Who are our freshmen?

Institutional Planning & Analysis

December 16, 2009

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This presentation:

- Compares entering freshman cohorts, from 2005 through 2009
- Provides overview of three related studies
  - Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE)
  - New Student Survey
  - Admission Validity Study

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Characteristics of Freshmen

- High School GPA
- SAT Scores
  - Math
  - Reading
  - Writing
- A through G Courses
- HS Honors Courses
- WRI 1 Enrollments
- MATH 5 Enrollments
- Admits by Exception
- Eligible in Local Context
- First Generation
- STEM Major
- 1st Sem Credit Hours
- Live in Dorm 1st Sem
- Spoke Only English in Home

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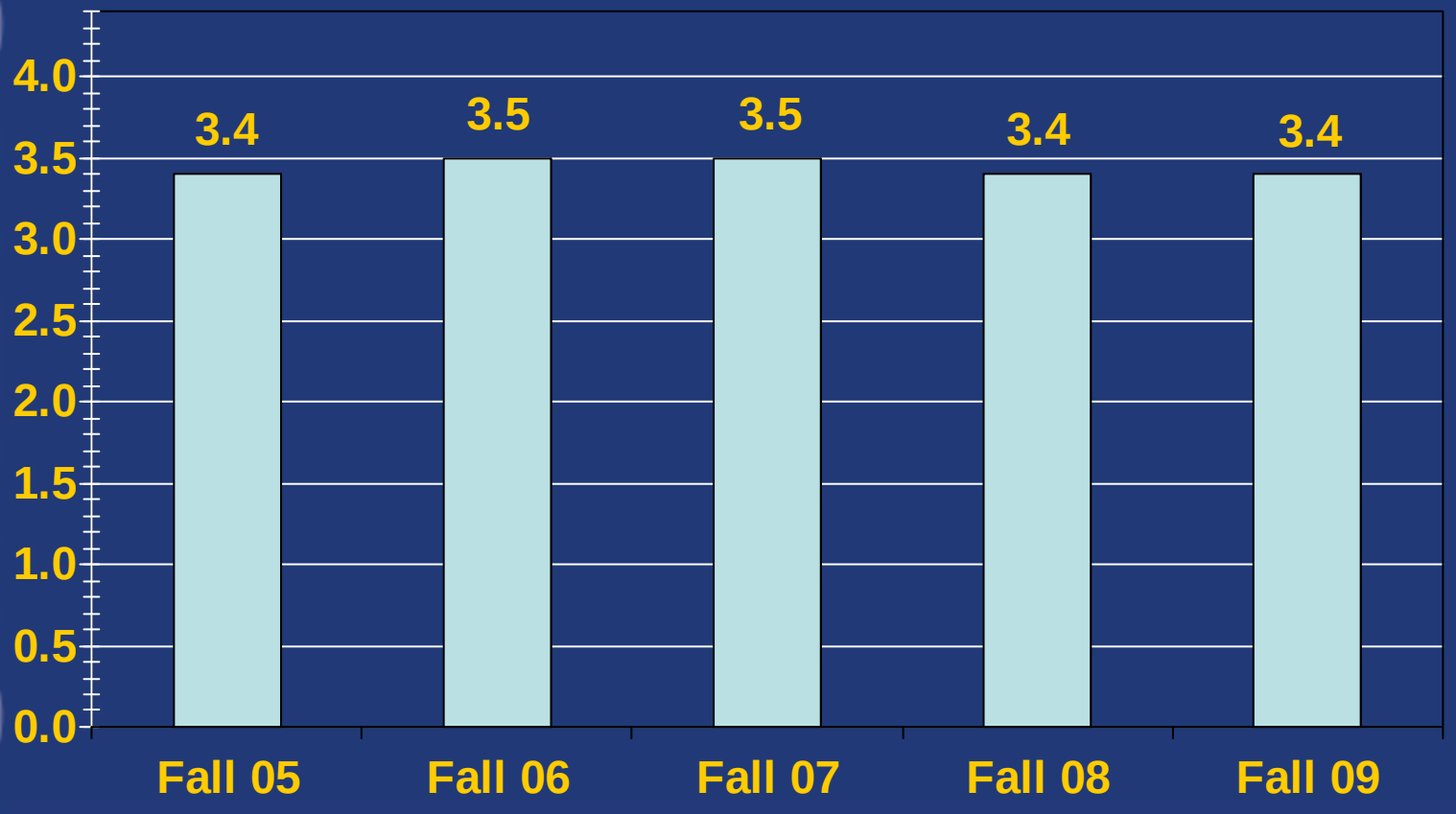
High School GPA



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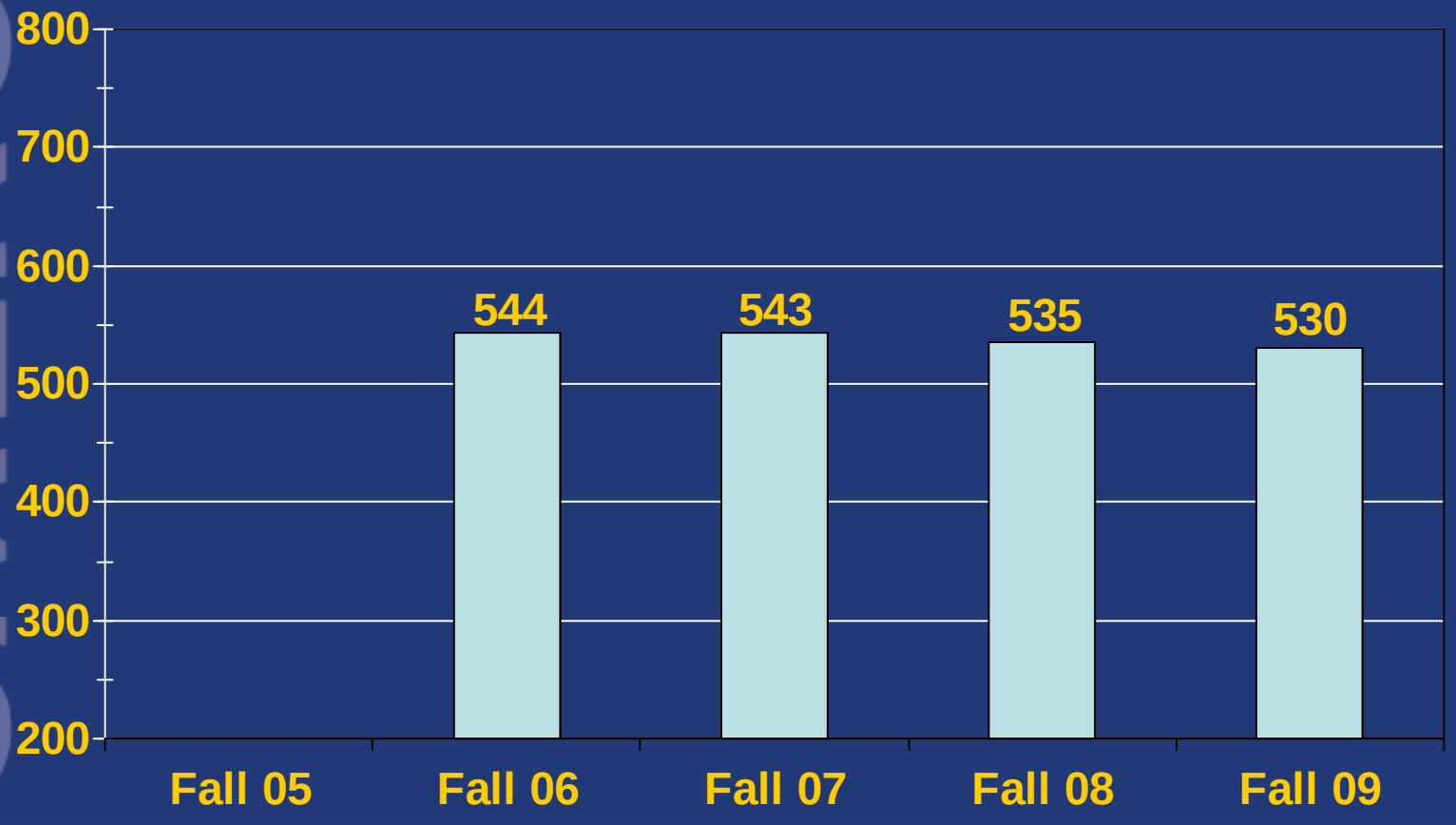
Math SAT Score



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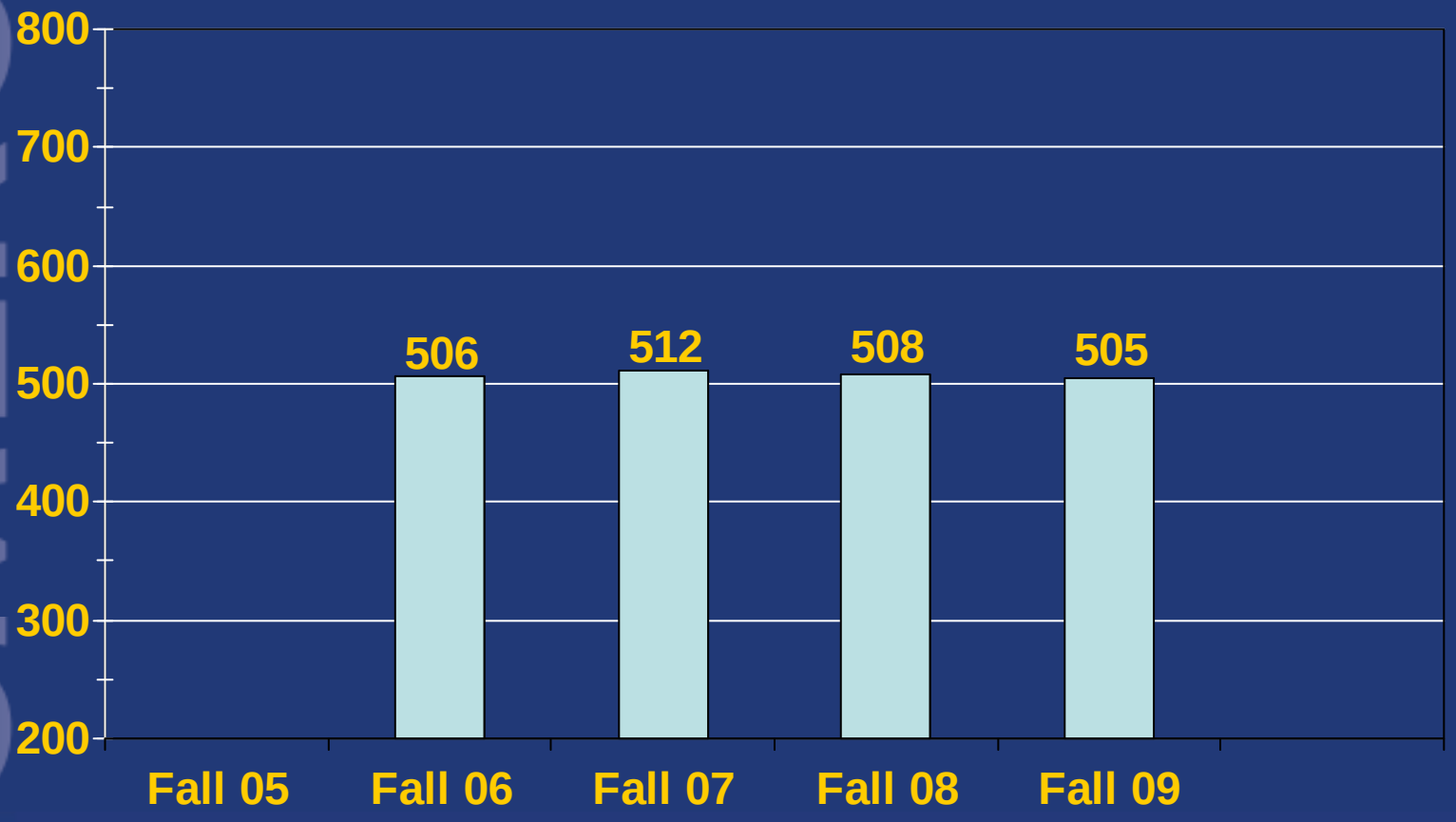
Reading SAT Score



