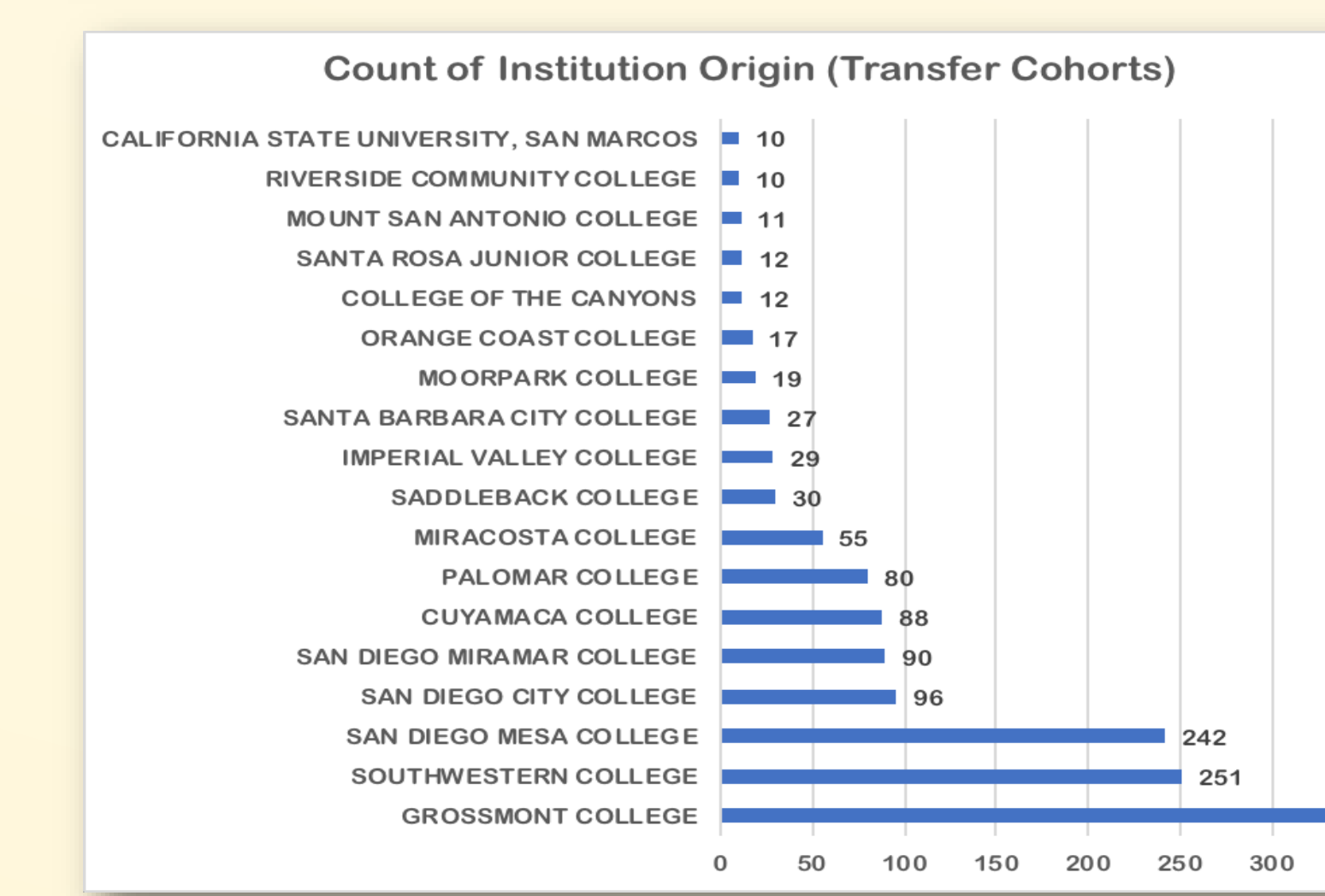
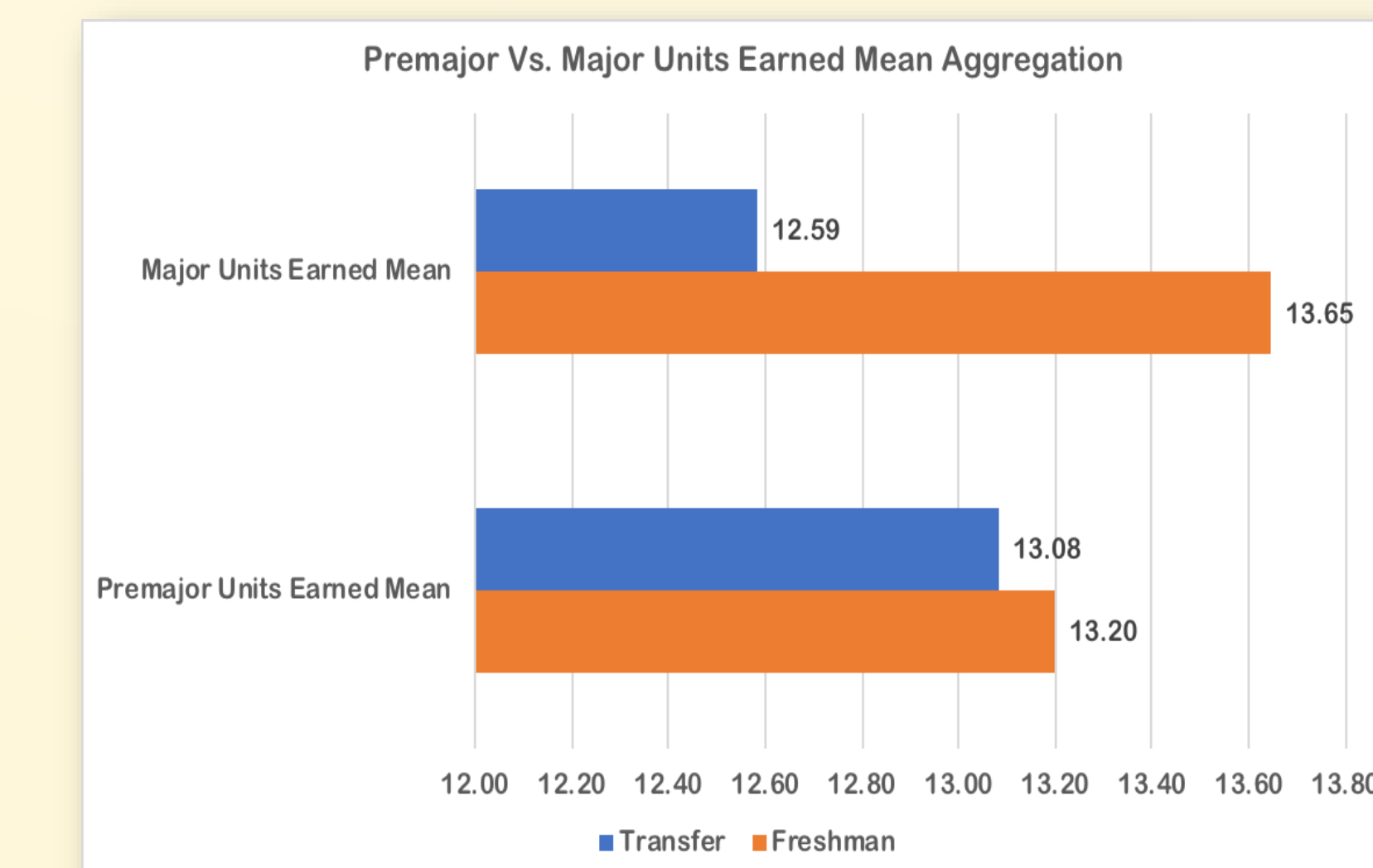
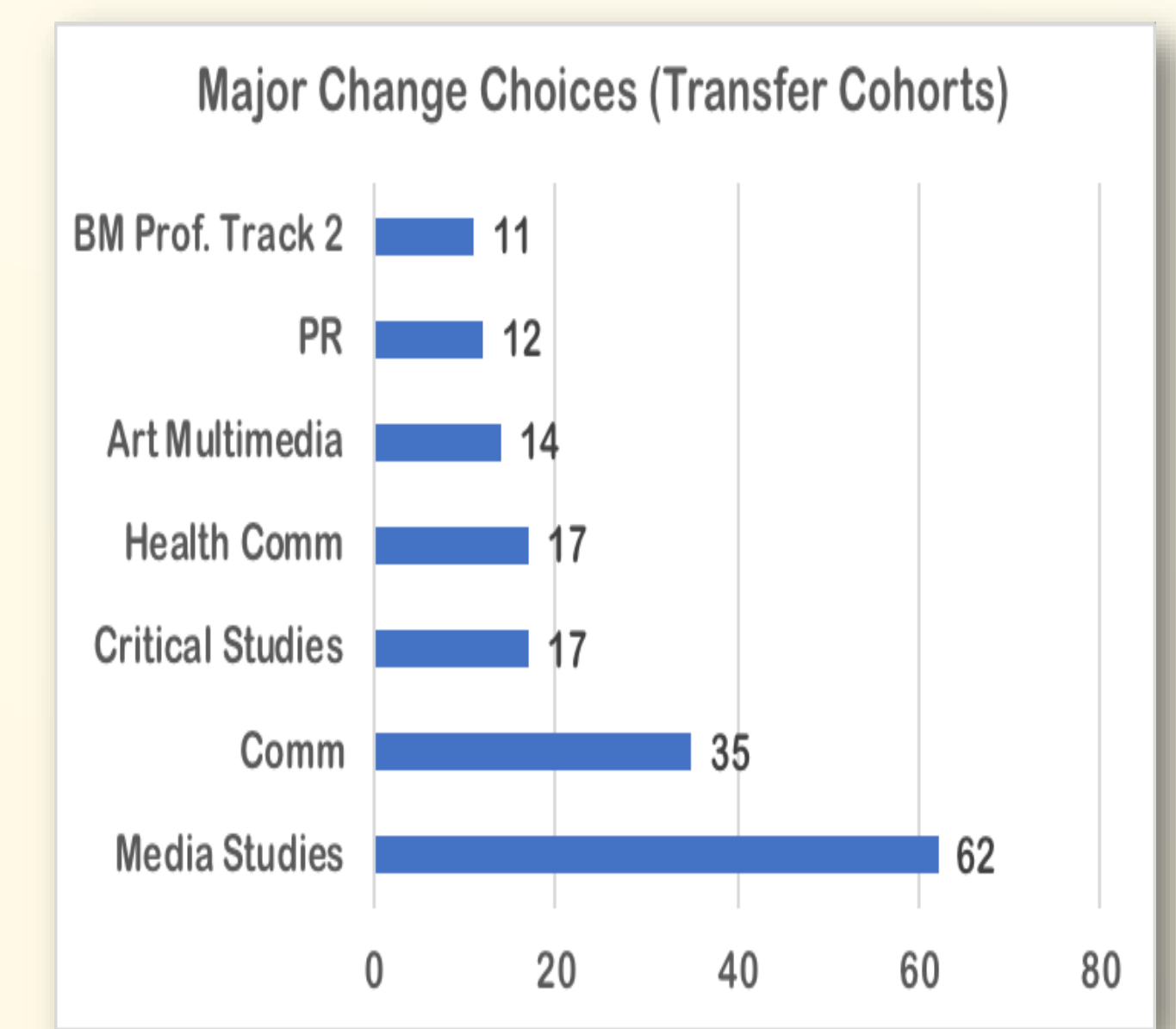
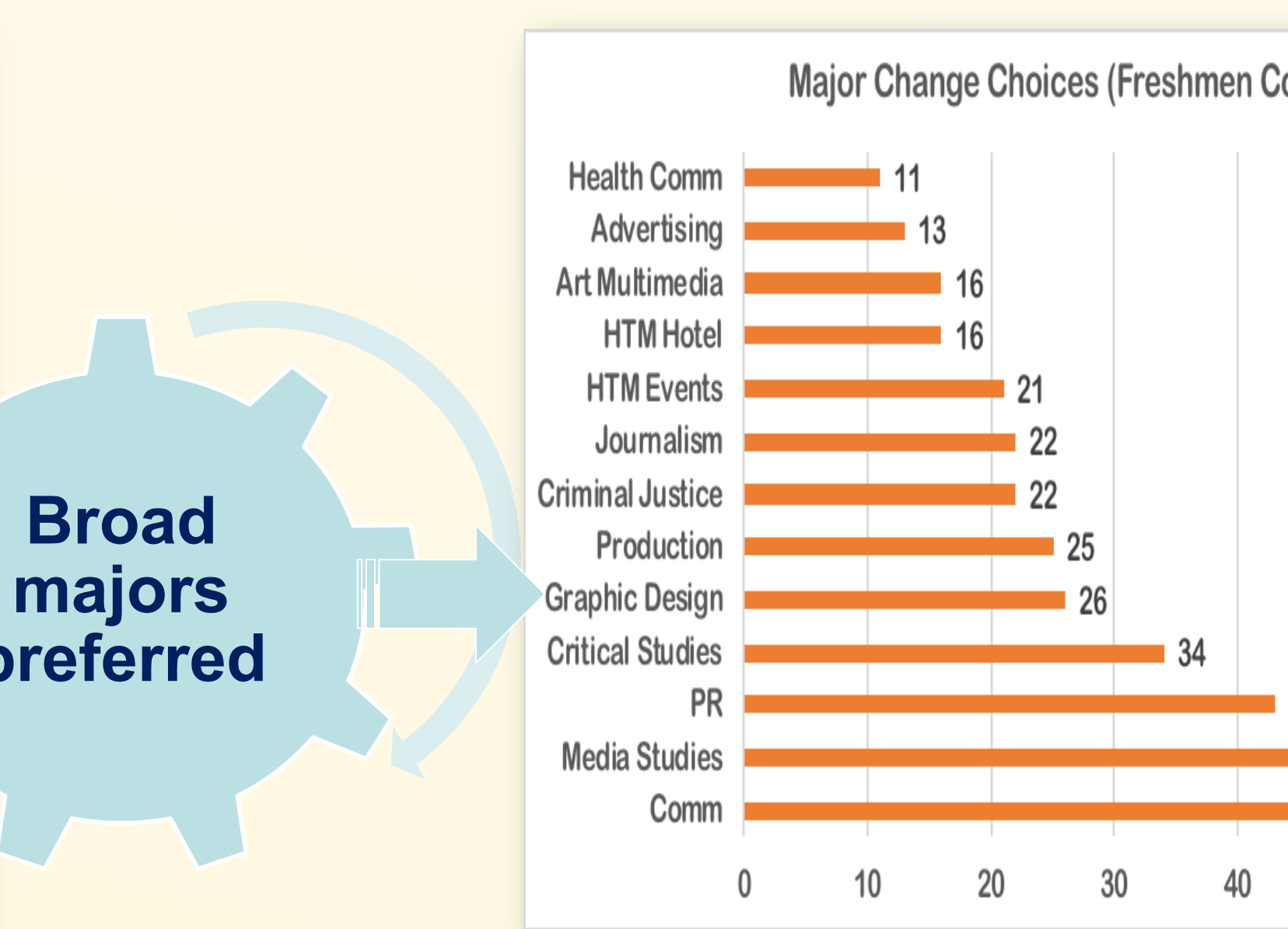
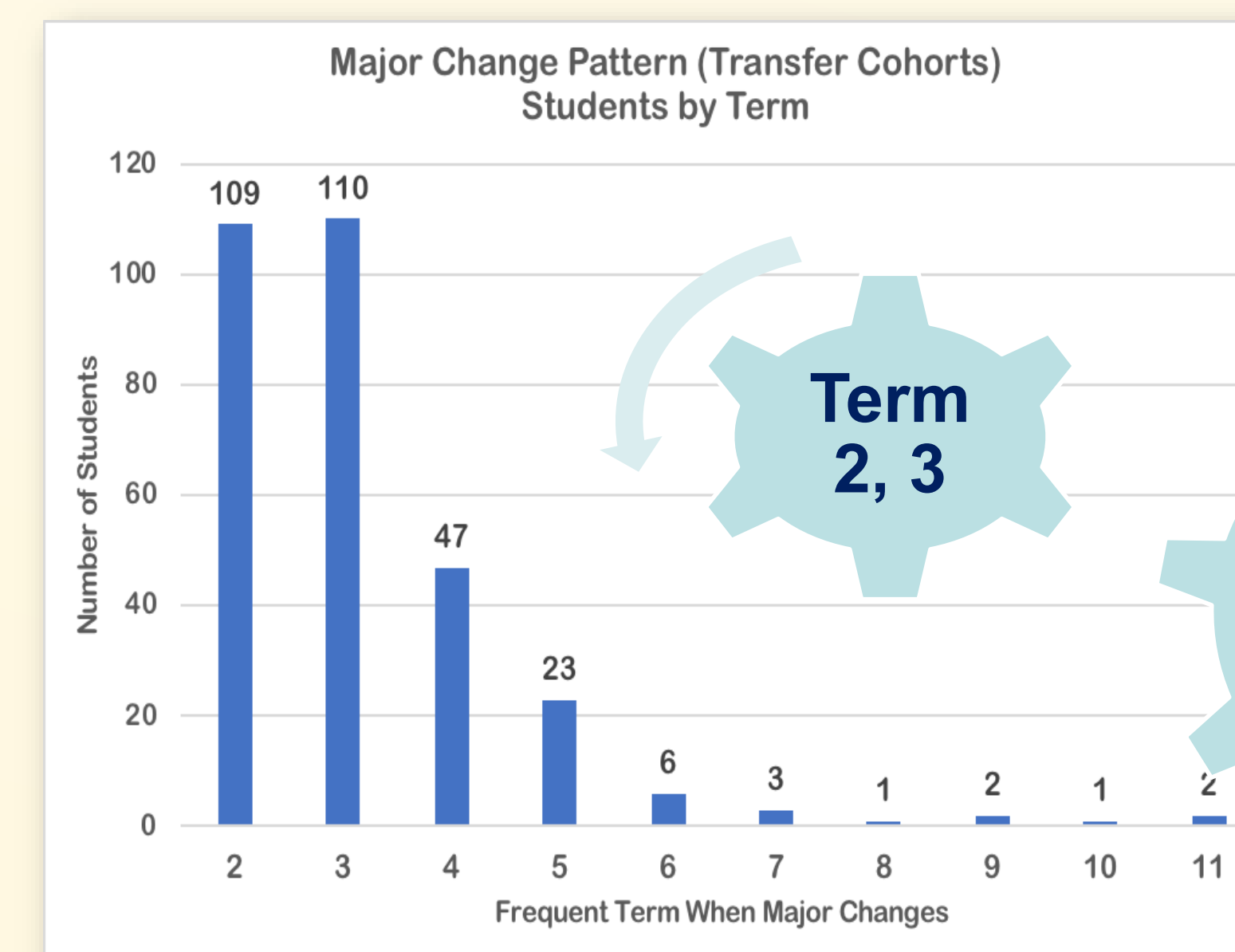
