# Stop, Switch or Stay: Research into STEM persistence at the University of New Mexico 



## INTRODUCTIONS

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## WEBSITE

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## MISSION OF STEM GATEWAY:

- Improve STEM instruction and student support at the University of New Mexico
- Improve STEM graduation rates among Hispanic and/or low-income students


## GRANT OVERVIEW:

- Funded by US Depart of Education Hispanic Serving Institution STEM Program
- $\$ 3.8$ million over five years
- October 2011 through September 2016


# Goal of this Study 

## OUR GOAL IS TO STUDY THE UNM STEM UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCE FROM BEGINNING TO END, AND WITH A REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF A MAXIMUM SIX YEAR TIME TO GRADUATION.

This information will be used to improve the STEM education experience at UNM.

This data should not be used to blame departments or individuals in any way. Our data does not go deep enough to draw such conclusions.

## Definition of STEM

For the purpose of this study, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degrees are defined narrowly as those bachelor's degrees within the following disciplines: astrophysics, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computer science, earth \& planetary sciences, engineering (all majors), environmental science, mathematics, physics, and statistics.

## STOP, SWITCH OR STAY...

## Research Questions

Explores STEM degree completion patterns at UNM through two primary lenses:

Degree outcomes. How do undergraduate students who graduate with STEM degrees differ from those who switch majors out of STEM, and from those who stop attending UNM prior to completing their degrees?

Course outcomes. How do undergraduate STEM students perform in the core math \& science gateway courses that lead into their STEM degrees?

## POPULATION DESCRIPTION / DEFINITIONS

For both of these lenses, we studied:

- 1503 first-time full-time freshmen students from the falls of 2005, 2006 and 2007 ...
- who initially stated they were interested in STEM degrees ...
- representing $\mathbf{1 6 . 6 \%}$ of the freshman population during these three fall semesters.

These students indicated an interest in STEM majors when completing their admissions applications, or when visiting with academic advisors during their first semesters.

## DEGREE OUTCOMES LENS

## Student Outcomes

This portion of the study seeks to identify patterns regarding four subsets of STEM students from the 2005, 2006 and 2007 cohorts as described above:

- ENROLLED: Students who are still enrolled in courses at UNM, and who indicate that as of Fall 2012 they were still working towards STEM degrees.
- GRADUATED: Students who graduated with STEM degrees prior to the Fall 2012 semester.
- SHIFTED: Students who switched out of STEM areas, but who continued taking courses at UNM. These students may or may not have graduated with degrees in non-STEM disciplines.
- STOPPED: Students who stopped attending courses at UNM.

| Table 1. Overview of Population |  |
| :--- | :---: |
| Total Number of Students | 1503 |
| Number of students who changed majors <br> out of STEM (SHIFTED) | 639 (42.5\%) |
| Number of students who graduated with <br> STEM degrees (GRADUATED) | 334 (22.2\%) |
| Number of students who stopped <br> attending UNM (STOPPED) | 444 (29.6\%) |
| Number of students still enrolled at UNM <br> (ENROLLED) | 86 (5.7\%) |

## DEGREE OUTCOMES LENS

## Variables

This study attempts to define patterns related to each group that could help UNM identify for whom the status quo is working best and for whom we most need to redesign the ways that we teach and support students. In exploring these patterns, we considered the following student variables:

- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Pell eligibility and median estimated family contribution (family income level)
- Lottery scholarship status
- First generation college student status
- Average high school GPA
- Average ACT scores
- ACT scores and high school GPAs correlated to account for possible grade inflation
- Cumulative college GPA at most recent semester completed
- Average number of semesters taken to matriculate into a STEM program
- Average number of remedial courses completed
- Number of credit hours completed at the time of shifting out of STEM (for "shifted" and "stopped" subgroups only)
- Number of semesters completed at the time of shifting out of STEM (for "shifted" and "stopped" subgroups only)
- Cumulative UNM GPA when shifting out of STEM (for "shifted" and "stopped" subgroups only)


## COURSE OUTCOMES LENS

## Definition for STEM Gateway Courses

For purposes of the STEM Gateway Title V Program, STEM Gateway Courses are defined as those which meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Entry level (100 and 200 level) program-requirement courses that lead to degrees in the approved STEM disciplines
- Companion courses (labs, problem solving courses, etc) that are connected to Core Requirement or Program Requirement courses (as specified above)
- Pre-requisite courses that are required by students to take Core Requirement or Program Requirement courses (as specified above)
- Large-enrollment (>500 students/year) courses required for degrees in the approved STEM disciplines and typically taken within the first two years in the field.