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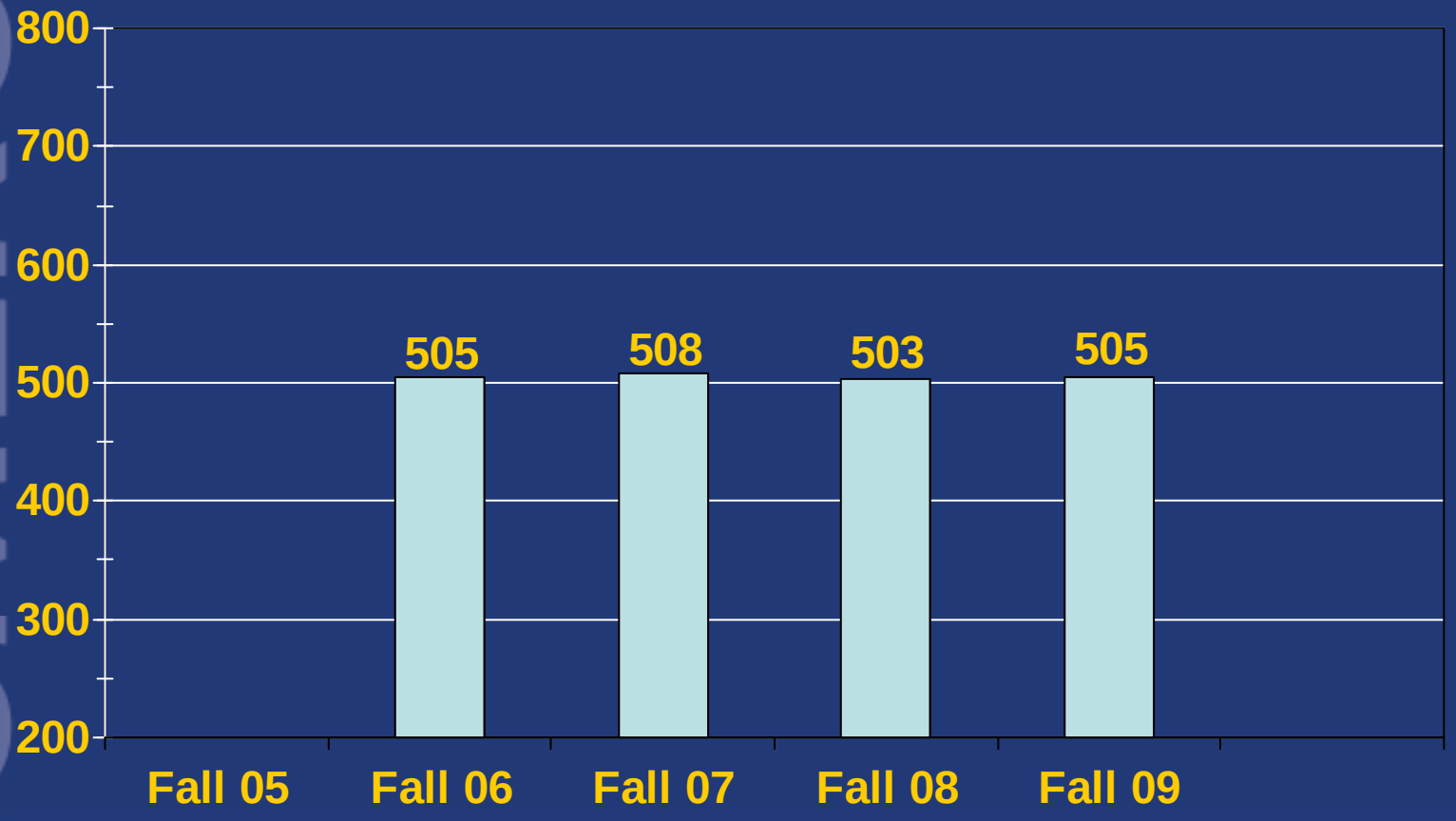
Writing SAT Score



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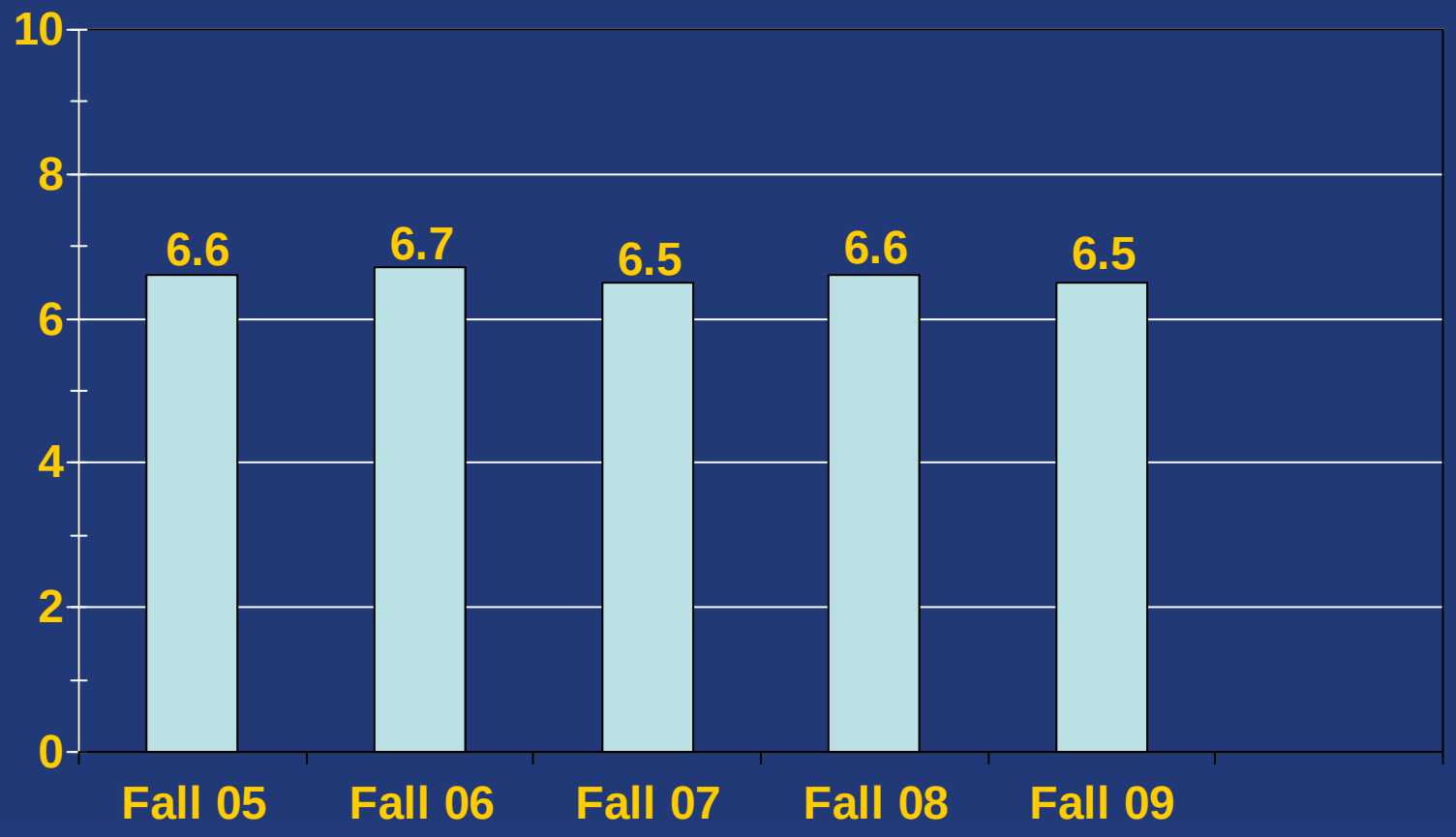
H.S. Hist/Soc Sci (A) Courses



