

UF

**College of Liberal
Arts & Sciences**

UNIVERSITY *of* FLORIDA

Special Selection:

**Reimagining
Post - Decision
Advising**





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The Problems

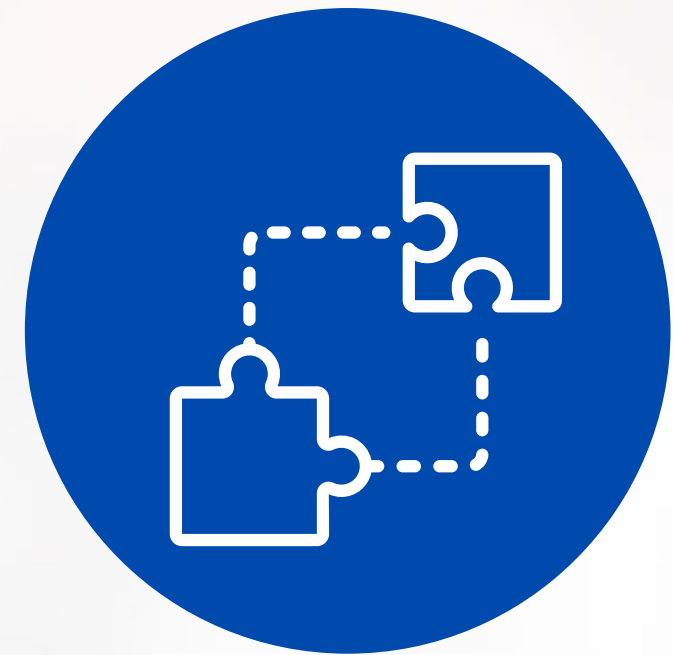
For many transfer students, a combination of barriers complicates their pathway to university admission, potentially leading to application denial.



Problem 1
Missing Pre-requisites



Problem 2
Financial Implications



Problem 3
Lack of Exposure

Missing Pre-requisites

»»» Competitiveness

Lack of awareness about prerequisites or starting the prerequisites too late to complete all prior to graduation can result in missing prerequisites and have significant impacts on a student's competitiveness for admission to their chosen major.