## GATEWAY COURSES STUDIED

| BIO | 201 | Molecular Cell Biology |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| BIO | 202 | Genetics |
| BIO | 203 | Ecology and Evolution |
| CHEM | 121 | General Chemistry I |
| CHEM | 122 | General Chemistry II |
| CHEM | 123 | General Chemistry I LAB |
| CHEM | 124 | General Chemistry II LAB |
| CHEM | 301 | Organic Chemistry |
| CHEM | 302 | Organic Chemistry |
| CHEM | 303 | Organic Chemistry LAB |
| CHEM | 304 | Organic Chemistry LAB |
| CS | 152 | Computer Programming Fundamentals |
| ECE | 131 | Program Fundamentals |
| ENVS | 101 | The Blue Planet |
| ENVS | 102 | The Blue Planet LAB |
| EPS | 101 | Intro Geology, How Earth Works |
| EPS | 105 | Physical Geology LAB |
| EPS | 201 | Earth History |

## GATEWAY COURSES STUDIED, continued

| MATH | 107 | Problems in College Algebra |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| MATH | 110 | Problems in Elementary Calculus |
| MATH | 120 | Intermediate Algebra |
| MATH | 121 | College Algebra |
| MATH | 123 | Trigonometry |
| MATH | 150 | Pre-Calculus Math |
| MATH | 162 | Calculus I |
| MATH | 163 | Calculus II |
| MATH | 180 | Elements of Calculus I |
| MATH | 181 | Elements of Calculus II |
| PHYC | 151 | General Physics |
| PHYC | 151 L | General Physics LAB |
| PHYC | 152 | General Physics |
| PHYC | 152 L | General Physics LAB |
| PHYC | 157 | Problems in General Physics |
| PHYC | 158 | Problems in General Physics |
| PHYC | 160 | General Physics |
| PHYC | 160 L | General Physics LAB |
| PHYC | 161 | General Physics |
| PHYC | 161 L | General Physics LAB |
| PHYC | 167 | Problems in General Physics |
| PHYC | 168 | Problems in General Physics |



## SELECTED FINDINGS

 DEGREE OUTCOMES LENS
## Ethnicity and Gender: STEM Interest

## SUBPOPULATIONS

## Ethnicities in Students Opting to Go Into STEM

|  | THIS POPULATION OF STEM <br> STUDENTS | THE GENERAL POPULATION OF <br> FRESHMEN ONLY FROM UNM <br> FACTBOOKS |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| (Falls 05,06,07 combined) |  |  |$\left|\begin{array}{l}5.3 \%\end{array}\right|$| Percent American Indian |
| :--- |
| Percent Asian/Pacific |
| Islander/Native Hawaiian |

## Ethnicity and Gender: STEM Achievement

## SUBPOPULATIONS

## Ethnicities in Degree Outcomes

American Indian STEM students are 2.55 times as likely to stop attending UNM ( $p<.001$ ) and are 0.30 times as likely to graduate with STEM degrees ( $p<.001$ ) as non-American Indian students.

```
MORE
LIKELY
```



|  | ODDS RATIO | P-VALUE |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| STOPPED | 2.55 | $<.001$ |
| SHIFTED | 0.80 | .338 |
| GRADUATED | 0.30 | $<.001$ |

## SUBPOPULATIONS

## Ethnicities in Degree Outcomes

Hispanic STEM students are .65 times as likely to graduate with STEM degrees than non-Hispanic students ( $p=.001$ ).


|  | ODDS RATIO | P-VALUE |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| STOPPED | 1.17 | .175 |
| SHIFTED | 1.03 | .827 |
| GRADUATED | 0.65 | .001 |

## SUBPOPULATIONS

## Ethnicities in Degree Outcomes

Black/African American STEM students are 1.96 times as likely to switch majors out of STEM than non-African American students ( $\mathrm{p}=.001$ ).