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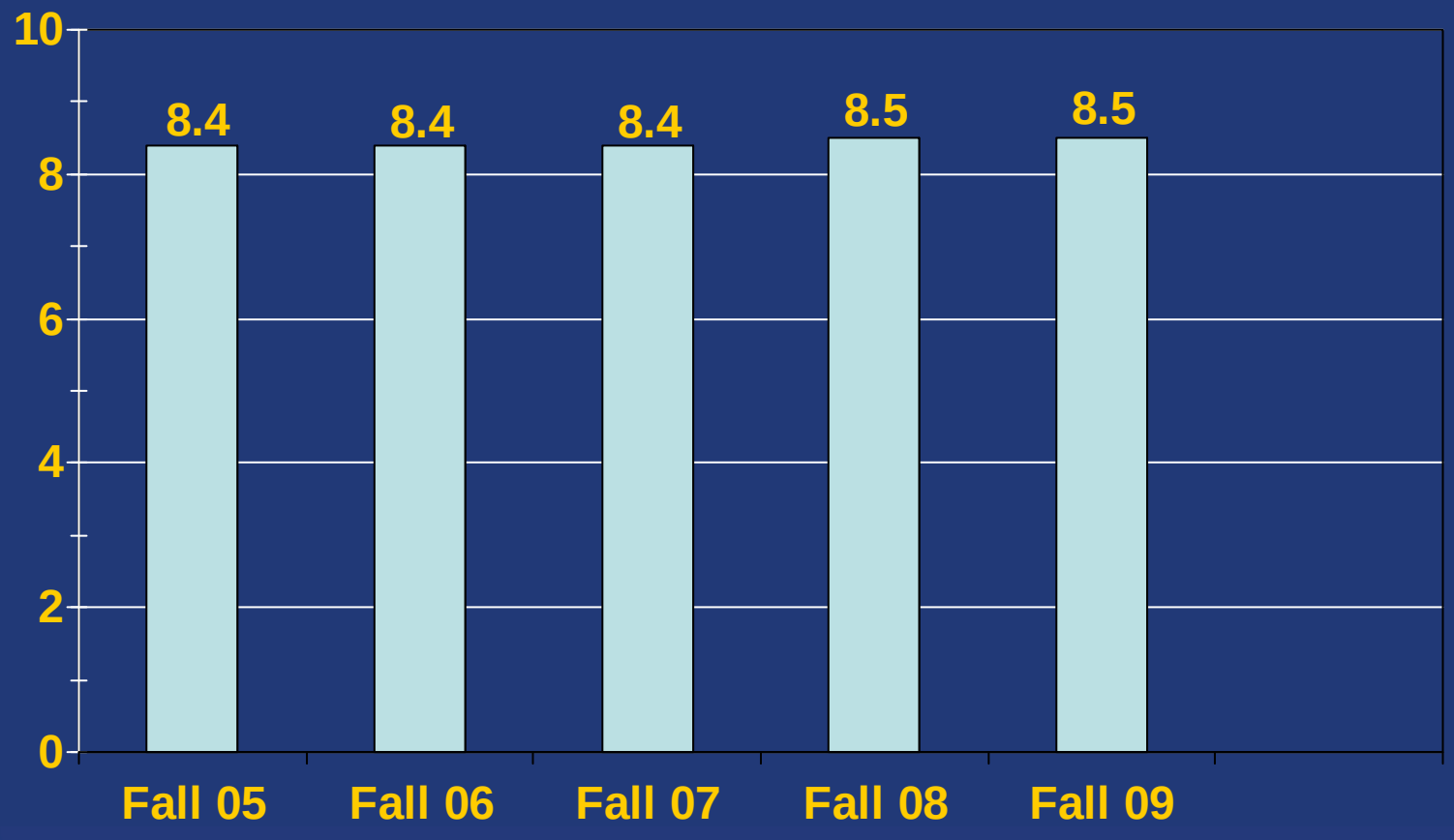
H.S. English (B) Courses



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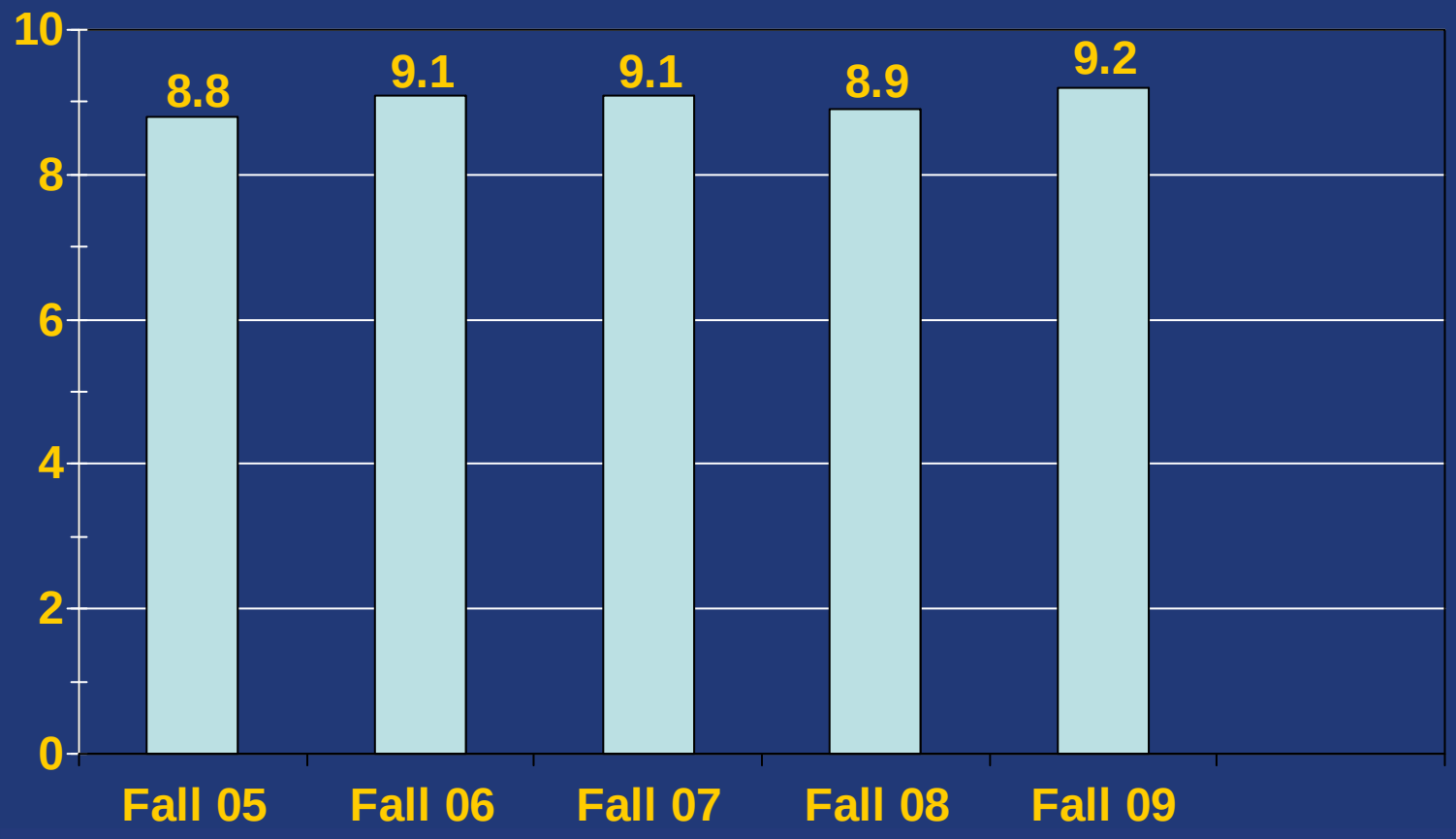
H.S. Math (C) Courses



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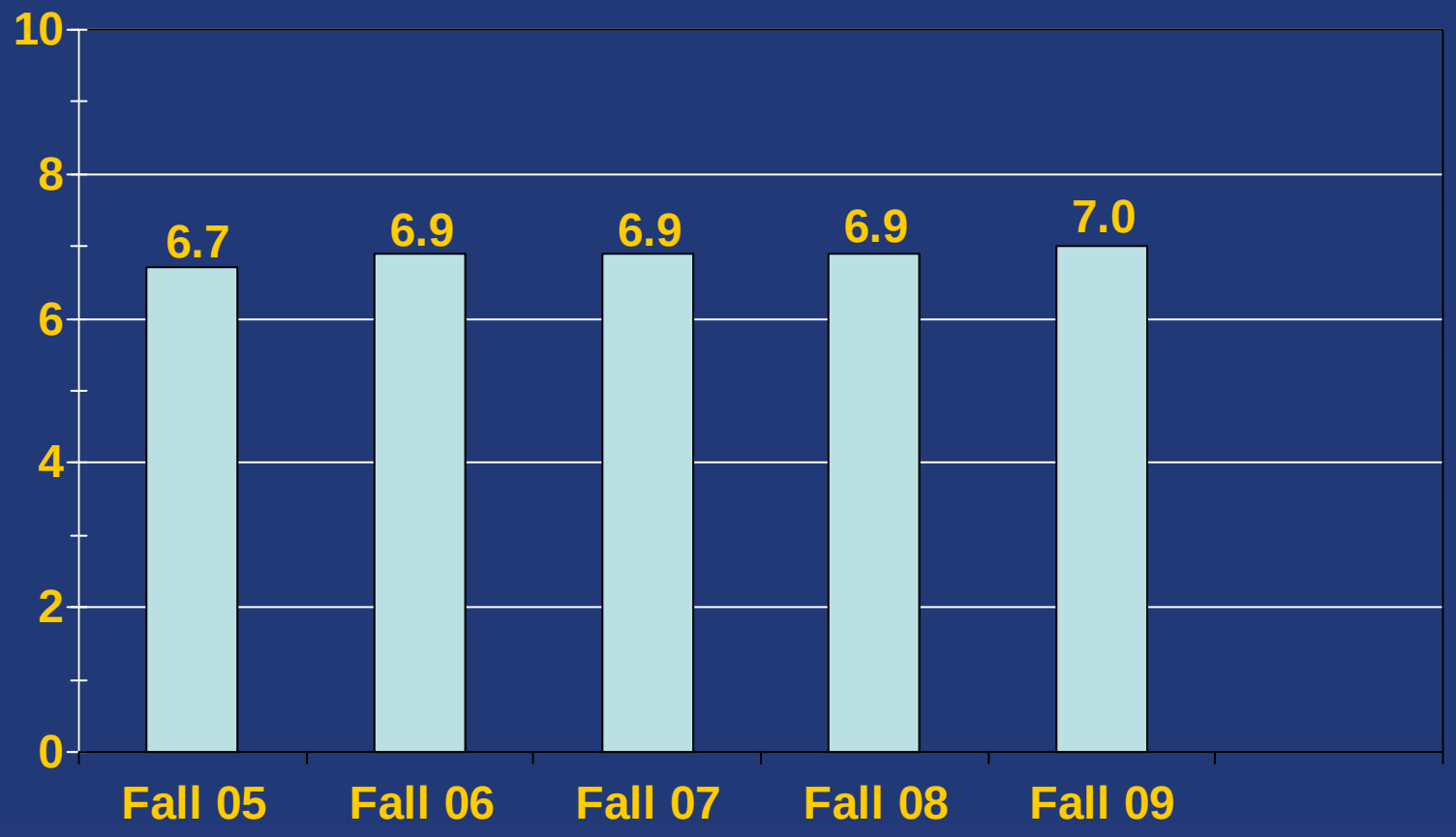
H.S. Lab Science (D) Courses



