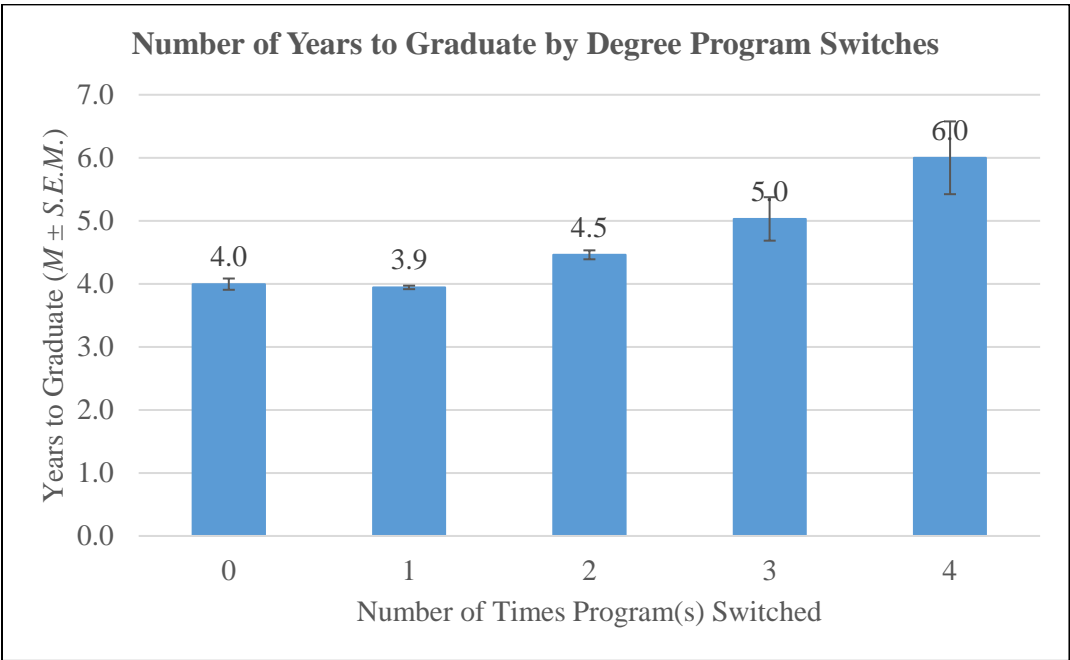
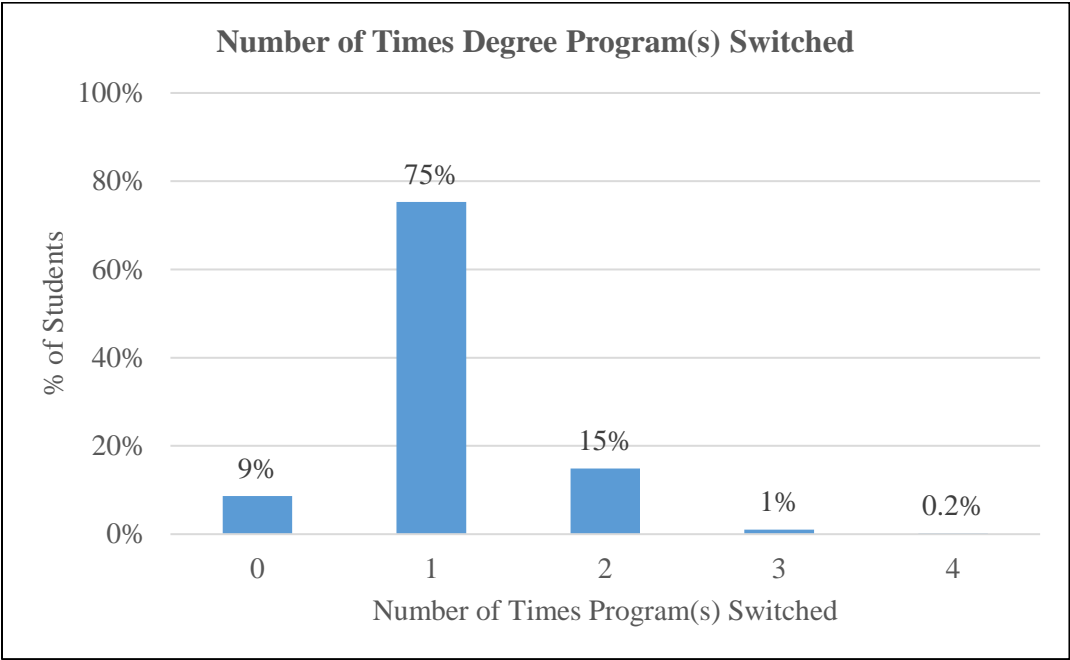


