Community College STEM+ Advisory Board

November 14, 2025

New Paltz
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Welcome & Introduction to SUNY New Paltz's Strategic Plan 2025-2028

William McClure, Ph.D., Provost &
Vice President for Academic Affairs

School of Education Updates: STEM Education

Rene Parmar, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Education

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Transfer Updates: The High Touch Transfer Initiative

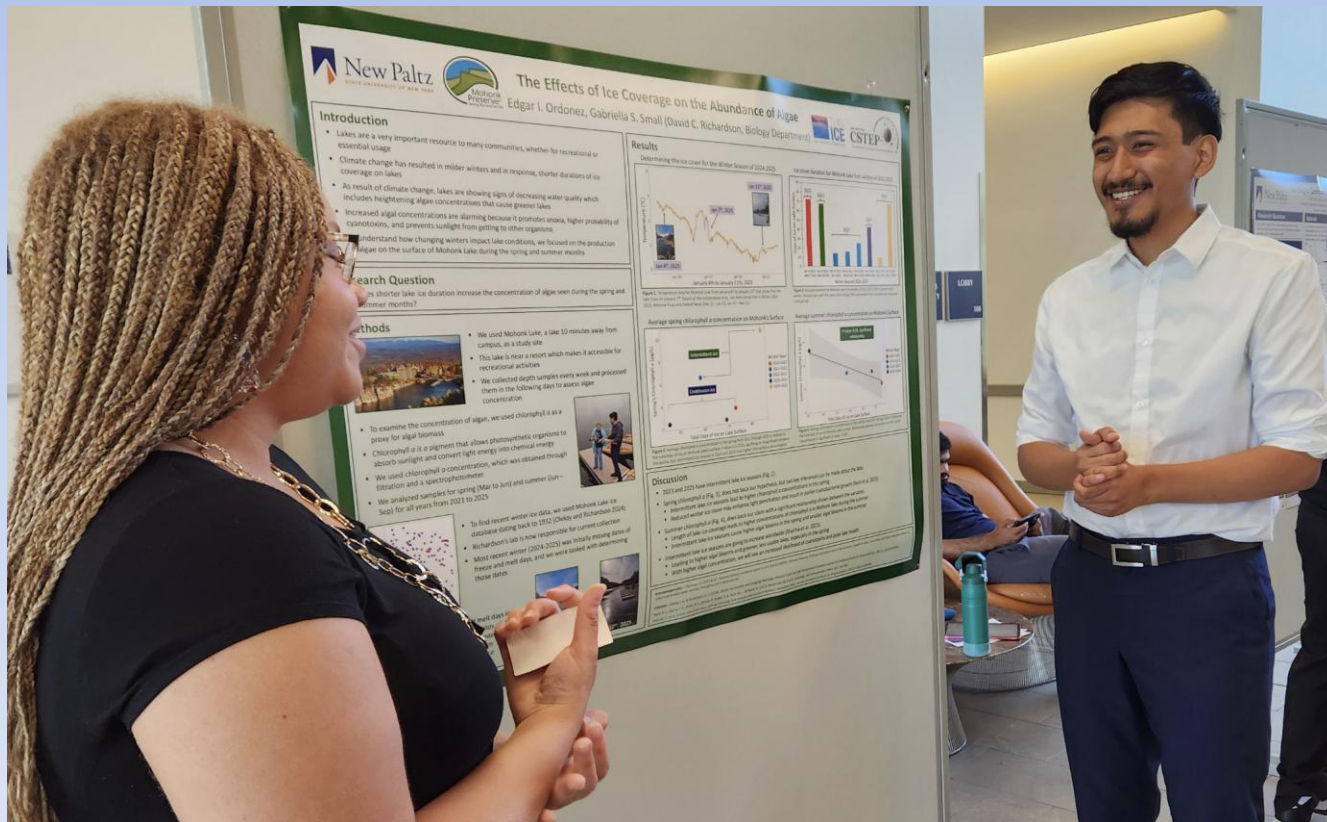Rendesia Scott Ed.D., Senior Director for Transfer & Returning Students

Community College STEM+ Advisory Board
November 14, 2025
WELCOME!
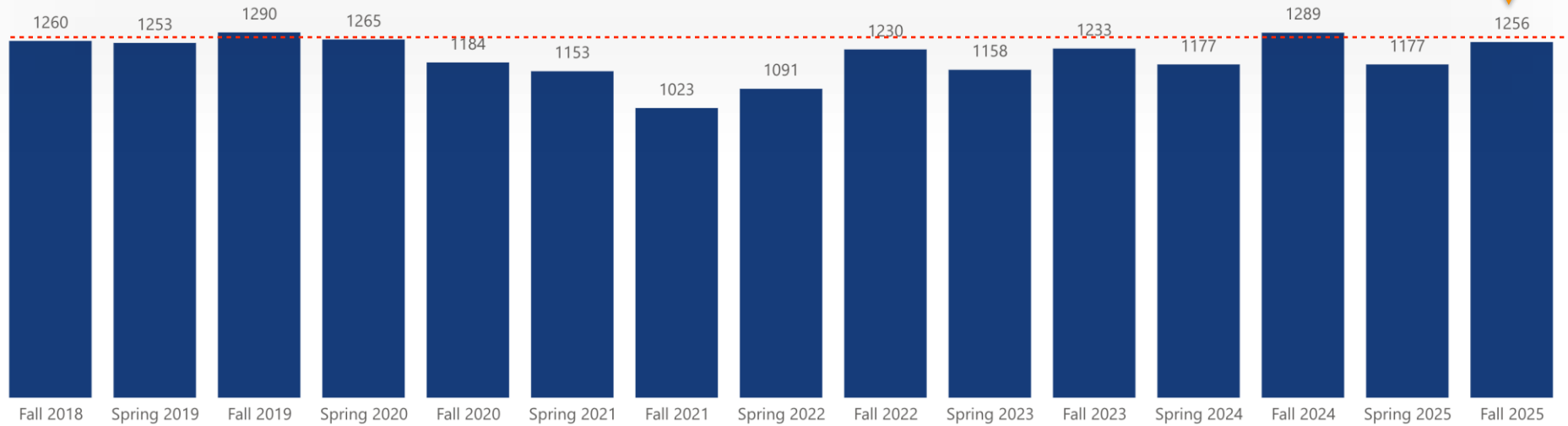

Gabriella Small (TR)

Edgar Ordonez (FA)