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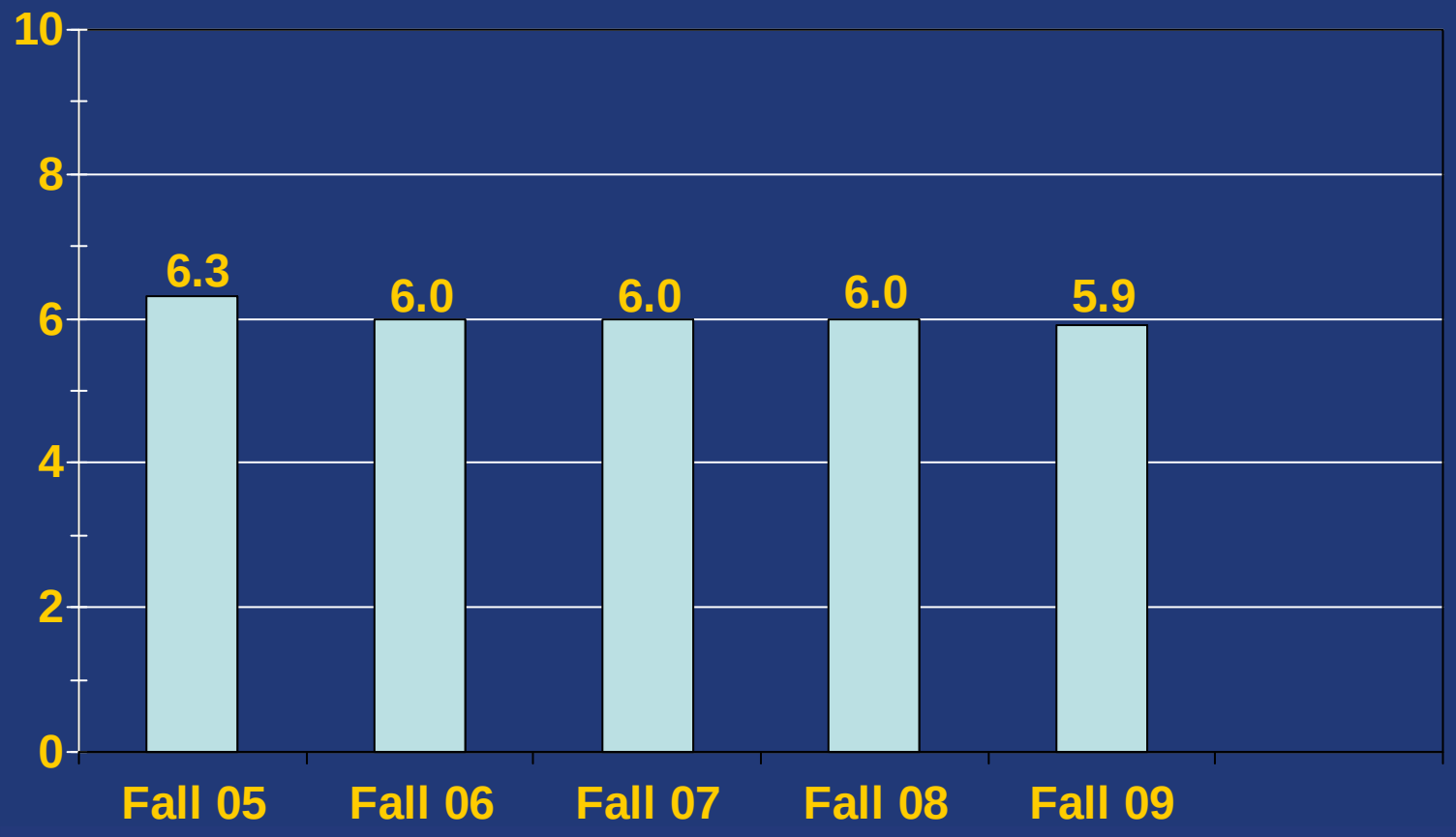
H.S. Language (E) Courses



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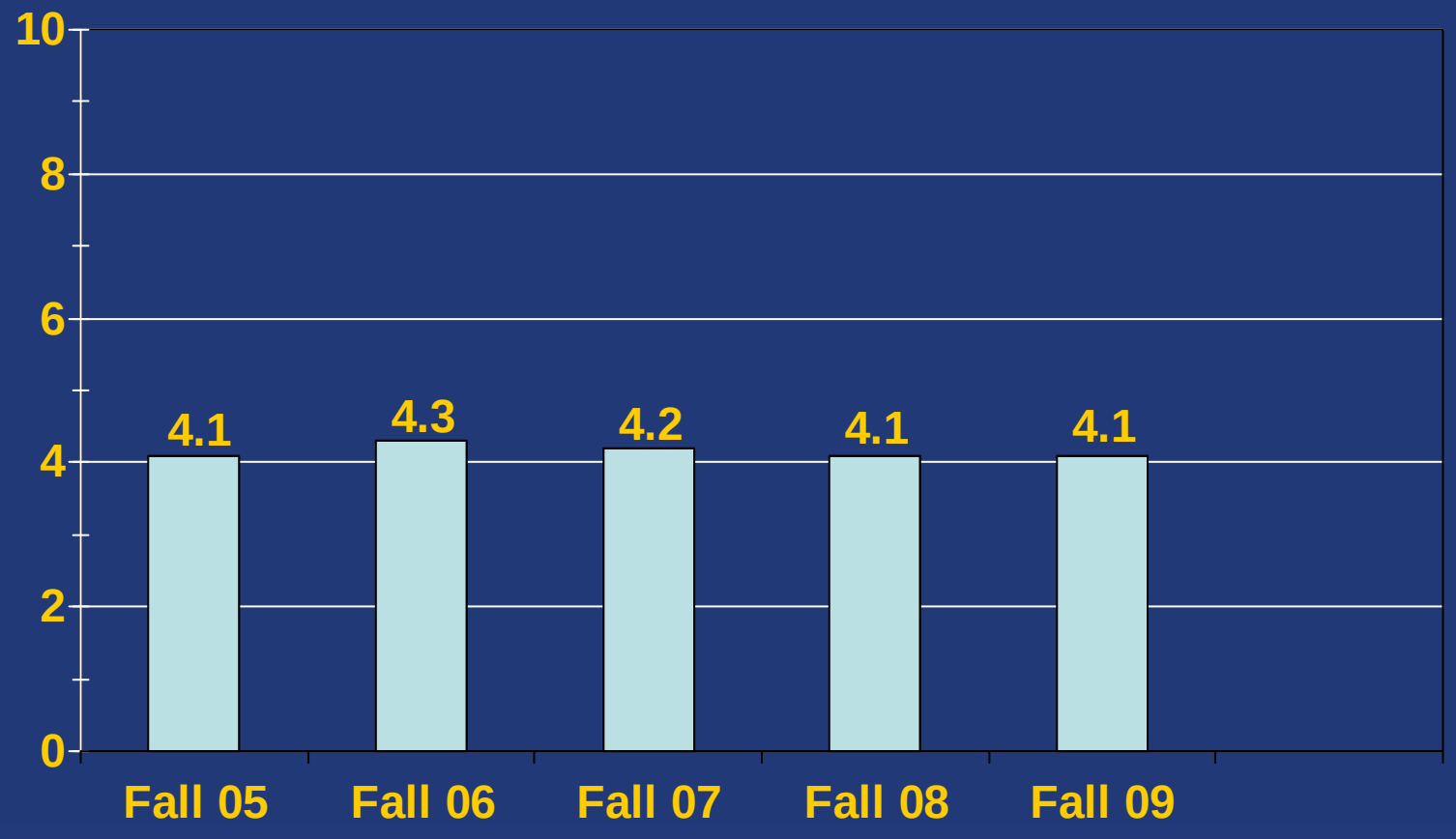
H.S. Arts (F) Courses Taken



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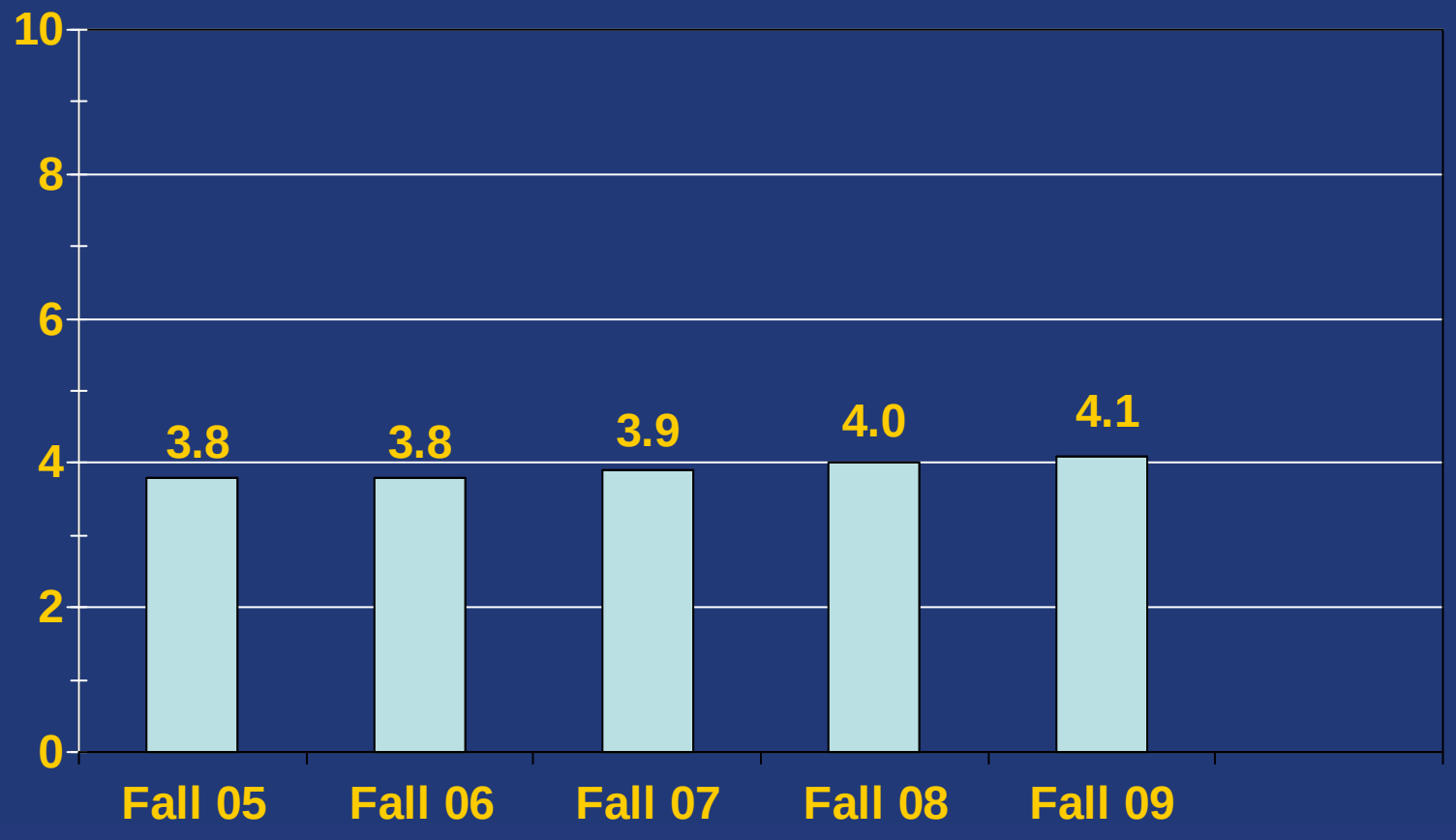
H.S. College Prep (G) Courses