|  | ODDS RATIO | P-VALUE |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| STOPPED | 0.61 | .341 |
| SHIFTED | 1.96 | .055 |
| GRADUATED | 0.91 | $>.999$ |

## SUBPOPULATIONS

## Gender in Degree Outcomes

Female STEM students are . 48 times as likely to pursue STEM degrees ( $p, .001$ ), and are 1.36 times as likely to switch majors out of STEM $(p=.005)$ than male students.


|  | ODDS RATIO | P-VALUE |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| STOPPED | 0.88 | .294 |
| SHIFTED | 1.36 | .005 |
| GRADUATED | 0.89 | .406 |

## SUBPOPULATIONS

## Gender in Degree Outcomes

White females are .69 times as likely to stop attending ( $p=.024$ ), 1.34 times more likely to graduate ( $p=.069$ ), 1.32 times as likely to switch majors out of STEM ( $\mathrm{p}=.044$ ) and .23 times as likely to still be enrolled as students who are not white females ( $p=.001$ )


Non-white females are . 63 times as likely to graduate as students who are not non-white females ( $\mathrm{p}=.006$ ).


## SUBPOPULATIONS

## Gender in Degree Outcomes

White males are 1.35 times as likely to graduate than students who are not white males ( $\mathrm{p}=.029$ ).


Non-white males are .82 times as likely to shift out of STEM degrees ( $\mathrm{p}=.086$ ) and are 1.91 times as likely to still be enrolled than students who are not non-white males ( $p=.004$ ).

LIKELY

## Socio Economic Status: STEM Achievement

## SUBPOPULATIONS

## SES in Degree Outcomes

Pell-Eligible STEM students are 1.43 times as likely to stop attending UNM ( $\mathrm{p}=.007$ ) and are .46 times as likely to graduate ( $p<.001$ ) than non-Pell-eligible students.

First Generation STEM students are 1.62 times as likely to stop attending UNM ( $p<.001$ ) and are .42 times as likely to graduate ( $p<.001$ ) than non-First Generation students.

| PELL ELIGIBLE | ODDS RATIO | P-VALUE |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| STOPPED | 1.43 | .007 |
| SHIFTED | 1.10 | .456 |
| GRADUATED | 0.46 | $<.001$ |
| ENROLLED | 1.34 | .234 |


| FIRST GENERATION | ODDS RATIO | P-VALUE |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| STOPPED | 1.62 | $<.001$ |
| SHIFTED | 1.12 | .380 |
| GRADUATED | 0.42 | $<.001$ |

ODDS RATIO
P-VALUE


Average Median Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for students who GRADUATED with STEM degrees

## $\$ 13,371$

Average Median Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for students who SWITCHED MAJORS out of STEM
\$7,151

Average Median Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for students who STOPPED ATTENDING UNM
\$5,114

## Commonly Studied Variables: <br> STEM Achievement

## INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITY OF OUTCOMES

## Graduate STEM

## Switch Majors

## Stop Attending

## PRIORITY OF OUTCOMES

## Variables

| VARIABLE | GRADUATE | SHIFT | STOP |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percent of this group <br> who are Pell Eligible | $13.5 \%$ | $23.6 \%$ | $27.3 \%$ |
| Average of High School <br> GPAs within this group | 3.75 | 3.45 | 3.27 |
| Average of ACT <br> Composite scores <br> within this group | 25.8 | 22.9 | 22.2 |
| Average of ACT Math <br> scores within this group | 26.3 | 22.8 | 22.0 |
| Percent of this group <br> who are First <br> Generation | $19.5 \%$ | $\mathbf{3 4 . 2 \%}$ | $40.6 \%$ |
| Average of College <br> GPAs within this group | $\mathbf{3 . 5 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 0 9}$ |

## PRIORITY OF OUTCOMES

## Variables

| VARIABLE | GRADUATE | SHIFT | STOP |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percent of students in <br> this group who <br> required remediation | $12 \%$ | $30.7 \%$ | $39.5 \%$ |
| Percent of students in <br> this group who <br> required MATH <br> remediation | $4.2 \%$ | $18.2 \%$ |  |
| Percentage of students <br> in this group who <br> received a Lottery <br> Scholarship | $91 \%$ |  |  |
| Percentage of Lottery- <br> receiving students in <br> this group who lost <br> their Lottery <br> Scholarship | $18.4 \%$ | $26.4 \%$ |  |

## Stop and Shift Triggerpoints

## TRIGGERPOINTS

## Number of Credits

The average number of credits completed when STEM students stop attending UNM is 38.