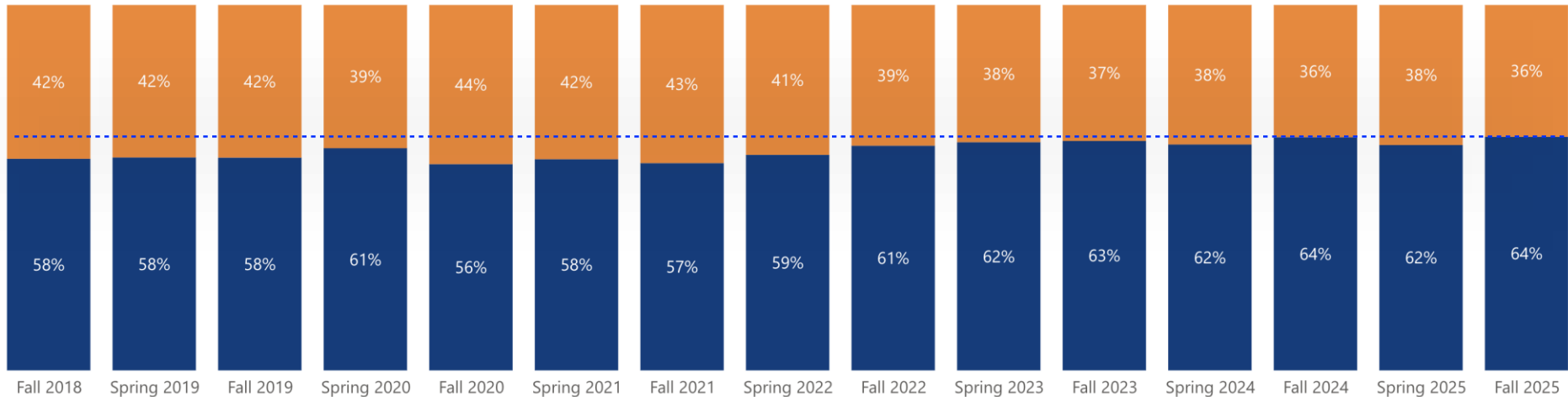# Fall 2025 SSE Enrollments are back up to pre-COVID levels
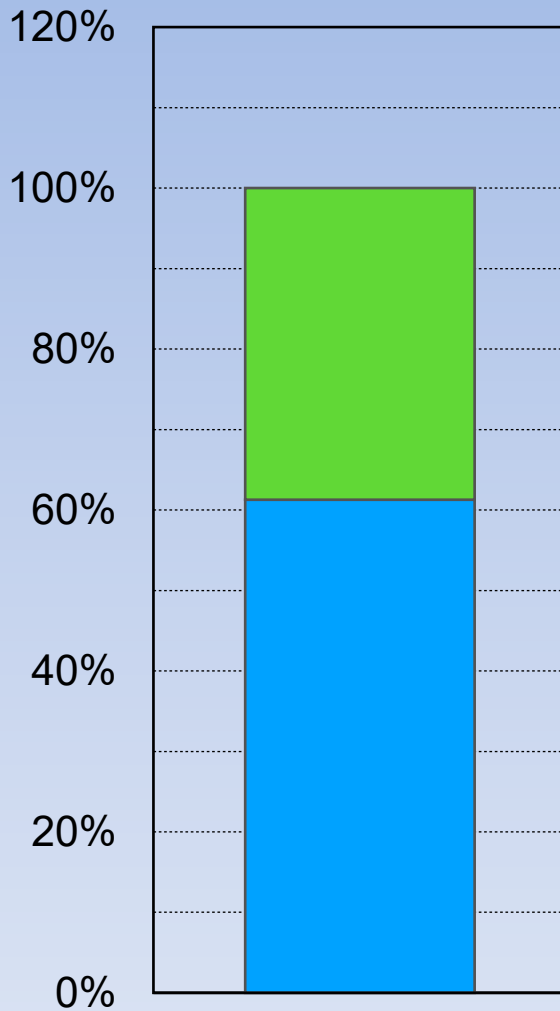
Number of Students

Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Fall 2025
1260	1253	1290	1265	1184	1153	1023	1091	1230	1158	1233	1177	1289	1177	1256

A little over 1/3 are Transfer Students

Admit Type of Undergraduates ● First-Year ● Transfer

	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Fall 2025
Transfer	42%	42%	42%	39%	44%	42%	43%	41%	39%	38%	37%	38%	36%	38%	36%
First-Year	58%	58%	58%	61%	56%	58%	57%	59%	61%	62%	63%	62%	64%	62%	64%

Confirmed enrollments in SSE based on Official SUNY Census Data

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Make up of SSE Graduates 2025

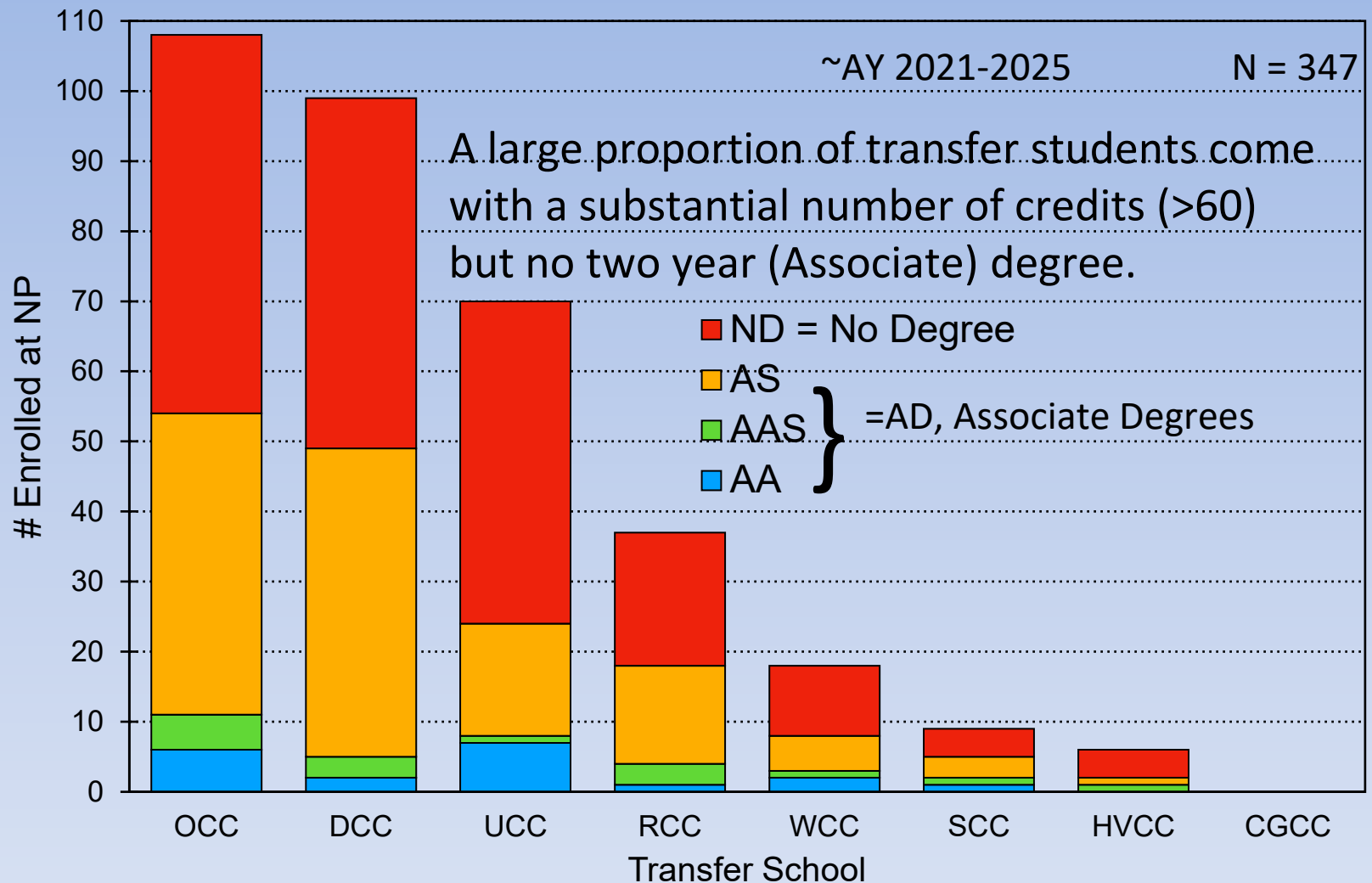About 39% of SSE's Graduating Class (Spring 2025) Was Made Up of Transfer Students

