



Stopout Student Advocacy and Support

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What is a stopout student?

Students who chose to leave the University

- Non-continuous enrollment
- Were not academically dismissed
- Did not graduate

Context

UC Merced serves an undergraduate population that is majority pell-eligible and first generation (defined as neither parent having a four-year degree)

UC Merced has a committee focused on stopout students with two goals:

- 1) Create a degree completion pathway for stopouts
- 2) Identify strategies to support and advocate for students to prevent stopping out

Learning Outcomes

- Learn strategies for conducting research on stopout students by using institutional data, National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data and survey data.
- Learn strategies for engaging in data discussions with campus committees to turn research findings into initiatives that advocate for and support all students.

Conducting Research on Stopout Students



Research Question Examples

- Institutional & NSC data: The “What?”
 - What are the characteristics of students who leave?
 - What do they do after leaving?
- Survey data: The “Why?”
 - Why do they leave?
 - Where might additional support prevent stopping out?

Audience Question –

What have your stakeholders wanted to know about stopouts?

NSC data tips

National Student Clearinghouse data is long

- One row per student, per term, per institution enrolled
 - Data processing-
 - Flag first enrollment after stopping out
 - Flag most recent enrollment
 - Map majors to CIP codes
 - Flag CIP codes that match local programs
 - Recode institution types
 - 2 year / 4 year; Public/Private, State
 - Use names / college codes to categorize (UC, CSU, CCC, For-Profit, International)
 - Add geographic information

Institutional and NSC information

- Characteristics of stopouts –
 - Academic Attributes – **Frosh** standing (1-2 semesters enrolled)
 - Schools/Majors – **Undeclared** majors
 - Demographics – **Men** more likely
- Trends in subsequent education -
 - Initial Destinations – **2 yr, CCC** institutions
 - Most Recent Destinations – **4 yr** institutions
 - Fields of study/majors - Biology, *Registered Nursing*, Psychology, Business Administration, *Liberal Arts*, *Computer Science* (*italicized are not offered at UCM*)

“Leavers” Dashboard

Academic attributes (GPA, academic standing, semesters enrolled, credits earned, school/major)

Student characteristics (demographics)

Where do they go:

Institution type (2yr/4yr; CCC/CSU/UC/OOS..)

