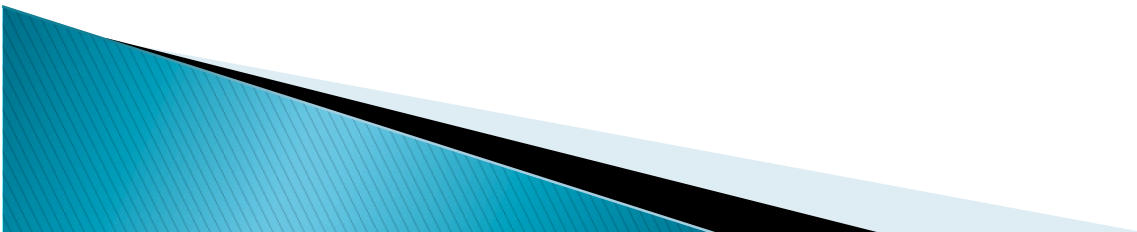


Moving to Plan B: When the First Major Doesn't Work Out

Stacey Sketo-Rosener, Coordinator of Academic Advising
and Katrina Cope, Career Adviser

UCSC Winter Advising Forum, 2011

- ▶ UCSC Majors and Major Migration
- ▶ Relationship between Majors and Careers
- ▶ Brainstorm Session: How can we provide advice that will help students successfully qualify for a major and earn a degree?



“While difficult to capture, it has been estimated that the number of students who go through a process of re-deciding during their college years is approximately 50 to 75 percent.”

Steele, George and McDonald, Melinda (2008). Moving Through College. In V. Gordon, W. Habley, T. Grites, et al., *Academic Advising: A Comprehensive Handbook, Second Edition*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.



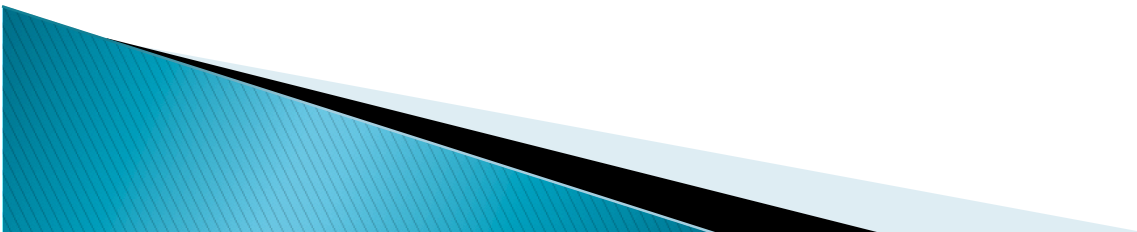
Some Reasons for Changing Majors

- ▶ Lack of information
- ▶ No opportunity to have gone through a formal career–decision–making process
- ▶ Course work for initial major too challenging
- ▶ Pressure from family or friends to pursue a particular major
- ▶ Students denied access to first–choice major

Steele, George and McDonald, Melinda (2008). Moving Through College. In V. Gordon, W. Habley, T. Grites, et al., *Academic Advising: A Comprehensive Handbook, Second Edition*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

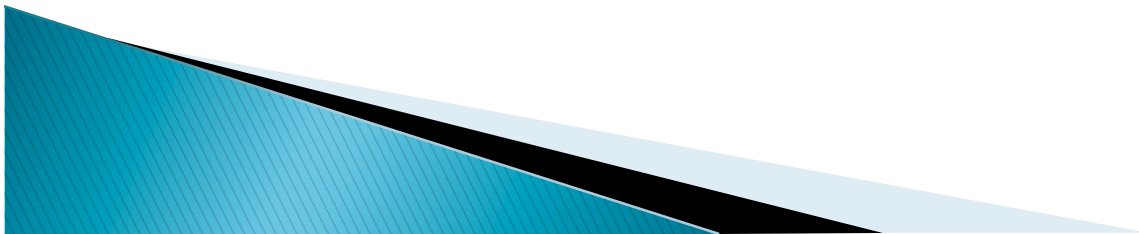
Major Migration at UCSC: Example from 2001 Frosh Cohort:

- ▶ 118 listed literature major on application
- ▶ 45 of those 118 (38%) graduated in literature within 6 years
- ▶ 38 of those 118 (32%) graduated in a different major within 6 years
- ▶ 35 of those 118 (30%) did not graduate within 6 years