120%

100%

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

■ Transfer Admit
■ First Year Admit

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NP Majors from DCC, OCC, UCC, HVCC, WCC, RCC, SCC, CGCC Transfers (2018 to 2025)

Top Majors: CPS, BIO, ME and EE

Other Popular Majors: CE, BCM, Math, CHE, GLG

AST, PHY, EnvSci, and Accelerated Pathways to the MAT
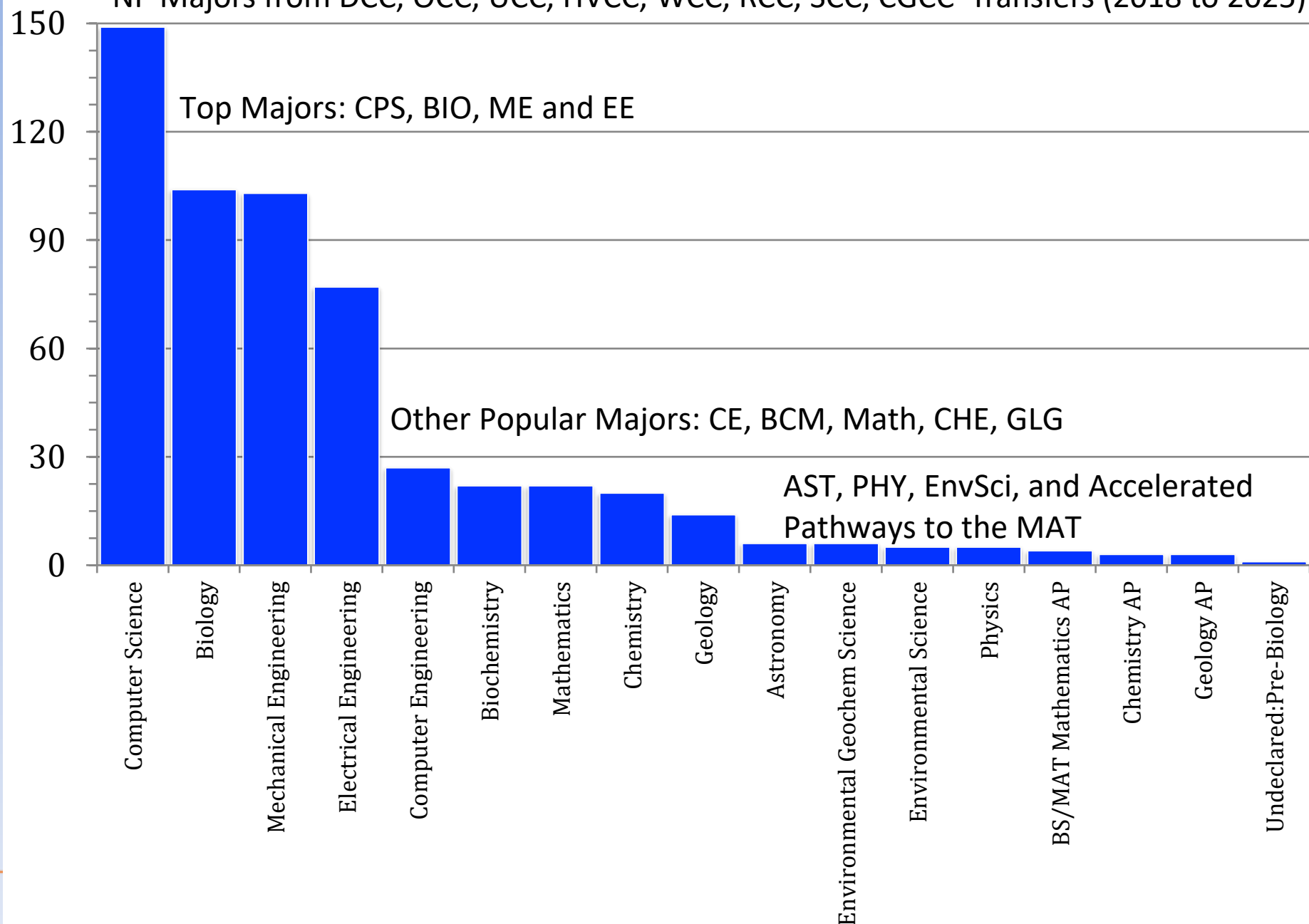
Transfer Degrees of Students Enrolled as of F 2025

~AY 2021-2025   N = 347

A large proportion of transfer students come
with a substantial number of credits (>60)
but no two year (Associate) degree.

- ■ ND = No Degree
- ■ AS   } =AD, Associate Degrees
- ■ AAS
- ■ AA

 # Enrolled at NP

Transfer School

OCC DCC UCC RCC WCC SCC HVCC CGCC

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STEM Transfer Students Graduate with a similar number of credits and GPAs as do Fresh-person Admits