Region

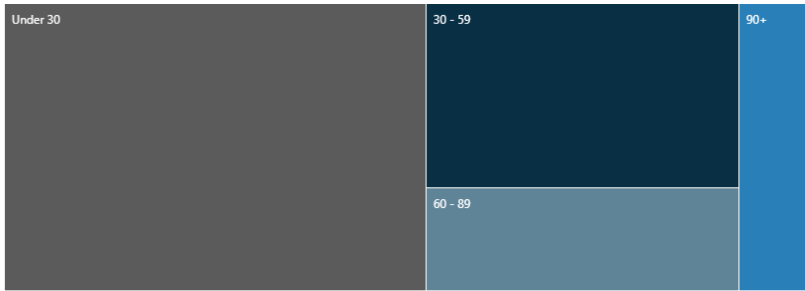
Discipline/Major/Degrees Earned

Leavers Dashboard

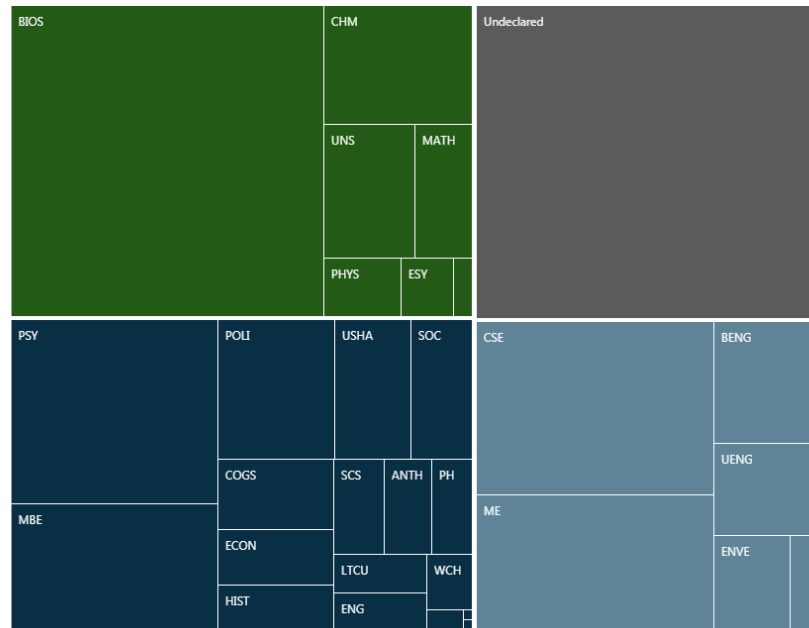
Attributes of Leavers (former UC Merced students who did not obtain a degree): UCM Credits Earned (All), Gender (All), and Majors (All)

Select one or more elements in any visualization to filter the displayed information

Academic Performance: UCM Credits Earned of All All Leavers



Last UC Merced School and Major of All All Leavers



Demographics: Gender of All All Leavers



Academic Attribute
UCM Credits Earned

Demographic
Gender

UCM Cohort Year
(Multiple values)

Entering Level
 (All)
 Fresh
 Transfer

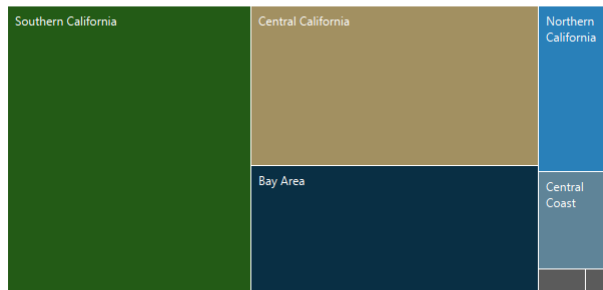
Explore:
Select an Academic Attribute and Demographic of interest, then select any segment to filter the entire visualization.
CTRL-click may be used to select multiple segments for filtering.

Destinations

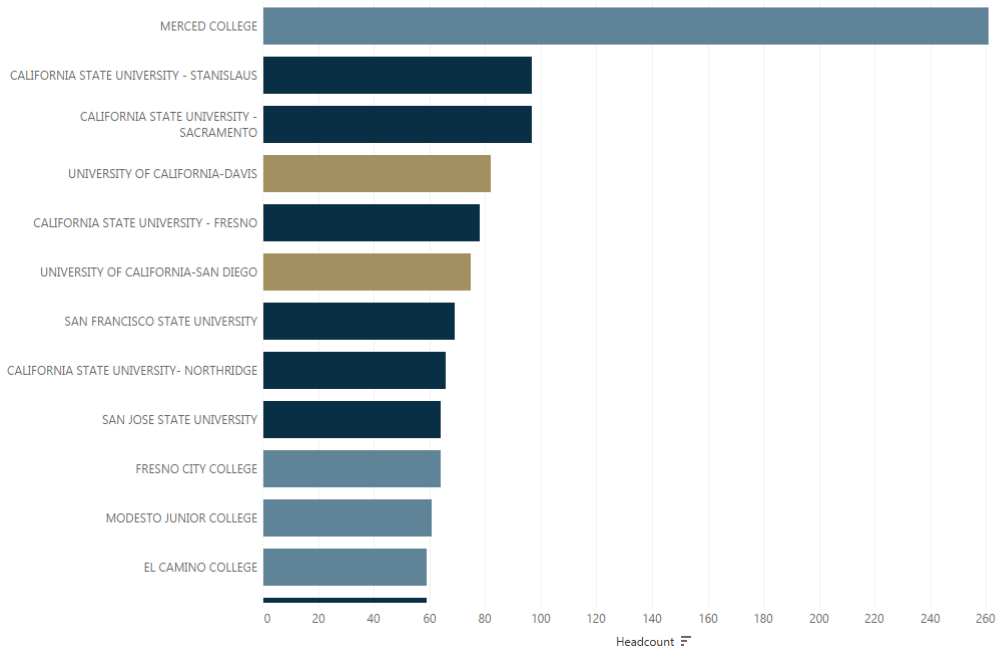
Most Recent Destinations (after UC Merced) of Leavers from All Region(s): Destination Characteristics (All, College Type), for UCM Credits Earned (All), by Gender