The average number of credits completed when STEM students shift majors is 44.8 .


STOPPED STUDENTS: 38
SHIFTED STUDENTS: 44.8

## TRIGGERPOINTS

## Number of Semesters

On average, STOPPED students leave UNM after 3.5 semesters.

On average, SHIFTED students changed majors after 3.5 semesters, the same as for STOPPED students.


## STOPPED STUDENTS: 3.5

## SHIFTED STUDENTS: 3.5

## TRIGGERPOINTS

## Grade Point Average

On average, STOPPED students left UNM with an average cumulative GPA of 2.08. This is contrasted by SHIFTED students, who had an average 2.94 cumulative GPA when they changed majors.


## Time to Graduation

Time to Graduation for STEM at UNM


# Time to Graduation for STEM at UNM 

## TIME TO GRADUATION

| Cohort | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\cong}{0} \\ & \frac{\pi}{5} \\ & \frac{\pi}{5} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & . \frac{5}{\circ} \\ & \stackrel{\pi}{5} \\ & \frac{\pi}{5} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \cong \\ & \stackrel{y}{0} \\ & \frac{\pi}{5} \\ & \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\cong}{0} \\ & \frac{\pi}{5} \\ & \vdots \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{ }{0} \\ & \frac{\pi}{5} \\ & \vdots \end{aligned}$ |  | Total Grad or Still Enrolled |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2005 | 2 | 27 | 46 | 21 | 6 | 13 | 115 |
| Percent | 1.7\% | 23.5\% | 40.0\% | 18.3\% | 5.2\% | 11.3\% | 100.00\% |
| 2006 | 2 | 25 | 54 | 30 | NA | 23 | 134 |
| Percent | 1.5\% | 18.7\% | 40.3\% | 22.4\% |  | 17.2\% | 100.00\% |
| 2007 | 2 | 42 | 77 | NA | NA | 50 | 171 |
| Percent | 1.2\% | 24.6\% | 45.0\% |  |  | 29.2\% | 100.00\% |
| TOTAL | 6 | 94 | 177 | 51 | 6 | 86 | 420 |



SELECTED FINDINGS COURSE OUTCOMES LENS

## Individual STEM <br> Gateway Course Impact on STEM Graduation

AVERAGE PERCENT OF ENROLLMENTS THAT RESULT IN GRADUATION FOR ALL STEM GATEWAY COURSES STUDIED:

### 36.43\%

TEN COURSES WITH...
THE LOWEST PERCENTAGES OF ENROLLMENTS RESULTING IN GRADUATION (enrollments > 100)

| SUBJECT | NUMBER | LAB | N | GRAD | SHIFT | STOP | PCT Grad | PCT Shift | PCT Stop |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| ENVS | 101 |  | 229 | 17 | 162 | 35 | $7.42 \%$ | $70.74 \%$ | $15.28 \%$ |
| MATH | 120 |  | 426 | 35 | 254 | 110 | $8.22 \%$ | $59.62 \%$ | $25.82 \%$ |
| EPS | 101 |  | 189 | 23 | 117 | 37 | $12.17 \%$ | $61.90 \%$ | $19.58 \%$ |
| MATH | 121 |  | 635 | 81 | 368 | 139 | $12.76 \%$ | $57.95 \%$ | $21.89 \%$ |
| CHEM | 123 | L | 156 | 25 | 65 | 32 | $16.03 \%$ | $41.67 \%$ | $20.51 \%$ |
| MATH | 150 |  | 518 | 90 | 231 | 136 | $17.37 \%$ | $44.59 \%$ | $26.25 \%$ |
| MATH | 123 |  | 405 | 90 | 159 | 98 | $22.22 \%$ | $39.26 \%$ | $24.20 \%$ |
| MATH | 180 |  | 406 | 111 | 219 | 52 | $27.34 \%$ | $53.94 \%$ | $12.81 \%$ |
| CHEM | 124 | L | 169 | 54 | 54 | 22 | $31.95 \%$ | $31.95 \%$ | $13.02 \%$ |
| MATH | 162 |  | 426 | 147 | 126 | 75 | $34.51 \%$ | $29.58 \%$ | $17.61 \%$ |