Comparison TR vs FA Students

Final GPA
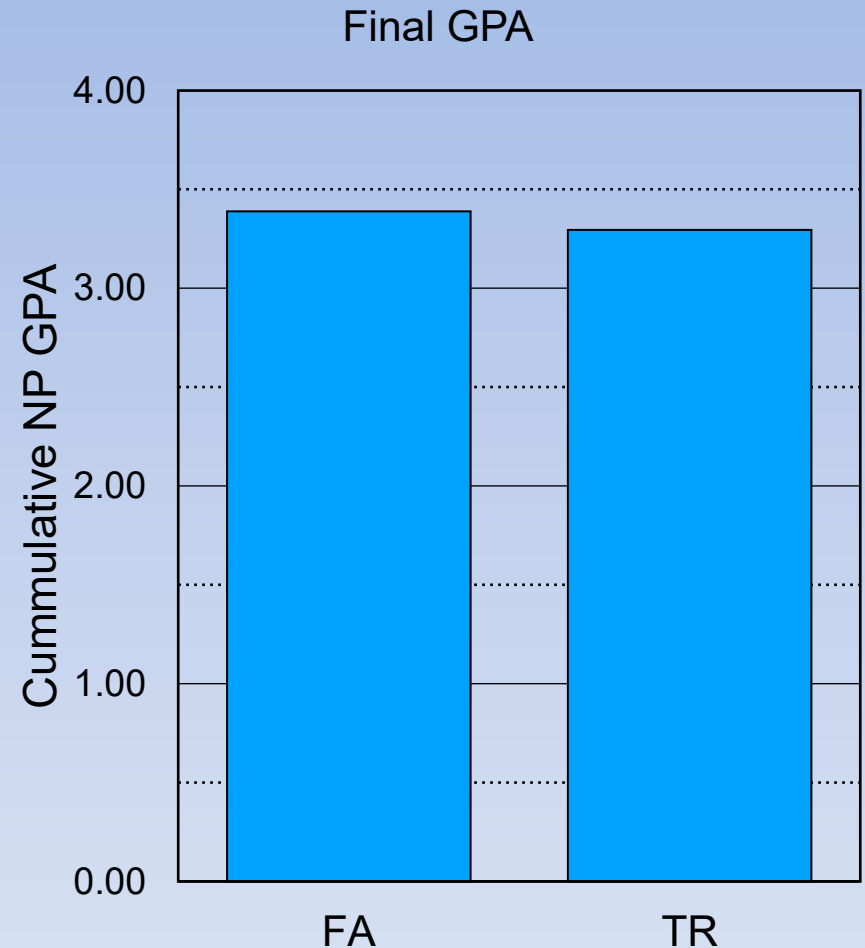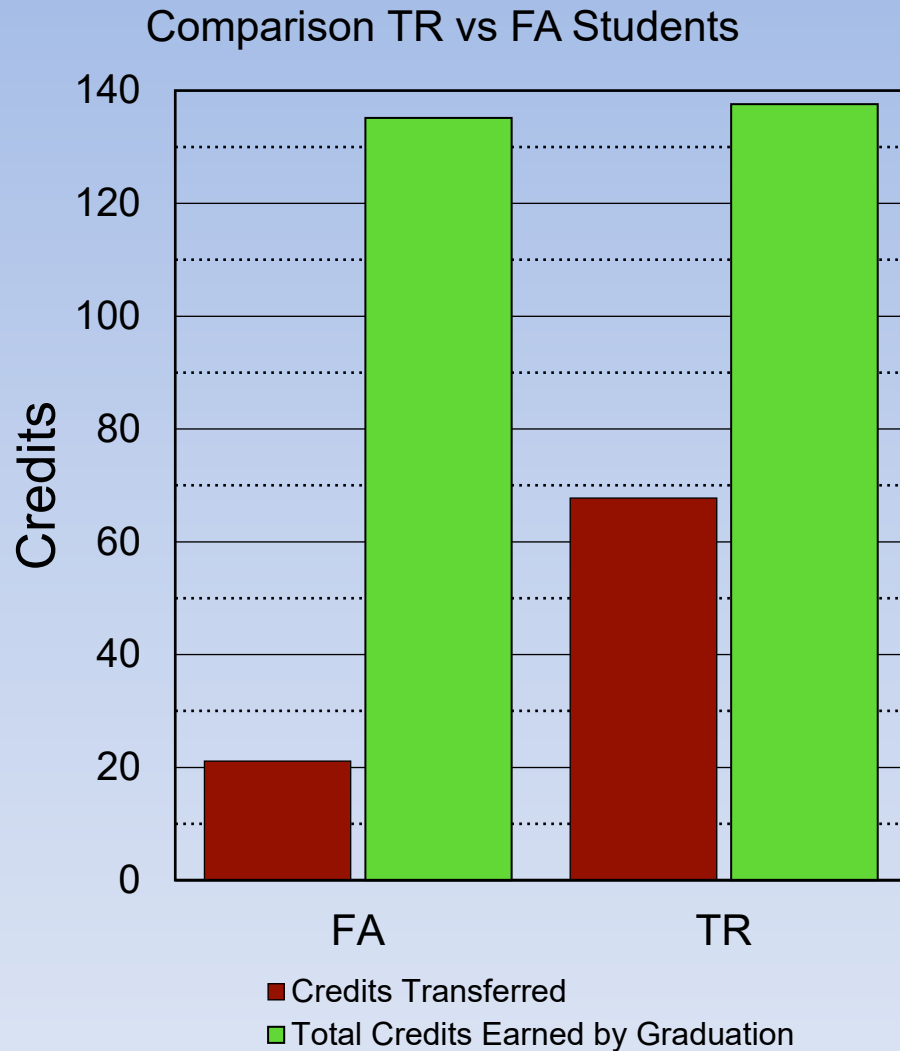
FA = First Year Admit   TR = Transfer Admit

Credits Transferred
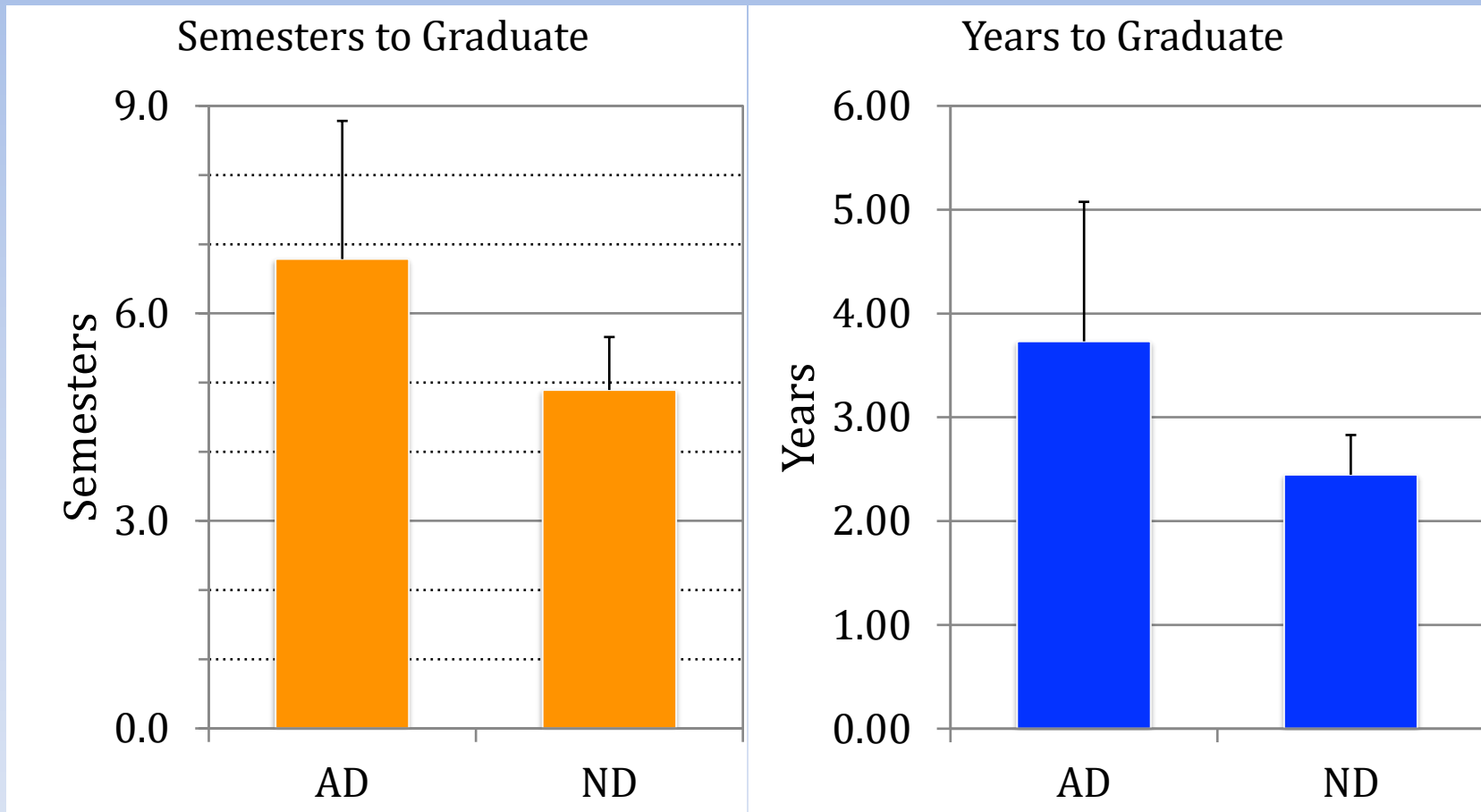Total Credits Earned by Graduation