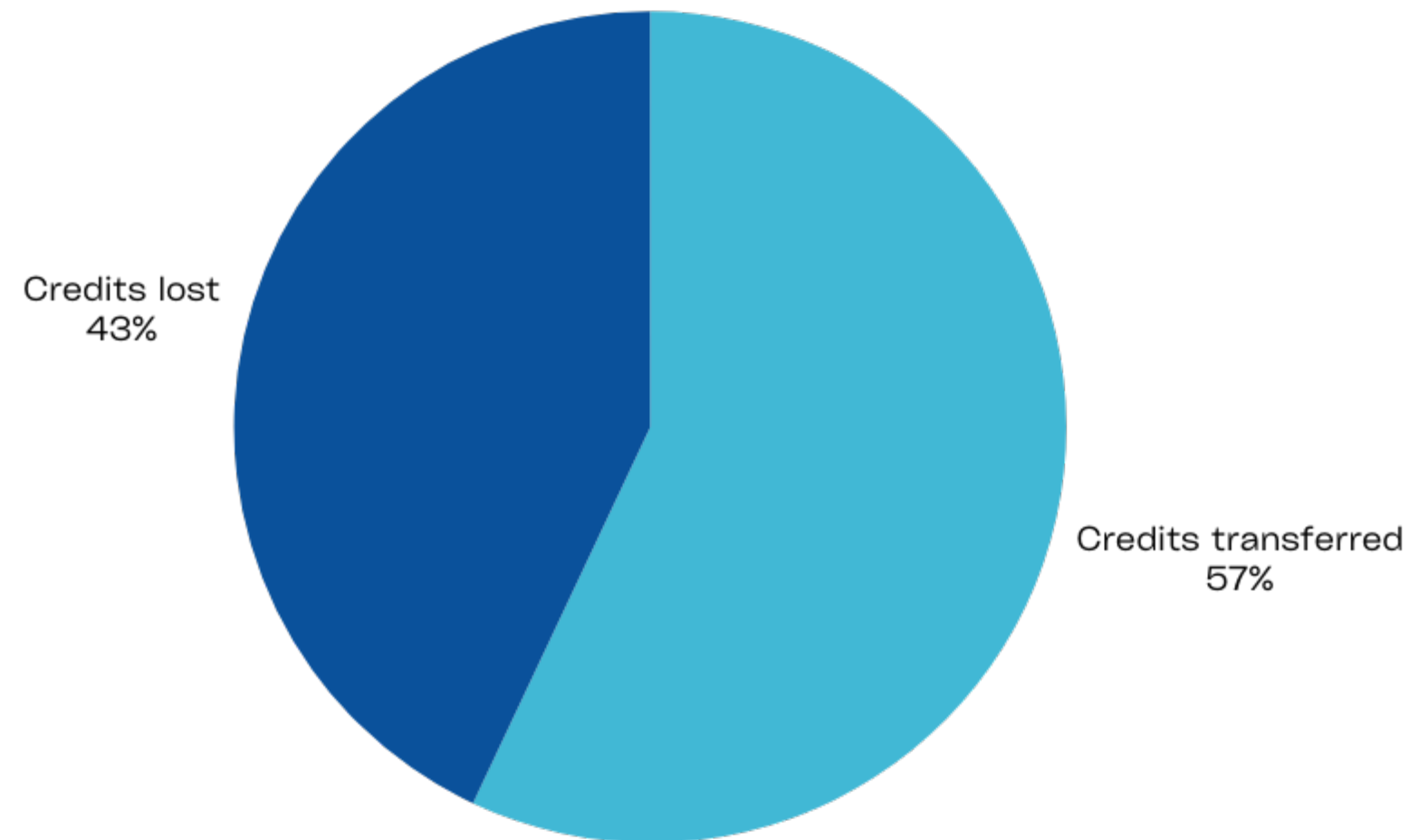
Financial Implications

»»» Money Matters

Research shows that transfer students can lose 43% of their credits, which delays graduation and increases costs. The Florida SCNS helps reduce these losses through articulation agreements.