TEN COURSES WITH...
THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF ENROLLMENTS NOT GRADUATING STEM (enrollments > 100)

| SUBJECT | NUMBER |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| GRAD | SHIFT | STOP | PCT Grad | PCT Shift | PCT Stop | Number <br> NotGrad |  |  |  |
| MATH | 121 | 635 | 81 | 368 | 139 | $12.76 \%$ | $57.95 \%$ | $21.89 \%$ | 507 |
| CHEM | 121 | 804 | 290 | 302 | 140 | $36.07 \%$ | $37.56 \%$ | $17.41 \%$ | 442 |
| MATH | 150 | 518 | 90 | 231 | 136 | $17.37 \%$ | $44.59 \%$ | $26.25 \%$ | 367 |
| MATH | 120 | 426 | 35 | 254 | 110 | $8.22 \%$ | $59.62 \%$ | $25.82 \%$ | 364 |
| MATH | 180 | 406 | 111 | 219 | 52 | $27.34 \%$ | $53.94 \%$ | $12.81 \%$ | 271 |
| MATH | 123 | 405 | 90 | 159 | 98 | $22.22 \%$ | $39.26 \%$ | $24.20 \%$ | 257 |
| CHEM | 122 | 560 | 253 | 169 | 80 | $45.18 \%$ | $30.18 \%$ | $14.29 \%$ | 249 |
| MATH | 162 | 426 | 147 | 126 | 75 | $34.51 \%$ | $29.58 \%$ | $17.61 \%$ | 201 |
| ENVS | 101 | 229 | 17 | 162 | 35 | $7.42 \%$ | $70.74 \%$ | $15.28 \%$ | 197 |
| BIO | 201 | 383 | 153 | 143 | 51 | $39.95 \%$ | $37.34 \%$ | $13.32 \%$ | 194 |

TEN COURSES WITH...
THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGES OF ENROLLMENTS RESULTING IN STOP (enrollments > 100)

| SUBJECT | NUMBER | LAB | N | GRAD | SHIFT | STOP | PCT Grad | PCT Shift | PCT Stop |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| MATH | 150 |  | 518 | 90 | 231 | 136 | $17.37 \%$ | $44.59 \%$ | $26.25 \%$ |
| MATH | 120 |  | 426 | 35 | 254 | 110 | $8.22 \%$ | $59.62 \%$ | $25.82 \%$ |
| MATH | 123 |  | 405 | 90 | 159 | 98 | $22.22 \%$ | $39.26 \%$ | $24.20 \%$ |
| MATH | 121 |  | 635 | 81 | 368 | 139 | $12.76 \%$ | $57.95 \%$ | $21.89 \%$ |
| CHEM | 123 | L | 156 | 25 | 65 | 32 | $16.03 \%$ | $41.67 \%$ | $20.51 \%$ |
| EPS | 101 |  | 189 | 23 | 117 | 37 | $12.17 \%$ | $61.90 \%$ | $19.58 \%$ |
| MATH | 162 |  | 426 | 147 | 126 | 75 | $34.51 \%$ | $29.58 \%$ | $17.61 \%$ |
| CHEM | 121 |  | 804 | 290 | 30 | 140 | $36.07 \%$ | $37.56 \%$ | $17.41 \%$ |
| ENVS | 101 |  | 229 | 17 | 162 | 35 | $7.42 \%$ | $70.74 \%$ | $15.28 \%$ |
| MATH | 163 |  | 382 | 186 | 79 | 57 | $48.69 \%$ | $20.68 \%$ | $14.92 \%$ |