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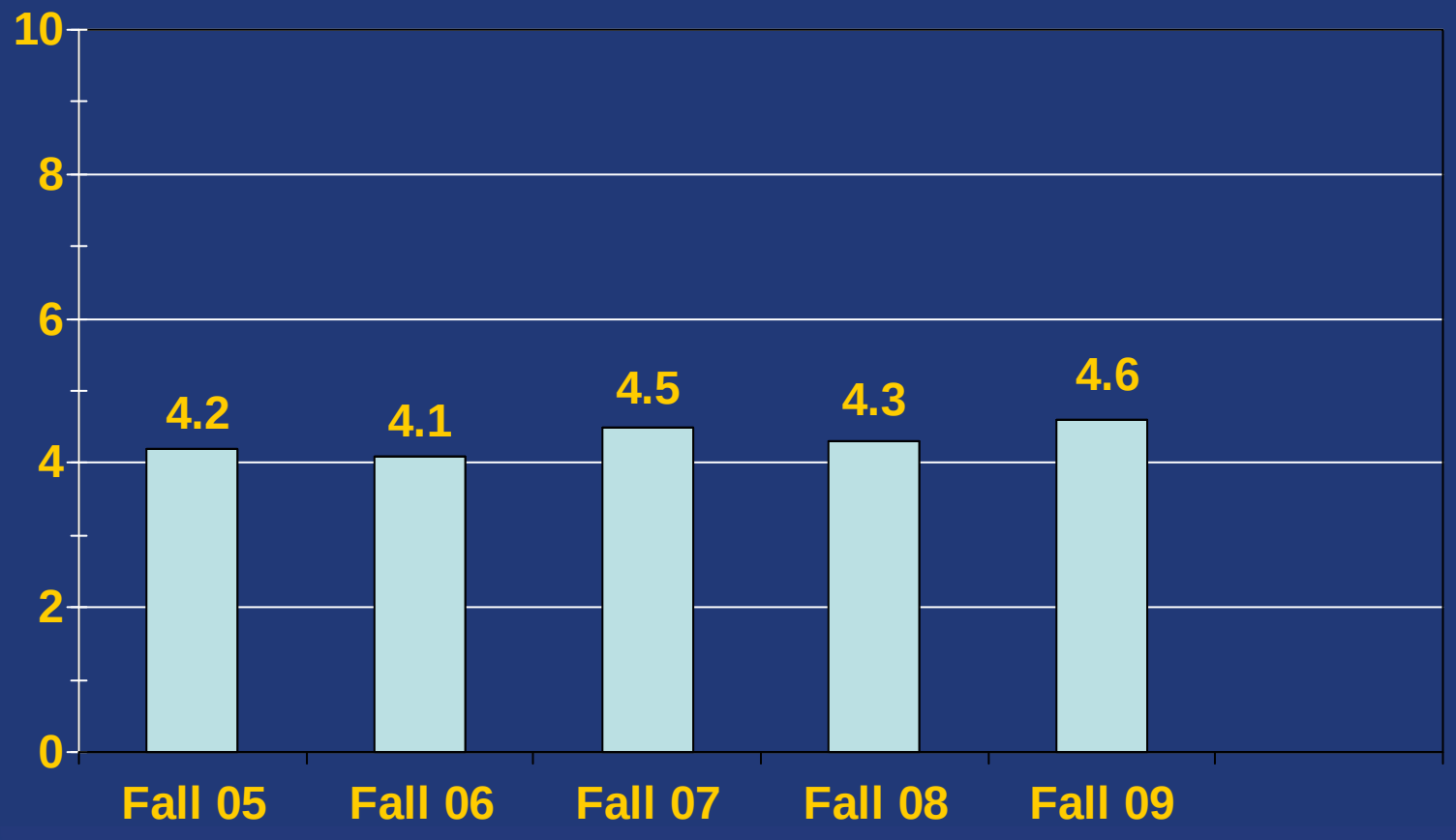
H.S. Honors Courses



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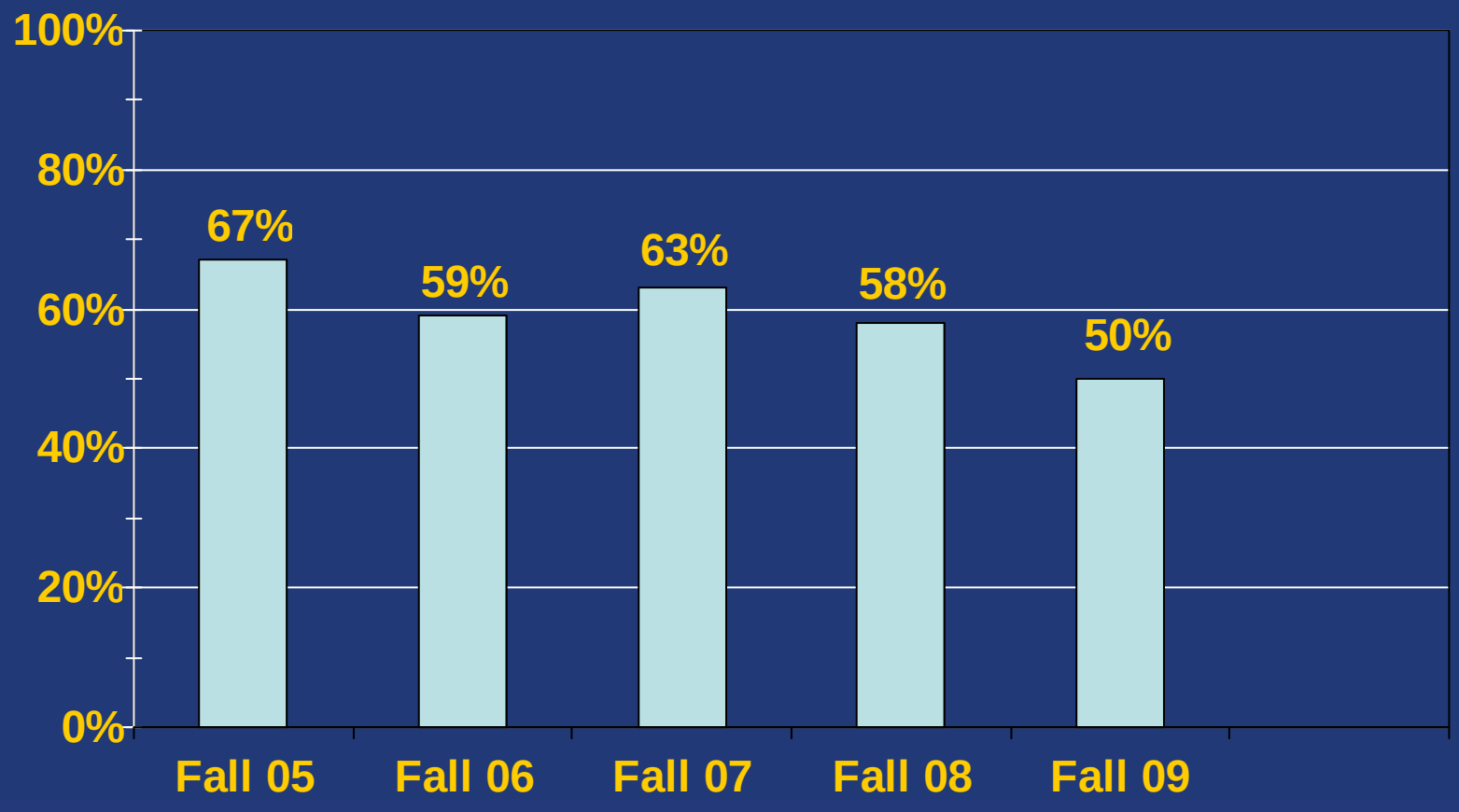
Took WRI 1 First Semester