Select one or more elements within any visualization to filter the displayed information

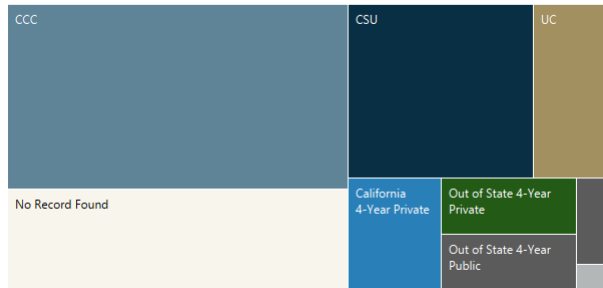
Leaver Geographic Origins



Most Recent Destinations: All Students from All Region(s), and Destination (All)



Most Recent Destinations by College Type use the Destination Characteristics selection to change the elements displayed



Destination Type
Most Recent Destinations

Destination Characteristics
College Type

UCM Cohort Year
(Multiple values)

Entering Level
Fresh

Academic Attribute (for Filtering):
UCM Credits Earned

Academic Attribute Filter
(All)

Demographic (for Filtering)
Gender

Demographic Filter
(All)

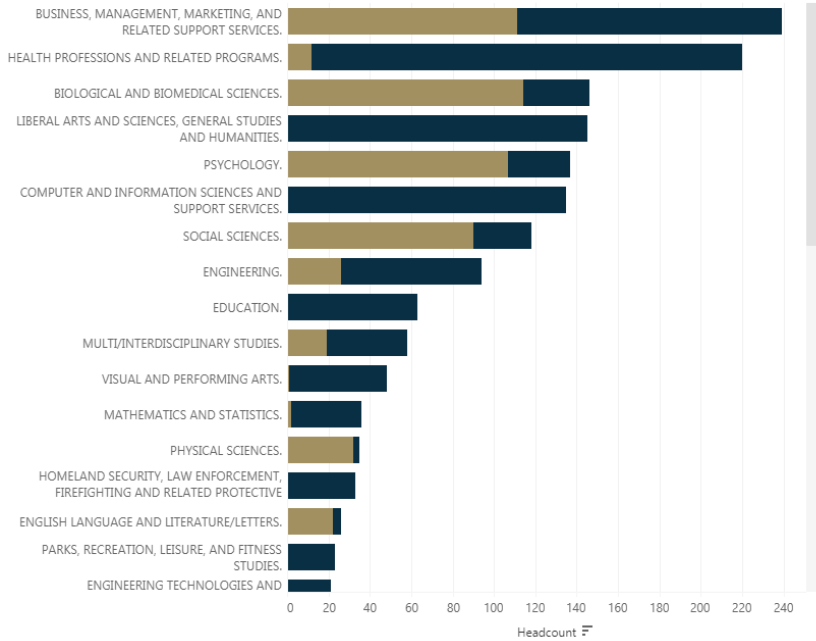
Explore:
Choose a Destination Type and a Destination Characteristic of interest. Select any segment to filter the entire visualization. CTRL-click may be used to select multiple segments for filtering.