STEM Transfer Students Graduating 2018 to 2024

Transfer students with Two Year Degrees take longer to graduate.

Semesters to Graduate
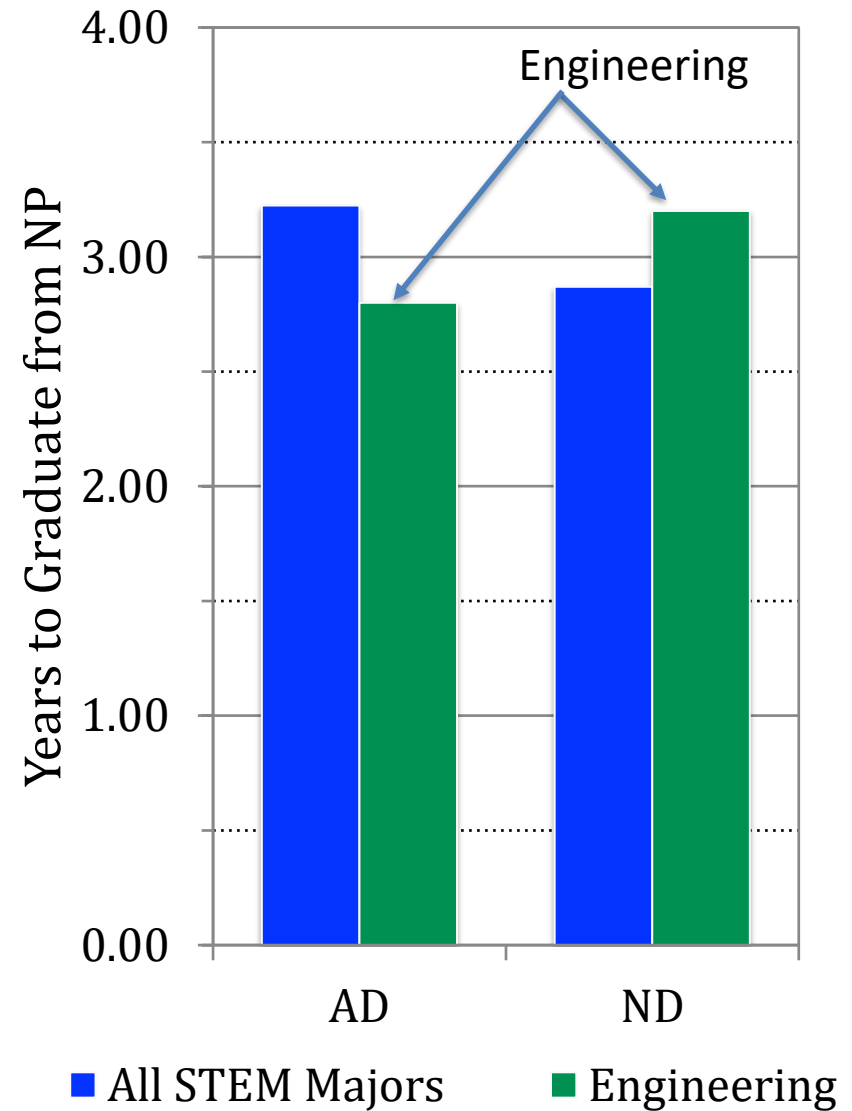
Years to Graduate

AD = Associate Degree   ND = No Degree

- Are most AD students not as well prepared for their major at NP because of the trade-offs of completing GE and college requirements for the AD?
- Do very specific, highly structured AD programs (e.g., in Engineering) have less leeway and so better prepares students to be Juniors in their major at NP?

DCC 2018-24 LAX STEM vs EGG

Years to Graduate from NP

Engineering

	AD	ND

■ All STEM Majors ■ Engineering

- Why do half of community college STEM students not complete a two year degree?
- Why do transfer students with >60 credits but no AD take longer to graduate from NP STEM majors?
- What are we doing about it?

Ashley Guity, BS Cell Biology (from OCC)

Supporting STEM Student Success

Miriam Marx

STEM Student Support Specialist

School of Science and Engineering

SUNY New Paltz

What 'STEM Student Support' Means

Supporting Students is a holistic endeavor, but can be broken down into the following categories:

- **Onboarding & Early Engagement** – Helping students with their transition into college and STEM major.

- **Retention & Belonging** – Creating inclusive communities and academic momentum to foster a positive learning environment.

- **Career & Graduate Pathways** – Supporting students finding, applying, and preparing for internships, research, and grad school.

Where do our students need support?

- Understanding of Student Experiences and Needs from Faculty and Staff
- Advising
- "Customer Service" Experience
- Student Preparedness
- Student Workload
- Resources for Upper-level STEM Courses
- Course availability
- Mental Health + Burnout

- Campus Culture
- Student Engagement
- Accelerated Pathway Programs
- Student Communication
- Math Tutoring Limitations
- Course Design + Curriculum
- Communication with Students – Emails+
- Federal Funding of the Sciences

- Campus, Regional Safety
- Navigating University Systems + Structures
- Social Emotional Needs
- Sociopolitical Climate
- Study Habits
- Commuting
- External Obligations
- Cost of Living
- Food and Housing Insecurity
- And more…

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What have I been up to this past year?