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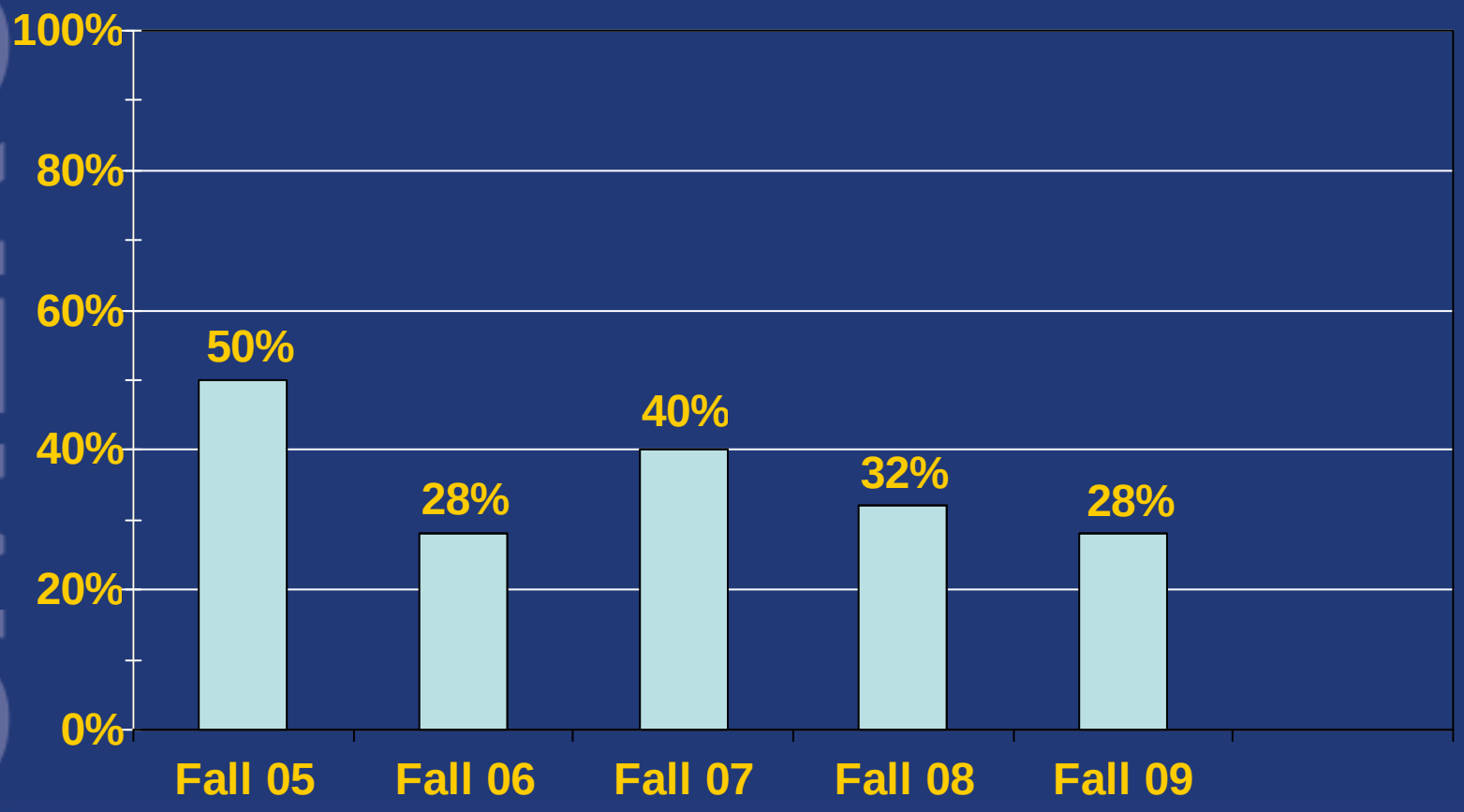
Took MATH 5 First Semester



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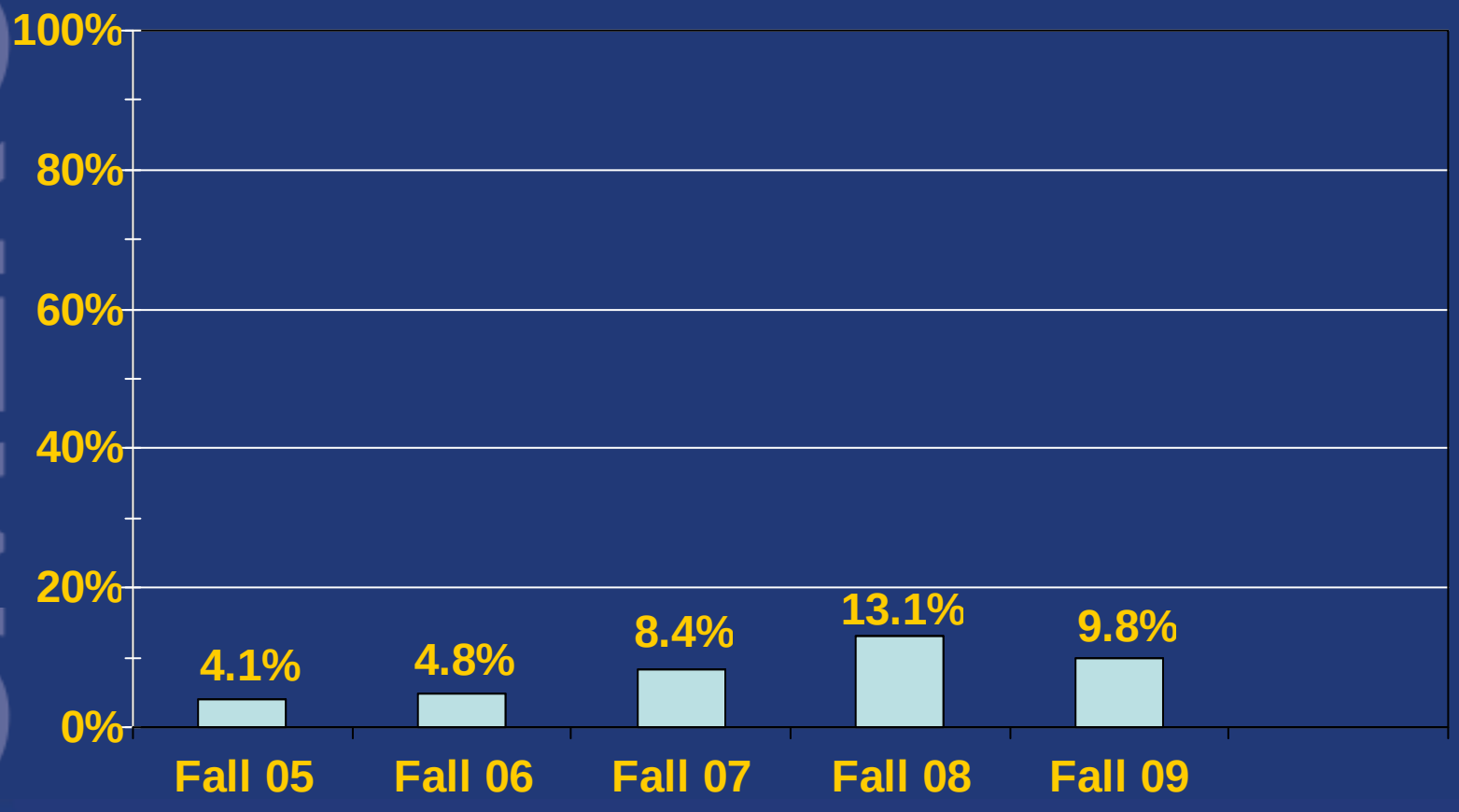
Admitted by Exception



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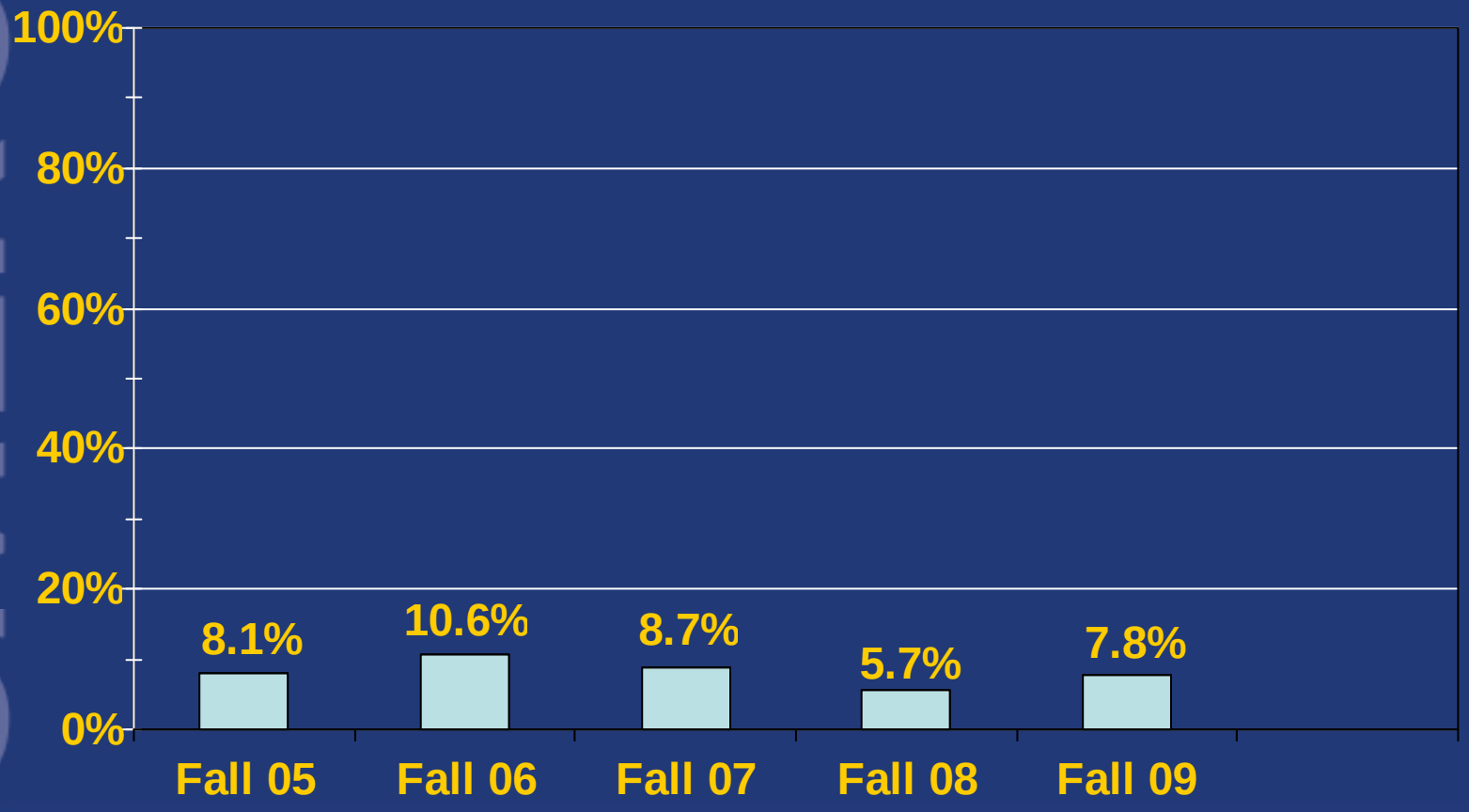
Eligible in Local Context