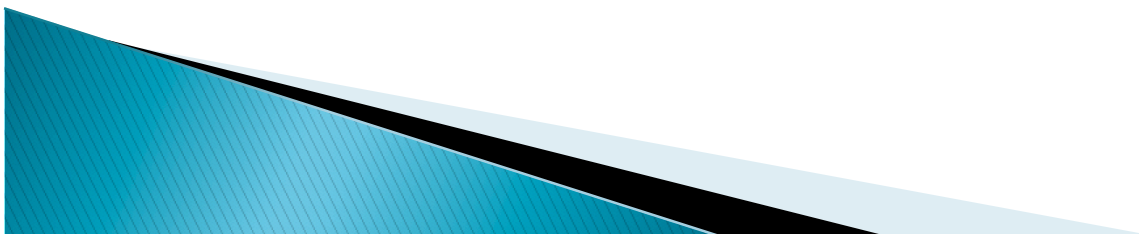
Major Migration at UCSC: Example from 2001 Frosh Cohort:

- ▶ 157 of them graduated in literature within 6 years
- ▶ 45 of those 157 (29%) listed literature on their UCSC application
- ▶ 74 of those 157 (47%) listed undeclared
- ▶ 26 of those 157 (17%) listed another major in arts, humanities, or social sciences
- ▶ 12 of those 157 (8%) listed a major in PBSci or Engineering



Major Migration at UCSC: Example from 2001 Frosh Cohort:

- ▶ 65 listed politics on application
- ▶ 17 of those 65 (26%) graduated in politics within 6 years
- ▶ 27 of those 65 (42%) graduated in a different major within 6 years
- ▶ 21 of those 65 (32%) did not graduate within 6 years



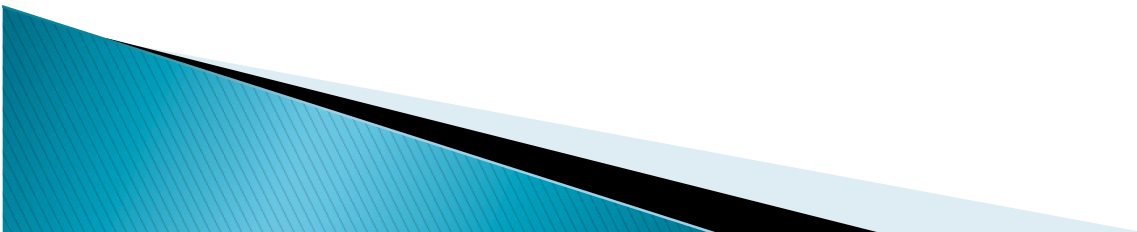
Major Migration at UCSC: Example from 2001 Frosh Cohort:

- ▶ 110 of this cohort graduated in politics within 6 years
- ▶ 17 of those 110 (15%) listed politics on their UCSC application
- ▶ 48 of those 110 (44%) listed undeclared
- ▶ 35 of those 110 (32%) listed another major in the arts, humanities, or social sciences
- ▶ 10 of those 110 (9%) listed a major in PBSci or Engineering

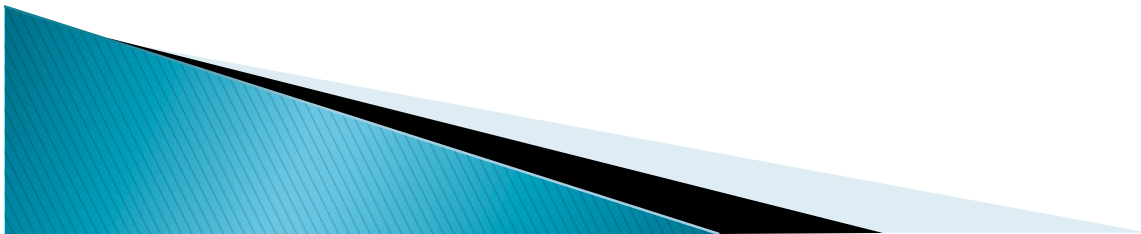


Complete Major Migration Reports were compiled by the office of Institutional Research and Policy Studies, and are available online at:

- ▶ <http://planning.ucsc.edu/irps/retengrad.asp>



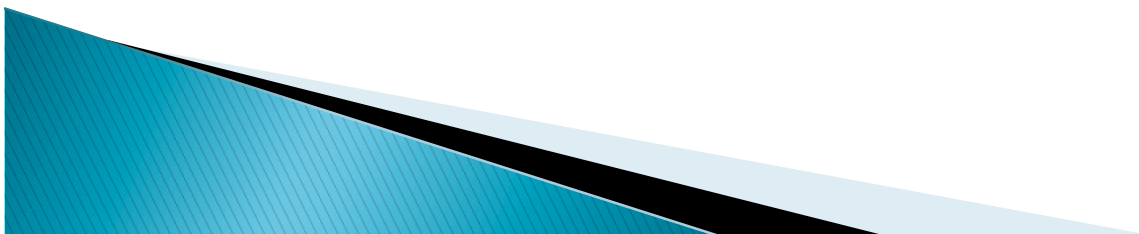
UCSC students who are not declared in a major at the beginning of the junior year are less likely to graduate than those students who are declared in a major.



Majors at UCSC, 2001–2011

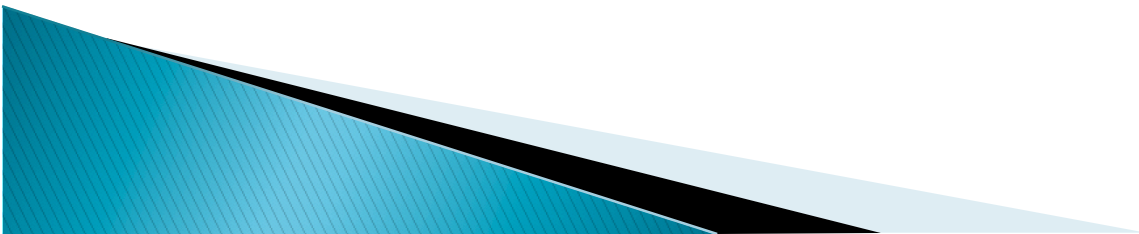
(does not include combined majors)

Academic Year	2000–2001	2010–2011
Undergraduate Majors	40	50
Majors with prerequisites or admission reqts	17 (42%)	30 (60%)
Majors with admission reqts based on work better than 2.0 (passing) level	3 (7%)	18 (36%)
Majors with no admission reqts, but disqualification policies at LD level	5 (12%)	13 (26%)
Majors with some required performance at LD level	22 (55%)	43 (86%)
Majors with disqualification policies	12 (30%)	26 (52%)



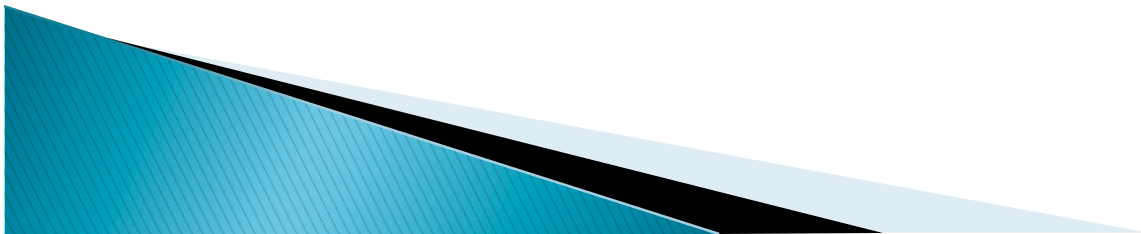
Possible Consequences

- ▶ At today's rates, a UCSC student who attends for three years and leaves without a degree will have spent the following through the course of trying:
 - ▶ • \$38,575.23 in required fees alone
 - ▶ • \$92,485.23 including housing, food, and personal expenses