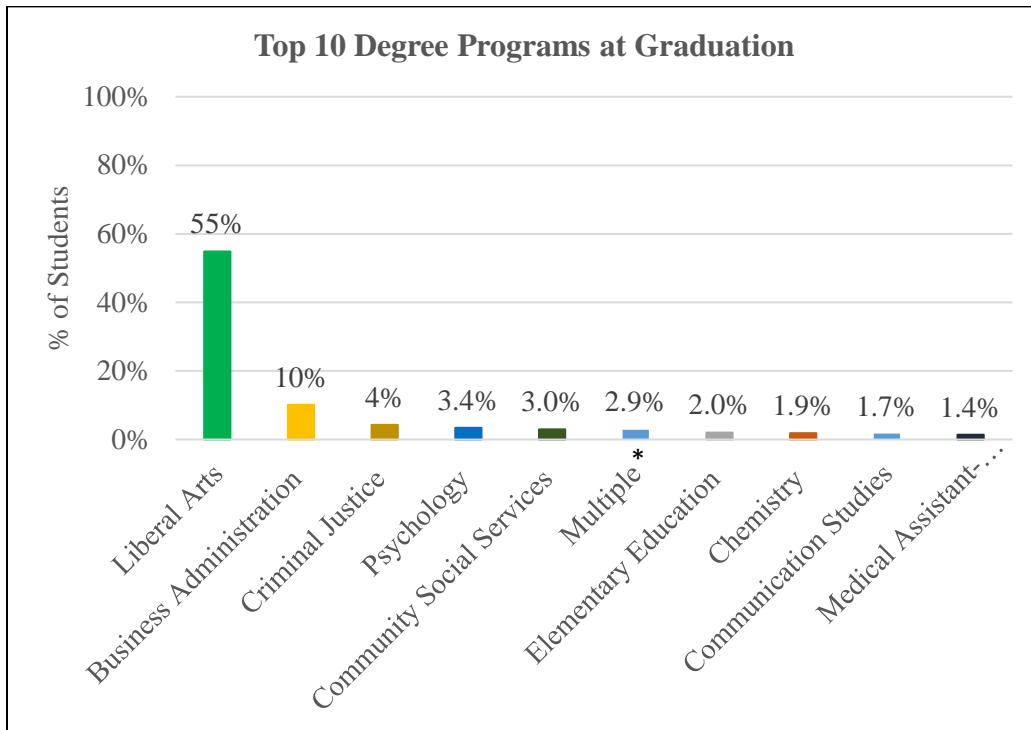
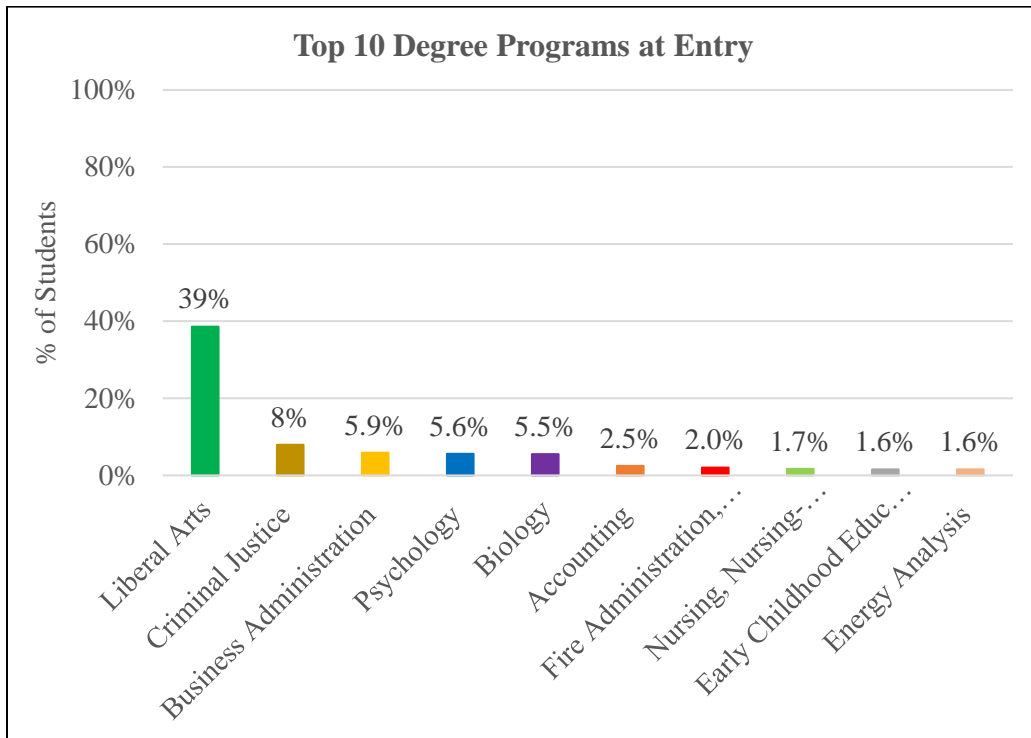
## **Degree Programs and Student Characteristics**