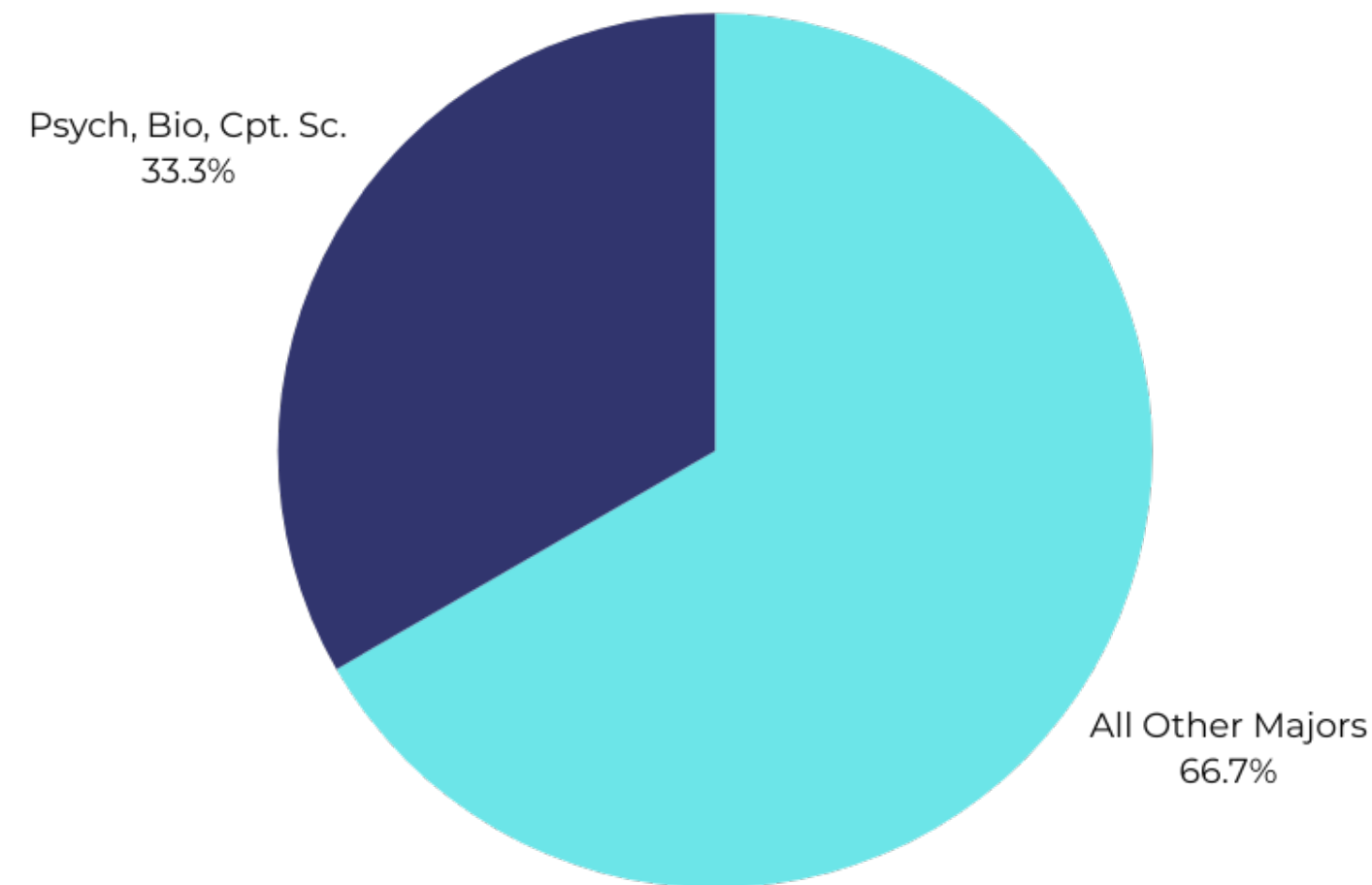
However, lost credits still mean extra courses, which financial aid may not cover, adding financial stress.

Without adequate aid, students may need to work more to cover costs, creating a cycle that further delays graduation and complicates financial stability.