Optional Filters are available for Academic Performance

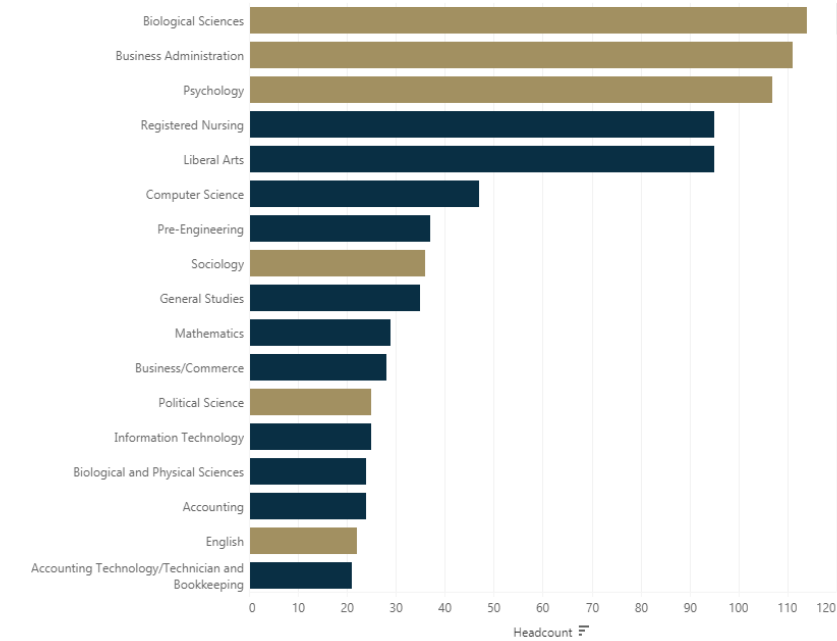
Fields and Majors

Broad Fields and Detailed Majors at Most Recent Destinations of Leavers after UC Merced: All Institutions, for UCM Credits Earned (All), by Gender
 Select one or more elements within any visualization to filter the displayed information

Fields of Study - 2 digit CIP at Most Recent Destinations (All Institutions)



Detailed Majors - 6 digit CIP (All) at Most Recent Destinations (All Institutions)



Destination Type
 Most Recent Destinations

Destination Characteristics (for Filtering):
 2 Year / 4 Year

Destination Char. Filter
 (All)

UCM Cohort Year
 (Multiple values)

Entering Level
 Frosh

Academic Attribute (for Filtering):
 UCM Credits Earned

Academic Attribute Filter
 (All)

Demographic (for Filtering):
 Gender

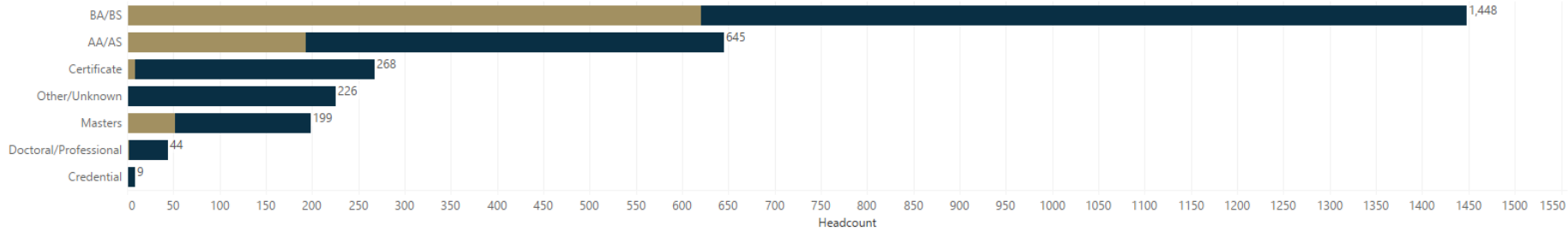
Demographic Filter
 (All)

Explore:
 Choose a Destination Type and a Destination Characteristic of interest. Select one of the Major fields in the lefthand column to filter the specific majors listed on the right.