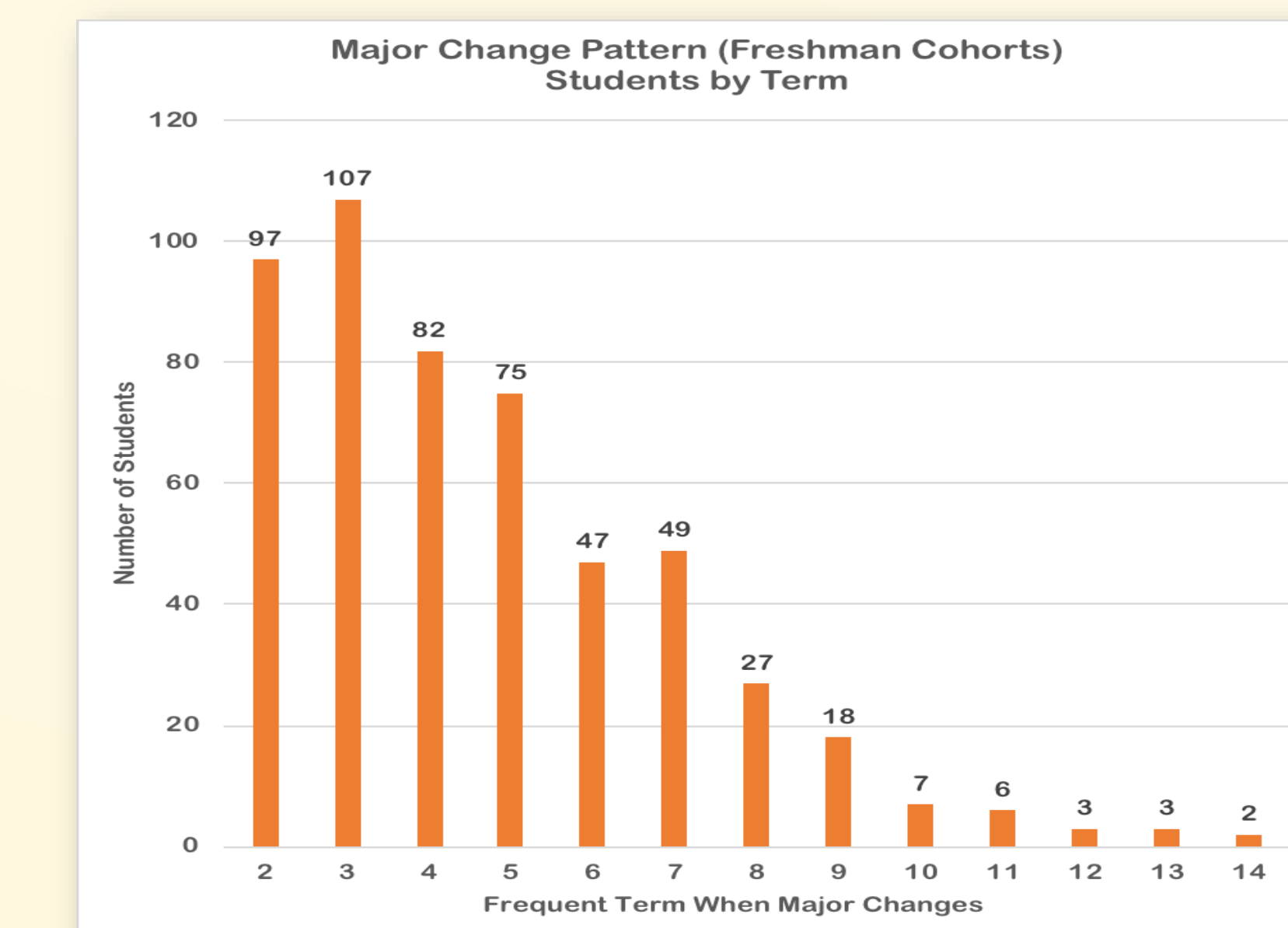
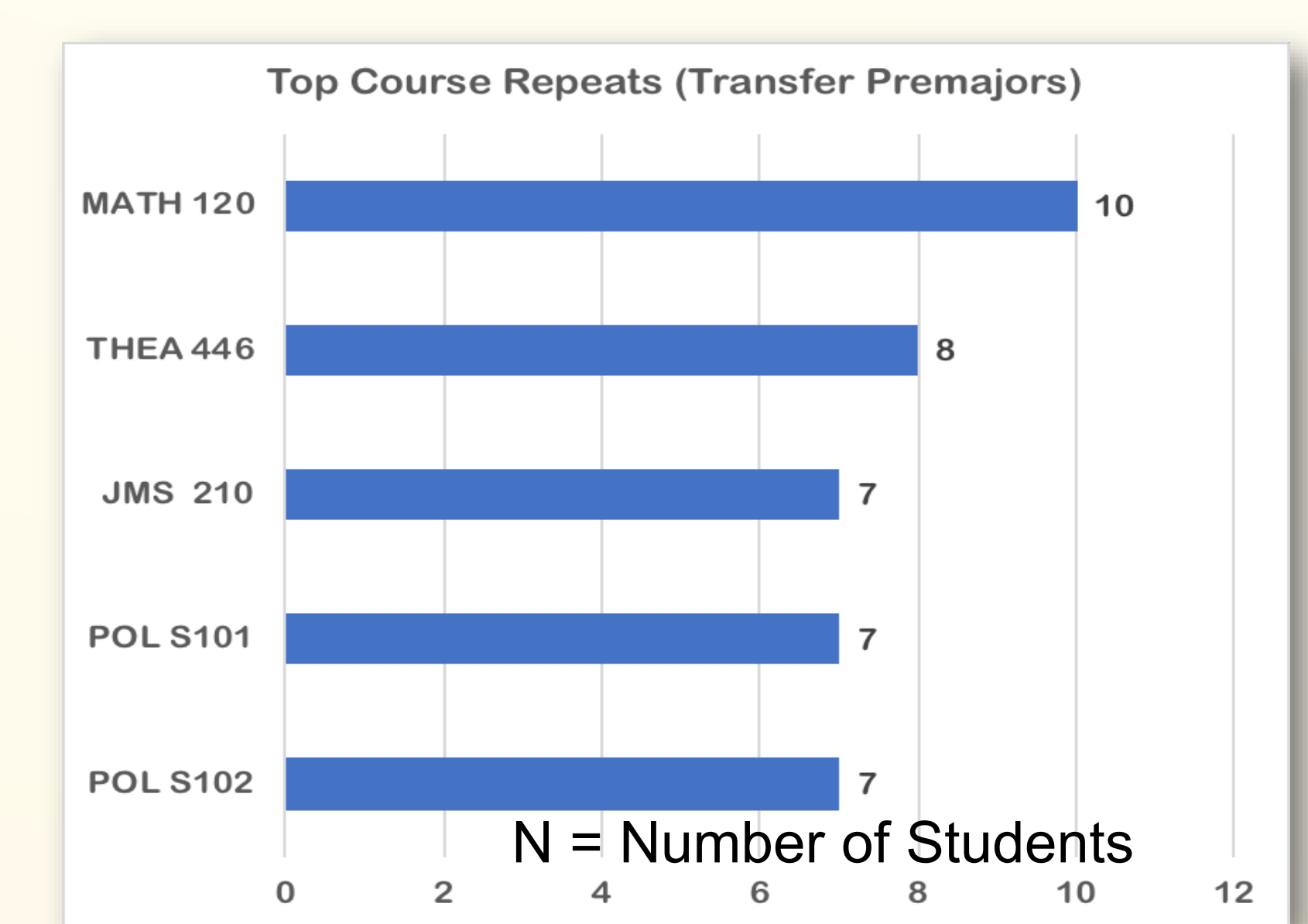
Prolonged premajor status



Some lower than required GPAs



Mostly lower-level course repeats



## IMPLICATIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Curriculum: Review and streamline premajor requirements; Examine course repeats; Align premajor requirements to class schedules to MyMaps (Data Champions 2018 finding).

Advising: Align and develop resources to focus on premajors (early advising on major change, earlier completion of preparation for major, unit load increase to 15 units/semester)

Transfer Success: Targeted outreach and streamlined articulations

Resources needed: Faculty assigned time; Funding full-time advising services particularly for premajors; Transition advising for incoming transfer students

Demographics:

URM/Hispanic/ Student of Color

Gender/First-Gen

Housing\*/Part-time/Probation ever

► Premajor terms  
► Major terms to degree  
► Terms to degree total

□ No sig. impact (ANOVAs)

□ Freshmen: campus housing = 3.66 vs. no = 3.89 premajor terms,  $p = .05$