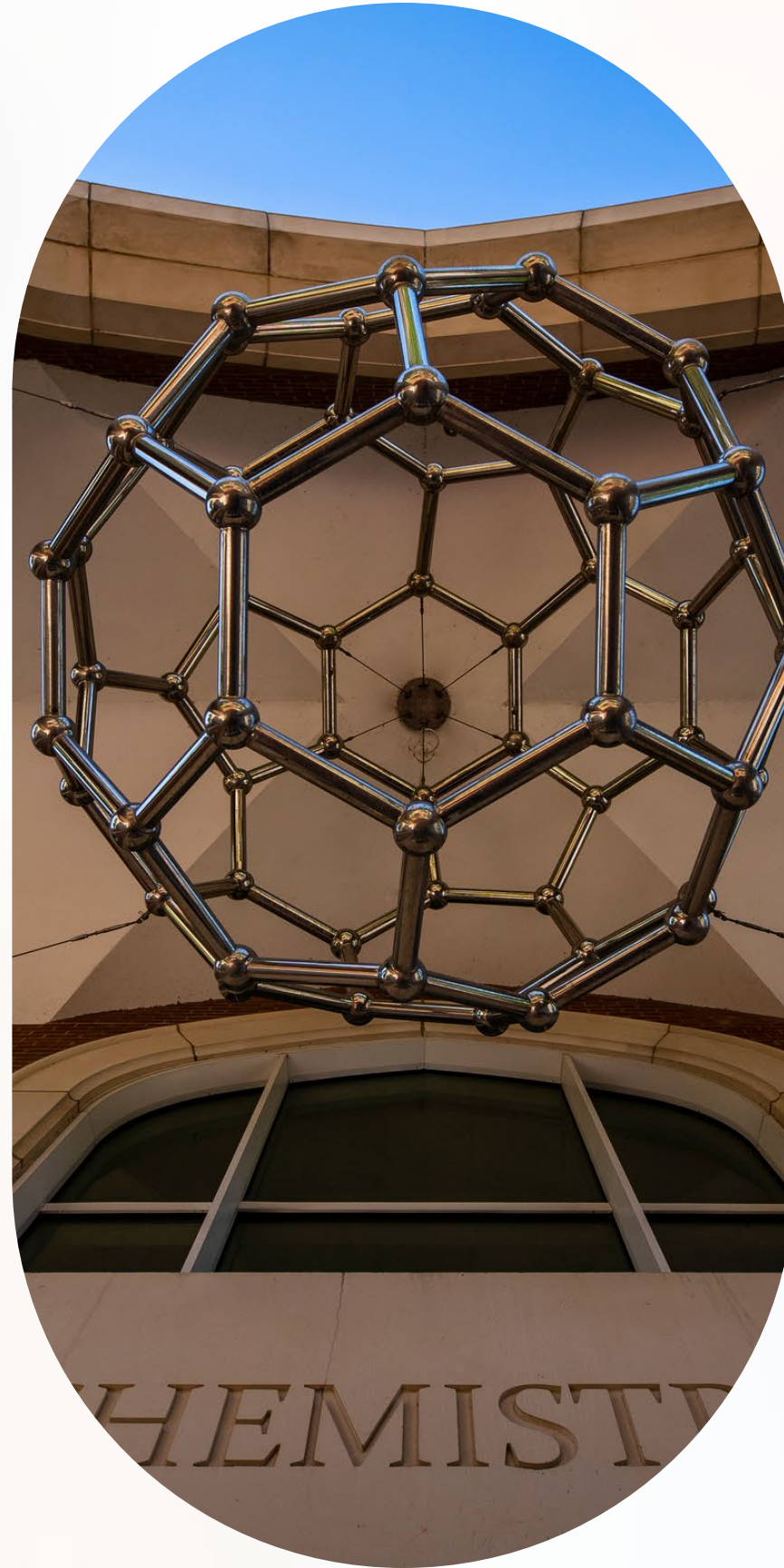


Lack of Exposure

»»» Imbalance



Transfer students often face challenges in exploring a wide range of majors due to the structured nature of their academic pathways. Many transfer students come from community colleges or dual enrollment, where the focus is on completing general education requirements and prerequisites for specific programs. This can limit their exposure to diverse fields of study, as they may have fewer opportunities to take elective courses outside their chosen major. Additionally, the need to graduate on time and the complexity of credit transfers can further restrict their ability to explore different academic interests.



Institutional Context

UF CLAS has a distinct set of policies that create the backdrop for Special Selection including:

- Students apply to a particular major.
- All prerequisites must be completed prior to transfer.
- Transfer students are expected to graduate in the major to which they were admitted and major changes are rare.
- Grade forgiveness is not allowable for prerequisite courses; grades in all attempts of courses are considered.

Solution: Special Selection: Reimagining Post-Decision Advising

The University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has developed a new initiative, Special Selection, an advising model for pre-decision applicants. Special Selection is proactive advising, an intervention that provides students with information and options for those applying to overenrolled majors.



Building Awareness

Advising students on pathways and opportunities that align with their long-term goals and prior coursework. Provide options and resources to support their decisions.



Reduce and Rebalance

Offer students options that reduce the need to take more prerequisite classes. Offer opportunities in other majors that students may not have known about to rebalance the major distribution.



Fostering Relationships

Build relationships with incoming students that encourage engagement with advisors and resources. Create a sense of belonging and autonomy.