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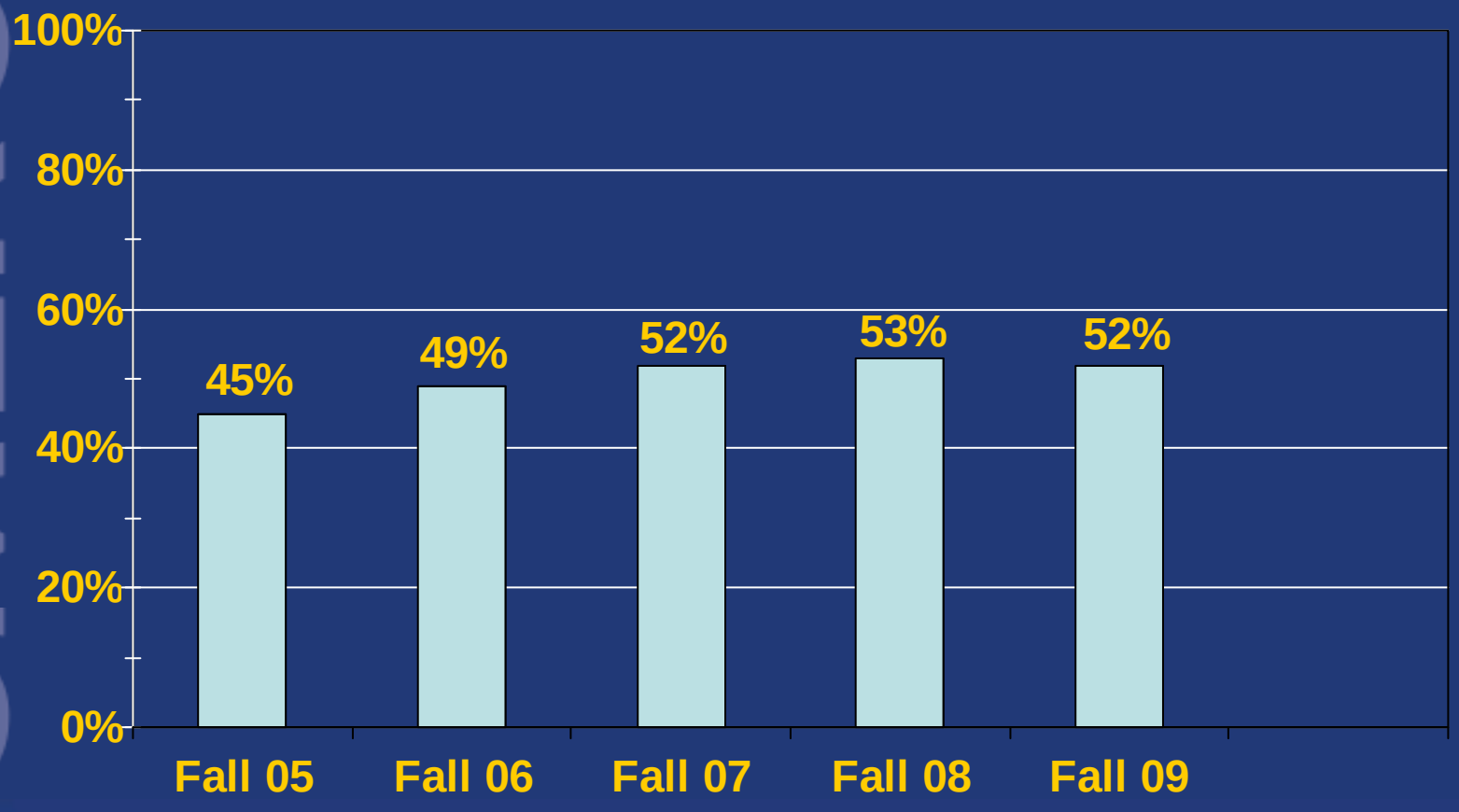
First Generation Student



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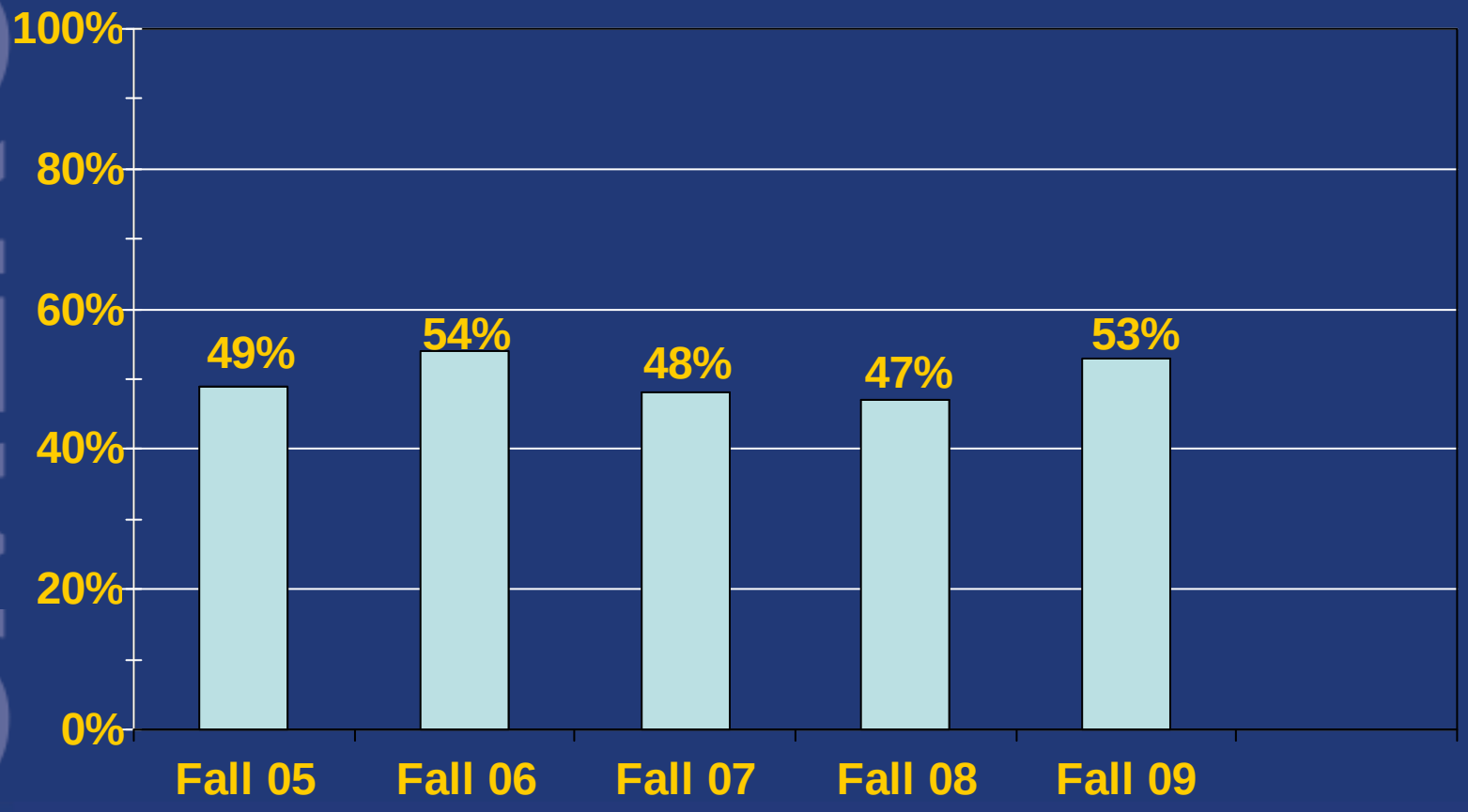
STEM Major



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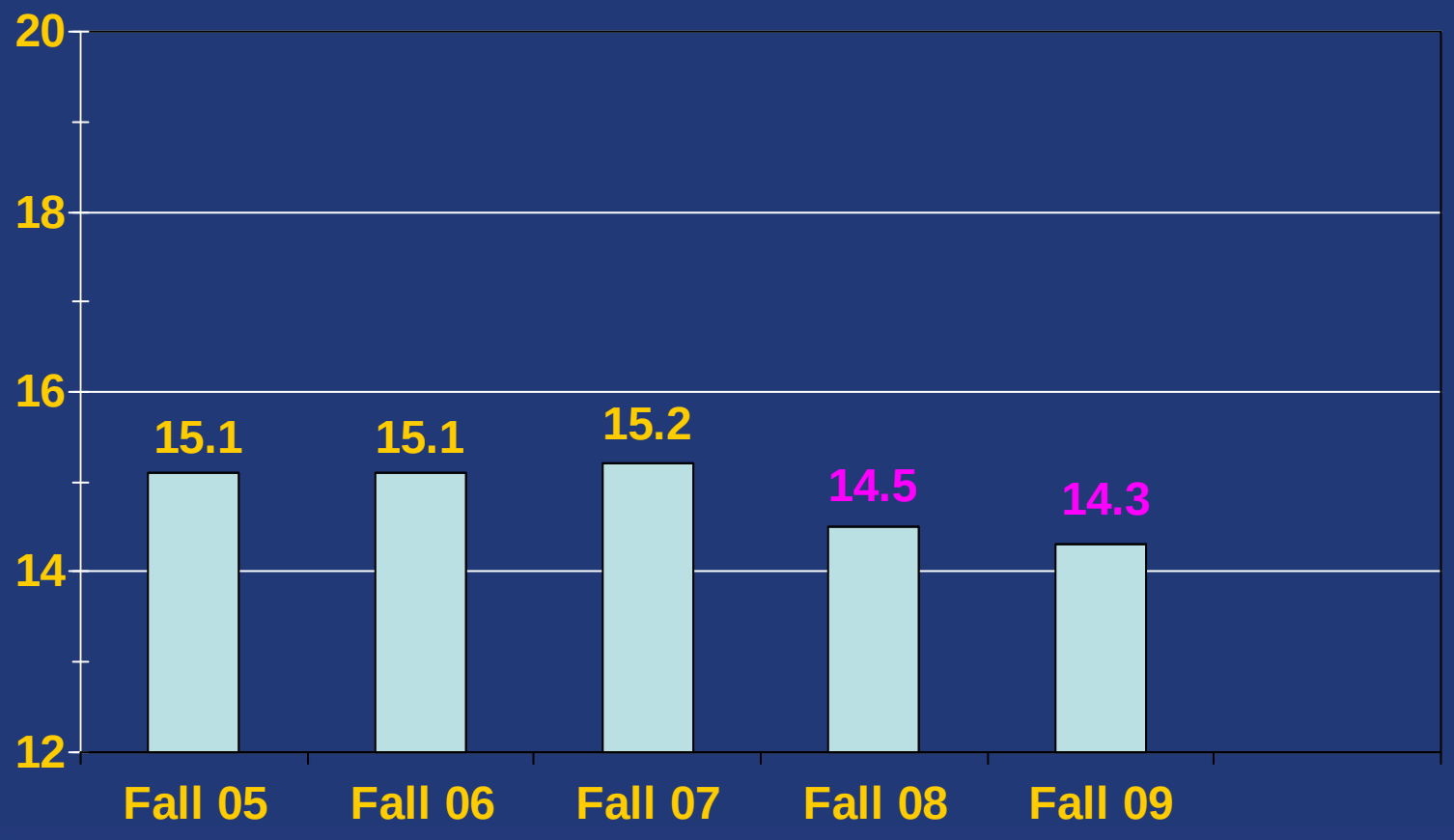
Credit Hours First Semester