TEN COURSES WITH...
THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF ENROLLMENTS WHO STOP
(enrollments > 100)

| SUBJECT | NUMBER | N | GRAD | SHIFT | STOP | PCT Grad | PCT Shift | PCT Stop |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| CHEM | 121 | 804 | 290 | 302 | 140 | $36.07 \%$ | $37.56 \%$ | $17.41 \%$ |
| MATH | 121 | 635 | 81 | 368 | 139 | $12.76 \%$ | $57.95 \%$ | $21.89 \%$ |
| MATH | 150 | 518 | 90 | 231 | 136 | $17.37 \%$ | $44.59 \%$ | $26.25 \%$ |
| MATH | 120 | 426 | 35 | 254 | 110 | $8.22 \%$ | $59.62 \%$ | $25.82 \%$ |
| MATH | 123 | 405 | 90 | 159 | 98 | $22.22 \%$ | $39.26 \%$ | $24.20 \%$ |
| CHEM | 122 | 560 | 253 | 169 | 80 | $45.18 \%$ | $30.18 \%$ | $14.29 \%$ |
| MATH | 162 | 426 | 147 | 126 | 75 | $34.51 \%$ | $29.58 \%$ | $17.61 \%$ |
| MATH | 163 | 382 | 186 | 79 | 57 | $48.69 \%$ | $20.68 \%$ | $14.92 \%$ |
| MATH | 180 | 406 | 111 | 219 | 52 | $27.34 \%$ | $53.94 \%$ | $12.81 \%$ |
| BIO | 201 | 383 | 153 | 143 | 51 | $39.95 \%$ | $37.34 \%$ | $13.32 \%$ |

The Courses that appear on all four tables...
MATH 121: College Algebra
MATH 150: Pre-Calculus Math
MATH 120: Intermediate Algebra
MATH 123: Trigonometry
MATH 162: Calculus 1

And yet, pre-calculus math is crucial to STEM attainment...

| Percentage of STEM Bachelor's Degree Earners at UNM who Completed <br> MATH 120 and MATH 121 |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Population of students from first-time <br> full-time freshman cohorts | Completed MATH 120 <br> at UNM | Completed MATH 121 <br> at UNM |
| All STEM Degree Recipients | $19 \%$ | $41 \%$ |
| All Engineering Degree Recipients | $10 \%$ | $21 \%$ |
| All Arts \& Sciences STEM Degree Recipients | $23 \%$ | $52 \%$ |
| Arts \& Sciences: Biology Degree <br> Recipients Only | $28 \%$ | $57 \%$ |
| Arts \& Sciences: STEM Degree Recipients <br> other than Biology | $12 \%$ | $40 \%$ |

... and to UNM enrollment for fist time freshmen.

## PERCENT OF UNM FIRST SEMESTER STUDENTS (ALL MAJORS) WHO ENROLL IN SPECIFIC MATH COURSES

| Enroll in any pre-calculus mathematics course | $66 \%$ |
| ---: | :--- |
| Enroll in Calculus 1 or beyond | $6 \%$ |
| Enroll in no math course | $28 \%$ |



## Course Categories with Low Incidence of Students Graduating STEM Degrees

## COURSE CATEGORIES

In the table below, for each course category listed, we see the Graduation percentage for all enrollments from that category

| SUBJECT | N | GRAD | SHIFT | STOP | PCT <br> Grad | PCT <br> Shift | $\begin{aligned} & \text { PCT } \\ & \text { Stop } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| All Courses | 9540 | 3475 | 3558 | 1470 | 36.43\% | 37.30\% | 15.41\% |
| All Math Courses | 3440 | 854 | 1523 | 693 | 24.83\% | 44.27\% | 20.15\% |
| All Pre-Calc Math Courses | 2044 | 309 | 1047 | 492 | 15.12\% | 51.22\% | 24.07\% |
| All 100 Level Courses | 7510 | 2451 | 2943 | 1288 | 32.64\% | 39.19\% | 17.15\% |
| All <151 Level Courses | 4359 | 1016 | 2016 | 878 | 23.31\% | 46.25\% | 20.14\% |
| All 151-199 Level Courses | 3151 | 1435 | 927 | 410 | 45.54\% | 29.42\% | 13.01\% |
| All 200+ Level Courses | 2030 | 1024 | 615 | 182 | 50.44\% | 30.30\% | 8.97\% |

Of the enrollments in this population from pre-calculus mathematics courses, only $\mathbf{1 5 . 1 2 \%}$ led to STEM bachelors degrees at UNM.