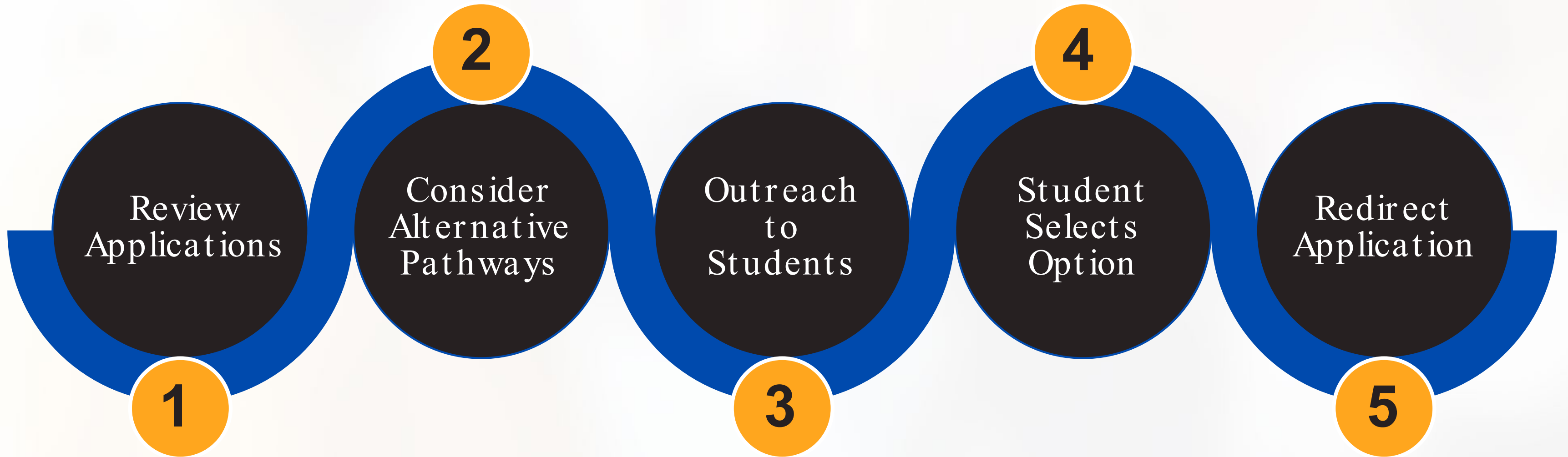
Psychological Impact

College rejection can have significant long-term impacts on a student's mental health. Research indicates that such experiences can lead to feelings of inadequacy, low self-esteem, and heightened anxiety, which may persist over time. These emotional responses can contribute to chronic stress and depression, exacerbating the fear of failure and negatively affecting academic performance.