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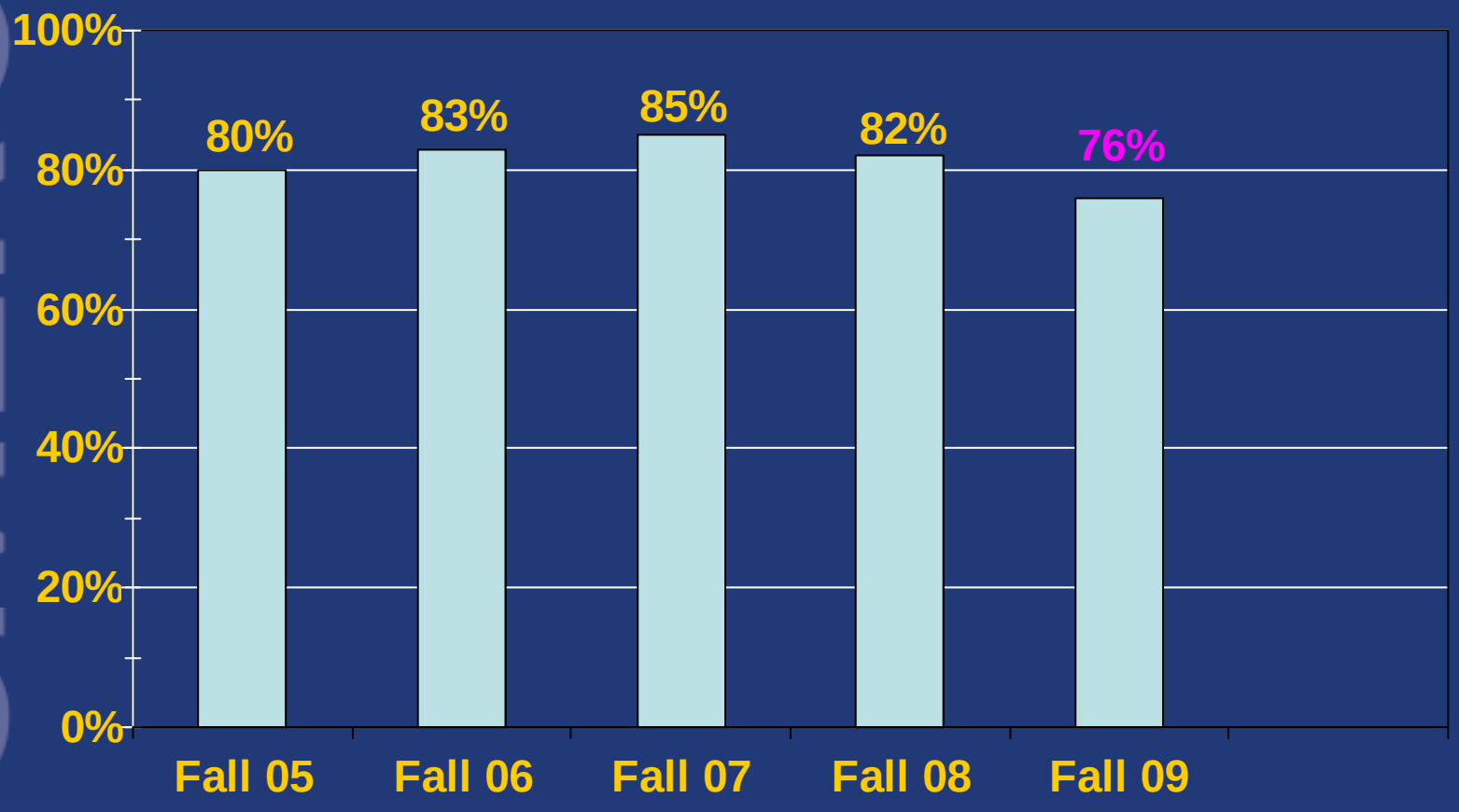
Live in Residence Hall



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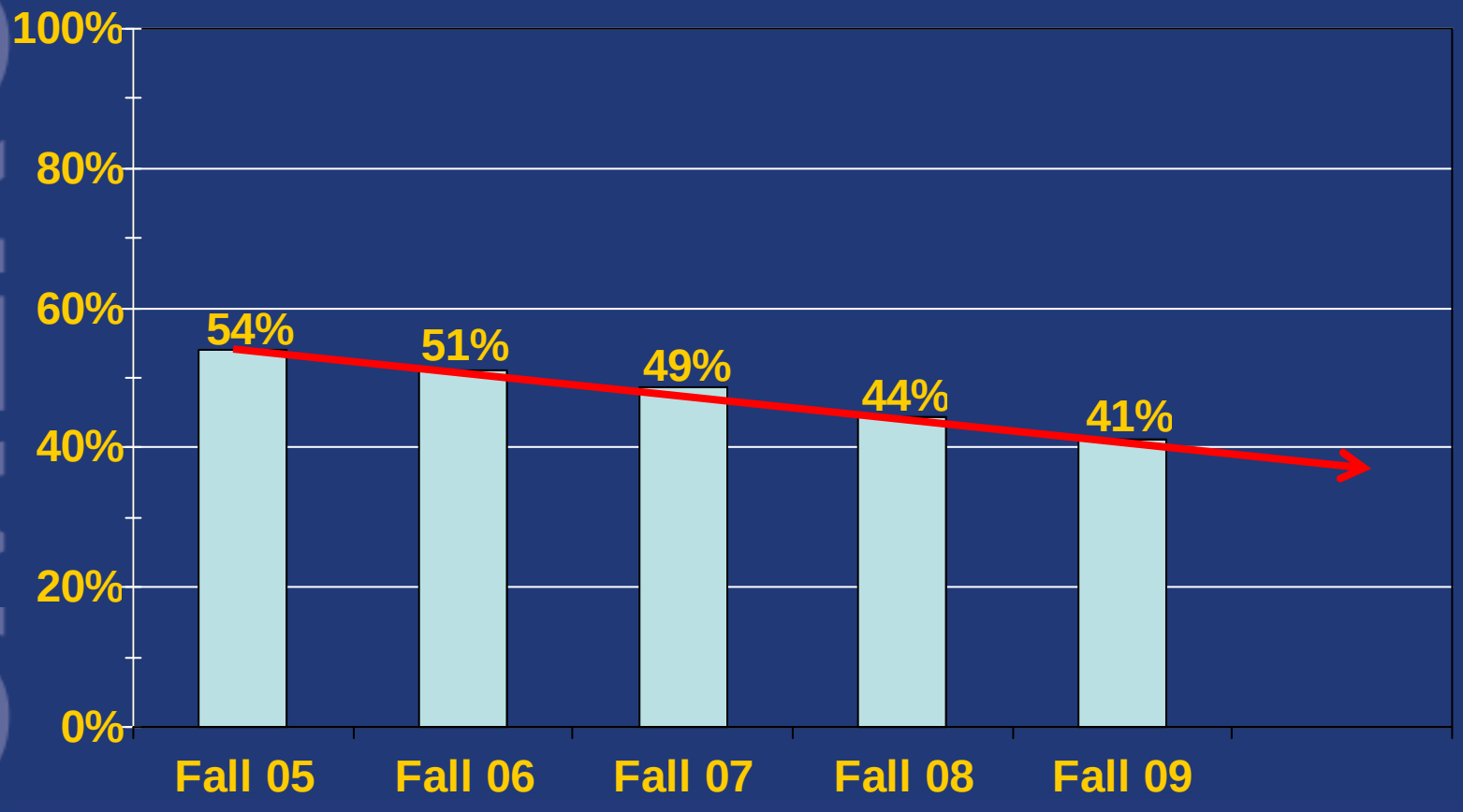
Spoke Only English in Home



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Conclusions

- Percent who are first generation college students and admitted by exception increased after first two years
- Preparation for college varied little over first five years (high school gpa, a thru g course completion, mean sat scores, honors courses taken)
- Proportionally fewer recent students took Math 5 or Writing 1 during their first semester
- Mean credit hours taken during first semester decreased after first three years
- Percent who spoke only English at home decreased monotonically over five years (only clear trend in data)

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Additional Data Sources

- Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE)
- New Student Survey
- National Survey of Student Engagement
- University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES)
- College Board's Admission Validity Study
- http://surveys.ucmerced.edu

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BCSSE/NSSE

- Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement
  - Measures pre-college academic and co-curricular experiences and student interest in and expectations for participating in educationally purposeful activities during college
  - Administered in summer to incoming freshmen (Age 18+ Only)
  - Launched nationwide in 2007; Conducted in at UCM in 2008
- National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
  - Assesses engagement in educational practices associated with high levels of learning and development
  - Administered in spring to all freshmen & seniors (Age 18+ Only)
  - Conducted in 2006, 2007, and 2009
- Paired with NSSE, BCSSE results provide an in-depth understanding of first-year students' engagement
- Both allow for comparisons with participating colleges
- Continue Biennially? Add FSSE?

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New Student Survey

- Conducted each fall (before midterm grades)
- Administered to freshmen and transfers
- Content
  - First College Choice
  - Reasons for Attending UC Merced
  - Satisfaction with UC Merced
  - Student Skills and Abilities
  - Hours Spent During Typical Week in Merced
  - Academic Expectations and Plans

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Admission Validity Study

- Conducted in fall with the College Board
- Dependent Variable
  - Cumulative GPA earned at UC Merced
- Predictors and Covariates
  - SAT Scores & High School GPA
  - HS API Scores, First Language, First Generation Status, Intended Major, Admit Type
- Studies
  - 2007 freshman cohort in Fall 08 and Fall 09
  - 2008 freshman cohort in Fall 09

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For additional information

- http://surveys.ucmerced.edu
- http://ipa.ucmerced.edu/student.htm
- Michael Roona: mroona@ucmerced.edu
- Nancy Ochsner: nochsner@ucmerced.edu

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