Improving Onboarding and Orientation Advising

▪ Piloted…

– SS&E Orientation Advisor Guides

– Student-facing handouts with major-specific advice

– Student-facing "to-do" list to aid in prioritization of "welcome week" and first-semester events

– Clear signage for Transfer advising

Next: Transfer Orientation Handouts

Guide for Orientation Advisors
First Year STEM Registration Guidelines

Day-of Orientation Advising Checklist:

❑ Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your session start time. Log in to your computer station (connected to the projector/podium in your room).

❑ Go to a web browser, and open the following tabs:
  o The Advising Hub: https://www.newpaltz.edu/advising/hub/
  o Teams: https://teams.microsoft.com/v2/
  o The advising presentation: Advising at NP Summer 2025 - SS&E.pptx

❑ As students enter, welcome them and tell them to take a seat but DO NOT LOG IN YET.
  o Students should have their own advising folder that they bring. Make sure that every student has the appropriate FY Major One-Pager for their major of interest.

❑ Once your advisees have arrived, give the presentation, then start the process of planning schedules.

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2	General Advice Full Time Students and Credits Prioritize Student Wellbeing over Heavy STEM Courseload FY Advising One-Pagers Note Information Not Already on File
3	General Advice (cont.) World Languages (GE5) ENG170 Composition (GE5) Disability Resource Center (DRC) Financial Aid 101
4	Conversation Guidelines *for students who want to register for* 9+ Credits of STEM / More than 2 STEM courses MAT252 Calculus II (and has an MPL of 6) An online (O) course Major-Specific Advice
5	2025 SSE FY Advising Rubric
6	Appendix A: AP Transfer Equivalencies
7	Appendix B: Teams Quick Start Guide
8	Appendix C: Troubleshooting

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Astronomy - Registration Guidelines for First Year Majors

Your goal is to plan a schedule with **14 - 16 credits (cr)**. These are guidelines to help you get registered for your first semester. Prioritize courses in the order they appear on this list.

1. Write down your English Placement Level (EPL): _____ and Math Placement Level (MPL): _____

2. Take PHY105 New Physics & Astronomy Student Seminar (1 cr)

3. Take PHY205 Exploring the Solar System (3 cr) *No seats available? See "Other Tips" below.**

4. Based on your Math Placement Level (MPL), take the following courses:

	You should take...	Consider taking...
No MPL	MAT120 College Math (3 cr)	
MPL 2	MAT120 College Math (3 cr)	
MPL 3	MAT152 College Algebra (3 cr)	
MPL 4	MAT181 Precalculus (4 cr)	CHE201/211 Gen Chem 1 Lecture + Lab (4 cr)
MPL 5	MAT251 Calculus I (4 cr)	CHE201/211 Gen Chem 1 Lecture + Lab (4 cr)
MPL 6	CHE201/211 Gen Chem 1 Lecture + Lab (4 cr)	

5. An English course that corresponds to your English Placement Level (EPL):

	You should take...
EPL 3	ENG160 Composition I (3 cr)
EPL 4	*ENG170 Writing and Rhetoric (4 cr)*
EPL 5	ENG170 Writing and Rhetoric (4 cr) **or** ENG206 Advanced Writing and Rhetoric (4 cr)

6. If you have fewer than 14 credits, select enough courses from the following list to make your schedule 14-16 credits.

   - World Languages – If you prefer to continue learning the foreign language you studied in high school, consider taking it in your first semester while it is fresh in your mind.

   - Course(s) that fulfill any of the following General Education 5 (GE5) Requirements: Diversity: Equity, Inclusion & Social Justice; Social Sciences; U.S. History & Civic Engagement; World History & Global Awareness; Humanities; The Arts

Other Tips:

- *No seats available in the STEM course(s) you want? Ask your advisor – some major courses have hidden seats saved for incoming students. While a section may appear full, there might be spots left. If a section is actually full, wait until the next semester the course is offered.

- When registering for a lecture that requires a lab (e.g. General Chemistry I), you must have the lecture and an open lab section in your cart to register successfully.

- Students planning to go to graduate school in astrophysics are advised to double major in astronomy and physics. Ask for a Physics handout from your advisor.

The New STEM Student at SUNY New Paltz **First Semester Checklist**
Fall 2025

Regardless of your major, you should try to complete as much of this checklist as possible by the end of your first semester at SUNY New Paltz.

✓	Events to Attend	When?	Where?
	Welcome Week: Involvement Expo	Tues 8/28 11am – 2pm	Parker Quad
	Study Abroad Fair	Tues 9/2 10:30am – 1:00pm	Outside of Lecture Center
	Career Resource Center (CRC)'s "Welcome to New Paltz Event"	Tues 9/9 10:30am – 12:30pm	Humanities 105 Hallway
	STEM Fair 2025	**Mon 9/15 2 – 4pm**	**Science Hall Lobby**
	Math Anxiety Workshop with the CSS	Mon 9/29 10-11am, 12-1pm	Science Hall 272
	STEM Career Fair Prep	Thurs 10/16 2:30 – 4:30 pm	TBD – SH or SUB
	Resumania! with the CRC	Mon 10/20 9 am – 4 pm	Career Resource Center (HUM 105)
	Fall 2025 Career Fair for Jobs & **Internships**	Wed 10/22 11 am – 3 pm	Student Union Ballroom
	Meet with your Advisor	BEFORE 11/7	See Starfish for more information

Links you should get to know AND bookmark in your browser:

✓	What is it?	URL
	"mynewpaltz" - Contains links to many important resources you will need as a student.	my.newpaltz.edu
	Your School Email – Check EVERY DAY for updates and emails from professors, advisors, and administrators!	outlook.office.com/mail
	Brightspace – Where your professors will post grades, assignments, announcements, and more	mylearning.suny.edu/d2l/home
	Schedule of Classes – This is where you can see current, past, and future course offerings AND the "Academic Calendar" for information on important deadlines and holidays	newpaltz.edu/classes
	"Getting Started Guide for Students" – includes some of the best-kept information on technology and printing included in your tuition	newpaltz.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1905/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=57275