Our Process

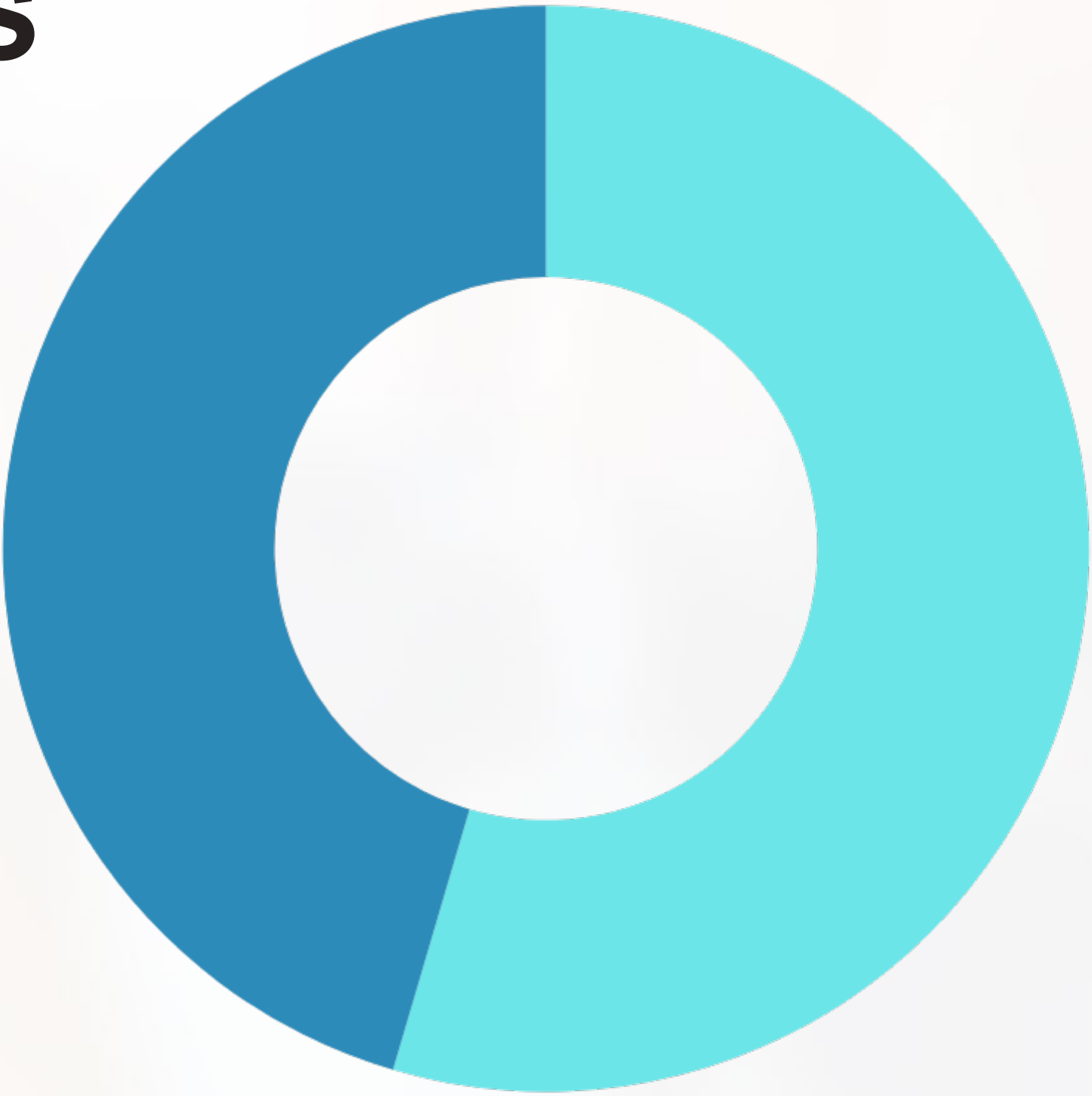
The CLAS Transfer Team reviews applications and selects qualified candidates who are missing requirements but have met the qualifications for an alternative degree pathway that still fulfills their long-term career objectives.





Outcomes

Advised and Accepted
45.5%



Advised
54.5%

Spring 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2024





**Avg. Term
GPA**

3.66

**Total Advising
Appointments**

30

**Persistence
in Major**

93%

**Avg.
Registered
Hours**

13.20



Averages and Totals

Program Outcomes

Students have selected majors in history, geology, geography, linguistics, philosophy, anthropology, English, French, and Hispanic and Latin American languages. The majority of these students originally applied to psychology, biology, and criminology.



“I’ve had great experiences with my classes and professors in my major. Thank you for this opportunity.”

“ I felt like I tried my best [in my courses] and [I am] very satisfied with my professors so far and my own work.”

Scenario Part I

Albert Alligator's overall application is strong. He expressed in his admission essay that his goal is to work as a Foreign Service Specialist at the Department of State. He applied to Psychology. Overall, he has a 3.3 GPA and has taken all prerequisites including three years of Spanish at his community college. However, as a Dual Enrolled student in his initial attempt at statistics, he received a D in the course. He retook the course during his Freshman year and received an A. UF does not recognize grade forgiveness in prerequisite courses. What advice and options would you give Albert?



Scenario Part II

How can SUS and FCS institutions work together proactively to prevent a scenario like Albert Alligator's from occurring?



Future Goals & Limitations

Special Selection is a targeted program that has served a small group (n=33) of students. While we are pleased with the outcomes, we will continue to monitor the graduation, persistence, and success rates.

What we hope to see in the next year

- » Increase the variety of Special Selection majors.
- » See sustained engagement with advisors.
- » Increase collaboration with state college partners.
- » Proactively provide more education on available majors.



Questions?





Contact Us



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