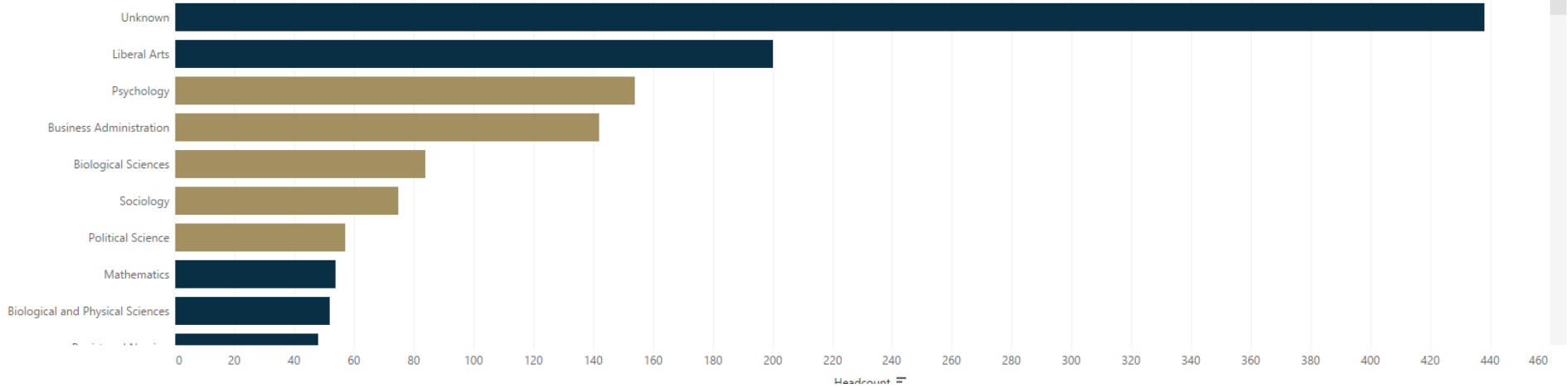
Degrees Earned

Degrees Earned by Leavers after UC Merced: All Institutions, for UCM Credits Earned (All), by All

Select one or more elements within any visualization to filter the displayed information



All Degrees Earned at All by All Leavers



What can survey data tell us about stopouts?

- 2018 University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES)

Table I. Analysis Sample.

Stop out Status	Count
Non-stopout, enrolled fall 2019 (comparison group)	1262
Non-stopout, graduated before fall 2019 (excluded)	801
Non-stopout, academically dismissed spring 2018 (excluded)	15
Stopout, not enrolled fall 2019 (key group)	188
Total	2266

Full Brief:

https://cie.ucmerced.edu/files/documents/irds/stopout_student_analysis_brief_2018_ucues_data_final_2021.05.18.pdf

Survey research findings

Person/Situation Factors

- **Mental health, including stress**
- Study skills
- Family responsibilities
- Job responsibilities

Campus Factors

- **Climate for equity/inclusion**
- **Sense of belonging**
- **Engagement**
- **Major/class offerings and communication**
- **Quality of education**

Economic factors

- Time spent on employment
- Paying for expenses
- Debt

Bold text indicates key predictor of stopping out.

Other Research Considerations

- Amount of data
 - Many deep dives into student characteristics are possible.
 - Need to think carefully about research questions and findings that will be actionable.
- Available data
 - We only have standard institutional data fields and survey data from respondents.
 - Focus groups may be more appropriate for some deep dive questions.

Questions?

Audience Questions

What research has your campus done on stopouts or what research do you think would be beneficial?

Were any specific groups investigated?