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Making STEM Spaces More Inclusive and Accessible, Increasing Access to Information and Resources
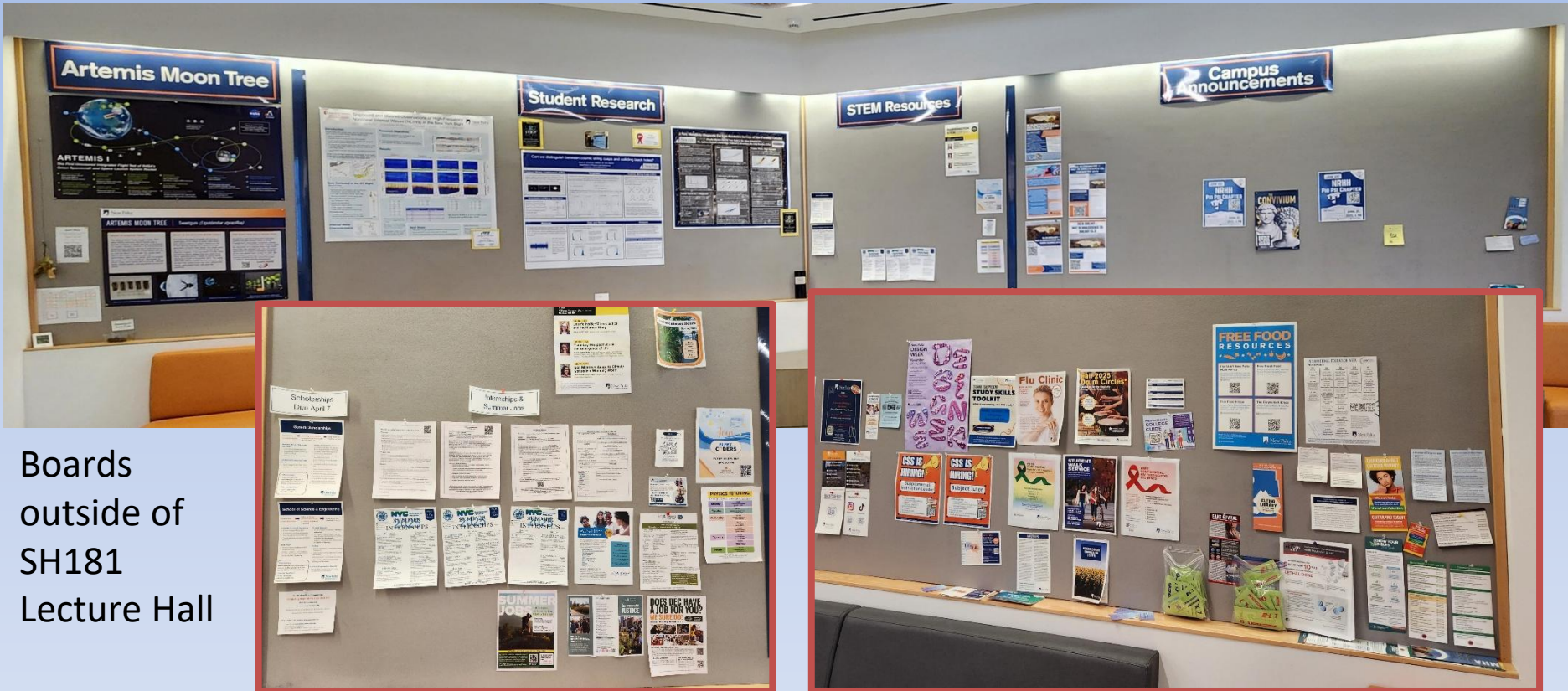
Boards outside of SH181 Lecture Hall

STEM Zine Library

- A zine ("zeen") is a miniature magazine that is DIY and (usually) self-published.

- Science Hall now has a library featuring zines about STEM and STEM-related topics to encourage science education, celebrate student work, and encourage interdisciplinary experiences.

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"STEM Fair" Welcome Event

Welcomed First Years, Transfers, international students, and new majors into our community, building connections and familiarity between students, faculty and staff. Tables included:

- SS&E Departments and Programs,
- 15 STEM Clubs, and
- Student Support Services
    - Career Resource Center (CRC)
    - Center for International Programs (CIP)
    - Center for Student Success (CSS)
    - Student Health Services
    - Office of Academic Advising (OAA)
    - Office of Veteran & Military Services (OVMS)

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IMPACT STEM Transfer

The IMPACT STEM Transfer Program began as part of the HHMI Inclusive Excellence 3 initiative.

Goals:

- Enhance the experience of students transferring into and completing STEM degrees.
- Facilitate collaboration between community colleges and 4-yearinstitutions.
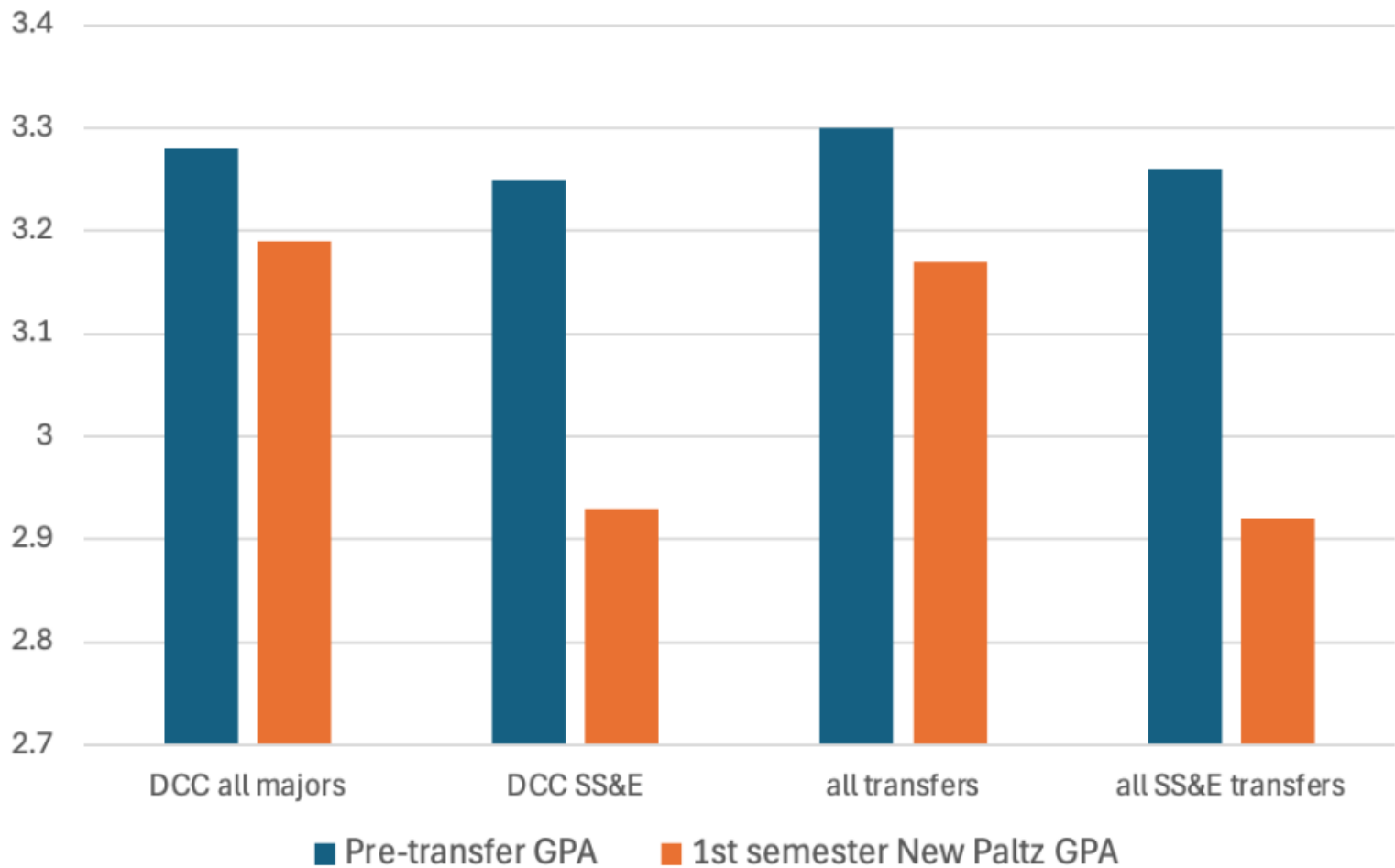- Create a more inclusive environment for STEM students

Data

Special shout-out to Lucy Walker in OIR for her work on creating a (FERPA-friendly) Transfer-specific data portal in PowerBI!