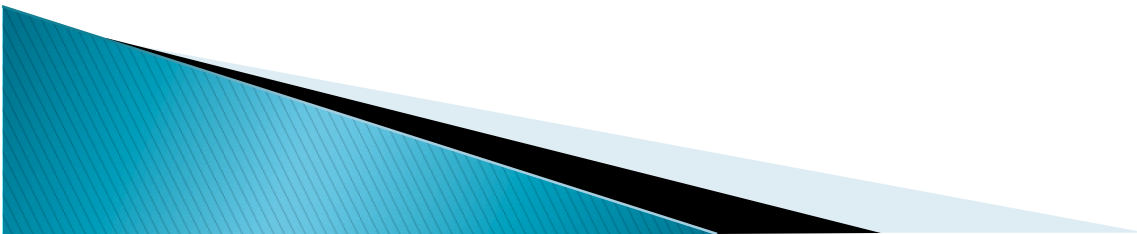
Advising Challenges

- ▶ “I am going to be a doctor. So I can’t major in something outside the sciences.”
- ▶ “I want a major that will help me get a job in business.”
- ▶ “My parents won’t pay for me to major in something that won’t help me make money.”



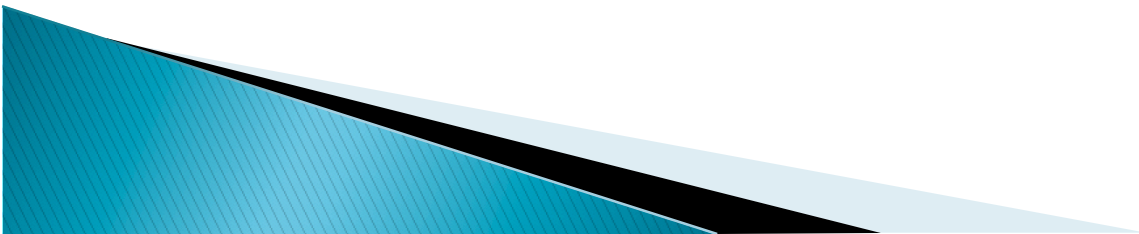
Advising Challenges

- ▶ What is the relationship between a person's undergraduate major and his/her future career prospects?



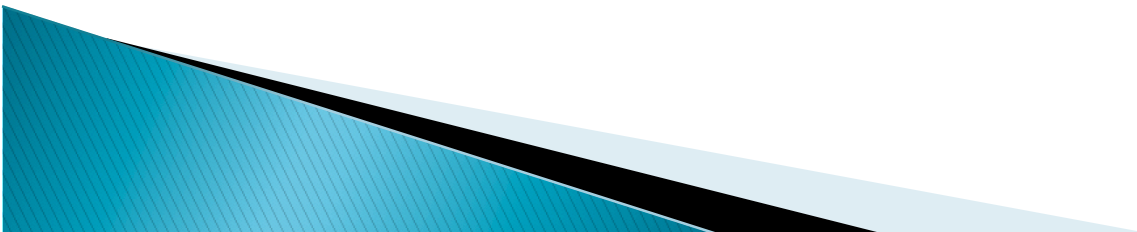
Brainstorms:

- ▶ How can we prepare students at the lower-division level to navigate this landscape?
What advice might individual advisers or the advising system give them that would help them to connect with a major in which they will succeed?



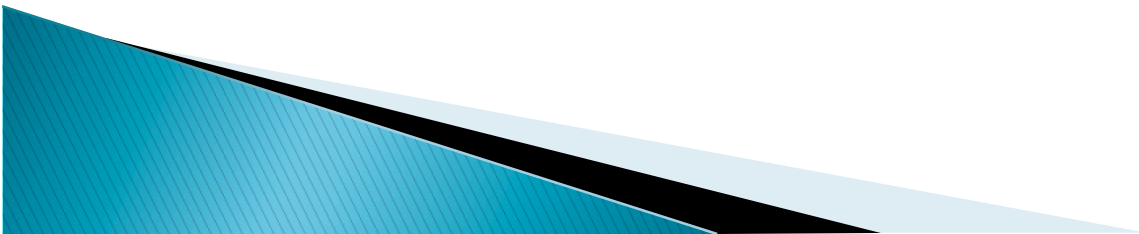
Brainstorms:

- ▶ How can we identify students who are likely to become ineligible for the major they hope to pursue? What kind of outreach can we do to reach this population?



Brainstorms:

- ▶ When a student becomes ineligible for their first-choice major at the upper-division level, how can we help them identify options for completing a degree?



Thank You

- ▶ For attending
- ▶ For contributing
- ▶ For your commitment to student success

UCSC Winter Advising Forum, 2011