Of the enrollments in this population from STEM Gateway courses at the 150 level or lower, only $23.31 \%$ led to STEM bachelors degrees at UNM.

# The Impact of "A" Grades on STEM Graduation 

## ALL THE WAY TO "A"

## Overview

The "UNM Killer Course List" from Fall 2011 includes eighty two courses with high enrollments (121 and above) and low student pass rates.

STEM Gateway studied the grade distribution patterns for the following sixteen STEM-based courses on this list: MATH 120, 121, 123, 150, 162, 163, 180, 181; ENVS 101; CHEM 121, 122, 301, 302; BIOL 201, 202; PHYC 160. Taken together, these courses represent a sizable portion of the gateway courses that STEM students complete en route to their degrees.

|  | GRADUATED | SHIFTED | STOPPED |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percentage of <br> enrollments in this <br> group that resulted <br> in an A, B or C | $86.18 \%$ | $65.33 \%$ | $54.36 \%$ |

## ALL THE WAY TO "A"

## Grade Distribution Patterns

| Comparing GRADUATED to SHIFTED |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | B | C | D | F | WD | CR | NCR | ABC |
| Graduated | 37.78 | 32.74 | 15.66 | 3.72 | 0.84 | 7.09 | 1.80 | 0.04 | 86.18 |
| Shifted | 15.19 | 26.05 | 24.09 | 10.88 | 4.73 | 15.68 | 1.55 | 1.60 | 65.33 |
| Difference | 22.59 | 6.69 | -8.43 | -7.16 | -3.89 | -8.58 | 0.25 | -1.56 | 20.85 |
| Comparing GRADUATED to SHIFTED |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | A | B | C | D | F | WD | CR | NCR | ABC |
| Graduated | 37.78 | 32.74 | 15.66 | 3.72 | 0.84 | 7.09 | 1.80 | 0.04 | 86.18 |
| Stopped | 11.09 | 22.53 | 20.74 | 12.96 | 9.46 | 21.82 | 1.20 | 1.61 | 54.36 |
| Difference | 26.69 | 10.21 | -5.08 | -9.24 | -8.61 | -14.73 | 0.60 | -1.58 | 31.82 |

## Pre-Calculus Math and Student Achievement for Traditionally Underrepresented STEM Students

## Pre-Calc Math, All Students Combined

| Subpopulation | N at end of <br> semester | Pct "A" | Pct "A-B-C-CR" |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MATH 120 | 426 | 15.4 | $\mathbf{6 5 . 7}$ |
| MATH 121 | 635 | 12.9 | $\mathbf{6 4 . 4}$ |
| MATH 123 | 405 | 15.4 | $\mathbf{5 9 . 2}$ |
| MATH 150 | 518 | 13.4 | $\mathbf{5 7 . 6}$ |

Success Pct (A-B-C-CR) for All Students Combined


## Success Pct (A-B-C-CR) By Ethnicity and SES



# Success Pct (A-B-C-CR) By Gender 



## SELECTED IMPLICATIONS

## Students may not know what they want

 to be when they originally declare a major.The status quo is not highly effective for traditionally underrepresented STEM students. However, the proportions of these students are growing at UNM.

Underserved Student Populations as Proportions of Enrollments, Freshmen Classes and Bachelor's Degree Earners (source: UNM Factbooks)

|  | Fall 1996 | Fall 2012 | Difference |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Undergraduate student enrollment |  |  |  |
| African American students | 2.7\% | 2.7\% | 0.0 |
| American Indian students | 5.0\% | 6.4\% | +1.4 |
| Hispanic students | 28.7\% | 43.0\% | +14.3 |
| Female students | 56.7\% | 55.7\% | -1.0 |
| Graduate student enrollment |  |  |  |
| African American students | 1.4\% | 1.7\% | +0.3 |
| American Indian students | 2.3\% | 3.9\% | +1.6 |
| Hispanic students | 12.5\% | 23.5\% | +11.0 |
| Female students | 53.5\% | 57.6\% | +4.1 |
| Freshman student enrollment |  |  |  |
| African American students | 3.1\% | 2.6\% | -0.5 |
| American Indian students | 5.1\% | 5.6\% | +0.5 |
| Hispanic students | 35.0\% | 48.5\% | +13.5 |
| Bachelor's degree earners |  |  |  |
| African American students | 2.1\% | 2.8\% | +0.7 |
| American Indian students | 4.9\% | 4.9\% | 0.0 |
| Hispanic students | 24.9\% | 38.1\% | +13.2 |