Engaging in Data Discussions



Stopout Committee

- Committee goals
 - Create completion pathways for stopouts
 - Prevent stopouts
- IR attendance at monthly committee meetings
- Benefits:
 - Plan specific analyses to support decision making
 - Facilitate use of IR analyses and data products
 - Feedback about interpretation of data
 - Plans are informed by data and analysis

Engaging in Data Discussions

Strategies

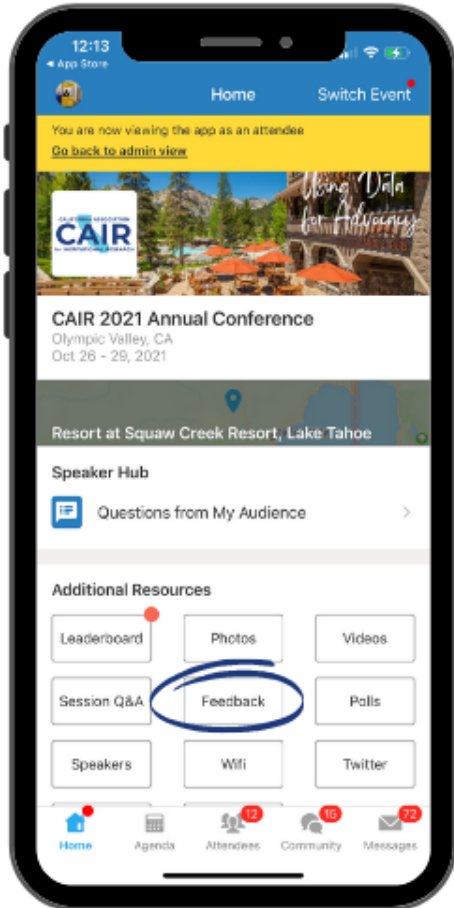
- Reframe conversations from discussions of ideas and hypotheticals to answerable research questions
- Collaborate on research goals and strategies
- Bring existing information to the discussion
 - What assumptions are we making?
 - Are our ideas supported by existing research?

Engaging in Data Discussions

What strategies have you used in data discussions?

What advice do you have?

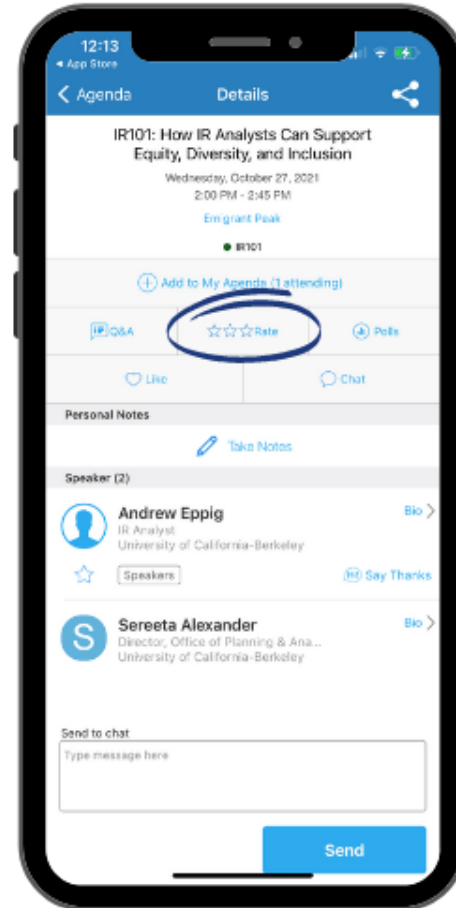
REMINDER: COMPLETE YOUR SESSION EVALUATIONS



OPTION 01

Home - Feedback

- Navigate to the **Home** page
- Click on **Feedback**
- Select **Session Feedback**
- Select the name of the session that you attended



OPTION 02

Agenda - Session

- Navigate to **Agenda** on the bottom menu
- Select session name
- Click **☆☆☆ Rate**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a row of palm trees silhouetted against a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange and yellow glow that transitions into a darker blue as it goes up. The palm trees are of varying heights and are spaced out along the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds.

UCMERCED Institutional Research
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA and Decision Support

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