With the implementation of Guided Pathways in mind, the research department examined the number of times students at Santa Ana College (SAC) switched their degree programs prior to graduating and the average number of years it took to graduate. If a student declared more than one degree program per term, a switch was defined as a change in one or more of those degree programs. The sample (n = 2,428) included first-time students at SAC who graduated with an associate's degree (AA, AAT, AS, AST) between the summer of 2010 and the winter intersession of 2018. The students also designated SAC as their home campus.

### **Main findings:**

- Most students entered and graduated with a degree in Liberal Arts, which includes emphases in American Studies, Arts, Humanities and Communications, Business and Technology, Kinesiology and Wellness, Mathematics and Science, and Social and Behavioral Sciences.
- A change in emphasis within a program area, e.g., Liberal arts: American Studies to Liberal arts: Kinesiology and Wellness, was designated as a switch in degree program.
- The top 3 most common degree programs that students declared during their first term at SAC were Liberal Arts, Criminal Justice, and Business Administration, respectively. Although the top 3 degree programs students graduated with were the same, Criminal Justice dropped from 2nd most common to 3rd and Business Administration moved up to 2nd.
- 9% of students maintained their degree program from beginning to end.
- 75% of students switched their degree programs once during their time at SAC, while 16% switched their degree programs 2 or more times.
- The average length of time to graduate was 4 years and the average number of cumulative units completed was 76.5.
- On average, the greater the number of degree program switches, the longer it took students to graduate, particularly if a student switched 2 or more times.
- The average cumulative G.P.A. was 3.1.





\*Multiple refers to 2 or more degree programs at graduation, e.g., Biology and Liberal Arts.

Source of all data used in this report: RSCCD Research Data Warehouse.



**SANTA ANA COLLEGE**

**Research**

Prepared by KK on 05/29/2018.