| White Male Populations as Proportions of Enrollments, Freshmen Classes and Bachelor's Degree Earners (source: UNM Factbooks) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Fall 1996 | Fall 2012 | Difference |
| Undergraduate student enrollment |  |  |  |
| White students | 57.5\% | 38.3\% | -19.2 |
| Male students | 43.3\% | 44.3\% | -1.0 |
| Graduate student enrollment |  |  |  |
| White students | 72.1\% | 49.9\% | -22.2 |
| Male students | 46.5\% | 42.4\% | -4.1 |
| Freshman student enrollment |  |  |  |
| White students | 50.5\% | 33.3\% | -17.2 |
| Bachelor's degree earners |  |  |  |
| White students | 63.5\% | 44.4\% | -19.1 |

Students are struggling to get through the pre-calculus math sequence.

|  | Pre-Calculus Courses on UNM's Killer Course List Percent of Enrollments "Did Not Pass" |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | MATH 120 | MATH 121 | MATH 123 | MATH 150 |
| Spring 2013 | 69\% <br> $1^{\text {st }}$ on the list | $41 \%$ <br> $12^{\text {th }}$ on the list | $\begin{gathered} 53 \% \\ 2^{\text {nd }} \text { on the list } \end{gathered}$ | 52\% <br> $3^{\text {rd }}$ on the list |
| Fall 2012 | $43 \%$ <br> $8^{\text {th }}$ on the list | 39\% <br> $10^{\text {th }}$ on the list | $\begin{gathered} 57 \% \\ 1^{\text {st }} \text { on the list } \end{gathered}$ | 51\% <br> $2^{\text {nd }}$ on the list |
| Spring 2012 | $47 \%$ <br> $5^{\text {th }}$ on the list | $\begin{gathered} 52 \% \\ 3^{\text {rd }} \text { on the list } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 51 \% \\ 4^{\text {th }} \text { on the list } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 68 \% \\ 1^{\text {st }} \text { on the list } \end{gathered}$ |
| Fall 2011 | $55 \%$ <br> $3^{\text {rd }}$ on the list | $43 \%$ <br> $6^{\text {th }}$ on the list | $\begin{gathered} 51 \% \\ 4^{\text {th }} \text { on the list } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 64 \% \\ 1^{\text {st }} \text { on the list } \end{gathered}$ |


| Pre-Calculus Courses on UNM's Killer Course List Number of Enrollments Resulting in "Did Not Pass" Outcome |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | MATH 120 | MATH 121 | MATH 123 | MATH 150 |
| Spring 2013 | $704$ <br> $1^{\text {st }}$ on the list | 438 <br> $2^{\text {nd }}$ on the list | $251$ <br> $6^{\text {th }}$ on the list | $195$ <br> $11^{\text {th }}$ on the list |
| Fall 2012 | $\begin{gathered} 581 \\ 2^{\text {nd }} \text { on the list } \end{gathered}$ | $584$ <br> $1^{\text {st }}$ on the list | $246$ <br> $10^{\text {th }}$ on the list | $262$ <br> $8^{\text {th }}$ on the list |
| Spring 2012 | $506$ <br> $1^{\text {st }}$ on the list | $\begin{gathered} 475 \\ 2^{\text {nd }} \text { on the list } \end{gathered}$ | $217$ <br> $12^{\text {th }}$ on the list | $238$ <br> $10^{\text {th }}$ on the list |
| Fall 2011 | $747$ <br> $1^{\text {st }}$ on the list | $\begin{gathered} 596 \\ 2^{\text {nd }} \text { on the list } \end{gathered}$ | $193$ <br> $14^{\text {th }}$ on the list | $295$ <br> $9^{\text {th }}$ on the list |

When students give up on UNM or on their STEM degrees, they usually do so early in their educational careers.

UNM needs to help students understand the value of mastery (" $A$ " level grades) in their STEM gateway courses.

Most UNM students take longer than four years to earn STEM bachelor's degrees.

## Questions?

## For More Information...

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