Trends in GPA, 2019-2025 aggregated data

Time to graduation and final GPA comparison

	Average # semesters at New Paltz	Final GPA
All transfers, no AA/AS	5.27	3.33
All transfers, with AA/AS	4.71	3.38
DCC transfers, no AA/AS	5.02	3.29
DCC transfers, with AA/AS	4.59	3.39
DCC transfers in SS&E	**5.52**	**3.32**

Based on student transfer cohort from 2022

Back Transfer Project

- I emailed nearly 100 students from DCC, OCC, and UCC that have over 80 credits, but no associate's degree.
- Next step: Contacting the advisors of the students...

> **Outlook**
>
> **You May Be Eligible to Earn Your Associate's Degree Without Taking More Classes! (FREE)**
>
> **From** Miriam Marx <marxm1@newpaltz.edu>
> **Date** Thu 10/9/2025 12:56 PM
>
> Good afternoon!
>
> Did you know that **you may already qualify to receive an associate's degree** from your previous community college — without taking any additional courses?
>
> Through the SUNY Reverse Transfer Program, students who transferred to SUNY New Paltz from a community college can apply credits earned here toward an associate's degree at their former institution. **Why participate?**
>
> - You'll add a completed degree to your résumé and academic record. If something unexpected takes you away from college prior to completion, it's good to have an associate degree in hand for the benefit of future employment opportunities.
> - It's a great way to recognize the work you've already accomplished on your educational journey.
> - There's **no cost** to you, just a simple application.
>
> 👉 Learn more and apply here: https://www.suny.edu/reversetransfer/
>
> If you have any **questions** or would like **help** with this, please don't hesitate to reach out to me by email, Schedule a meeting with me on Calendly, or stop by Science Hall 149 (my office).
>
> Congratulations on all you've accomplished so far — I'd love to help you receive the recognition you deserve!
>
> Warm regards,

Future Goals & Projects

Build sustainable systems that benefit students.

- "Get time to completion as close to 4 semesters as possible for students who come in with an Associates degree in a related field."
  - Identify specific courses that are critical (are pre req. for many major courses or have transfer issues) to transfers finishing in a timely fashion
  - Identify courses that students often must retake because of articulation, see what misalignments exist, and possible solutions
  - Identify what math courses should be completed while at CC for transfers to keep them on track
- Increase presence* on regional Community College campuses.
- First Year and Transfer Seminars - Design, integrate into curriculum, and track student metrics.

STEM Student Support Interns through the Career Resource Center First-Year Internship Program

Interviews are underway – There were 21 applicants for Spring 2026!

Over the course of the Spring semester, interns will develop and execute, in collaboration with the SS&E Dean's Office, a project of their choosing that ideally addresses one (or more) of the following:
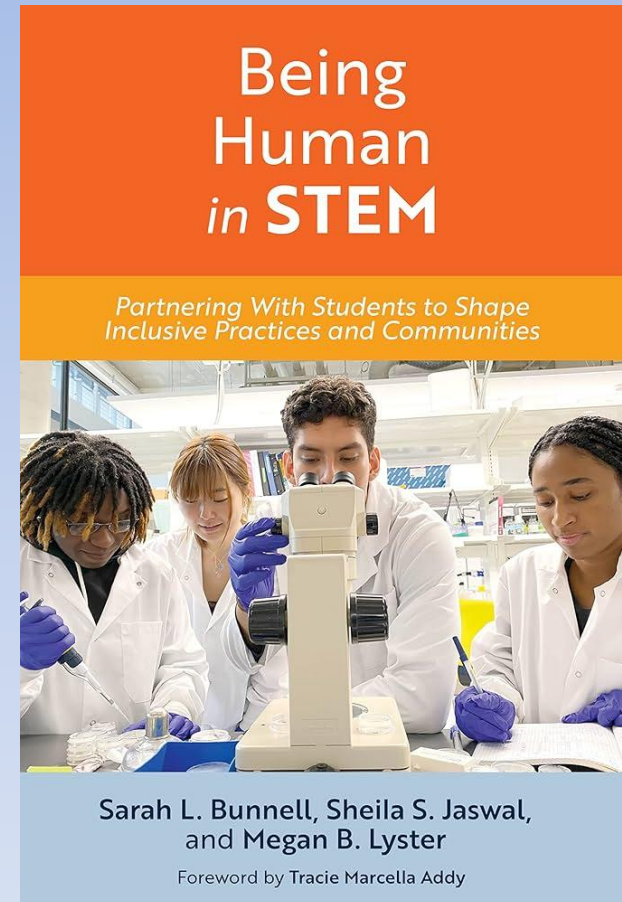
- Increasing representation and diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM+ spaces on campus.

- Increasing opportunities for STEM+ student engagement, feedback, community and legacy-building.

- Increasing awareness and utilization of events and resources available to STEM students (e.g. CRC, CSS, OAA, Math Lab, STEM Student Support Specialist).

Primary Learning Outcomes:

- Improve professional skills, including communication, collaboration, and growth-mindset mentality.

- Develop project planning and management skills, possibly including drafting and revising proposals, budgeting, marketing, and event hosting.

- Complete a project that is meaningful to the intern, that also positively impacts the SS&E community.

Spring 2026: HSTEM Book Club

- While many educators value diversity and recognize the benefits of multiple perspectives, our teaching practices and institutional structures do not always reflect this commitment.

- *Being Human in STEM* helps bridge this disconnect by offering evidence-based practices, reflective questions, and adaptable strategies for creating more inclusive and equitable learning environments.

- The book invites readers to engage critically with the systems shaping their classrooms and to implement intentional, human-centered changes that support all learners.

- Through this collaborative professional development experience, participants will strengthen their ability to deliver a challenging, empowering, and inclusive educational experience for all SUNY New Paltz students, in direct alignment with the University's mission and values.

Being Human *in* STEM

Partnering With Students to Shape Inclusive Practices and Communities

Sarah L. Bunnell, Sheila S. Jaswal, and Megan B. Lyster

Foreword by Tracie Marcella Addy

"STEM Student Guides"
Pilot: Engineering

Events

- NPEC events calendar
- Harrington STEM Lectures
- Engineering Brown Bag Lectures

Workshop List

- HVAMC in EIH – 3D printing lab
  - run by Katherine Wilson and Aaron Nelson
  - hires students to run the lab
  - allows students to 3D print designs for very cheap
- REH Basement Workshop
  - wood and metal tools including drills, saws, welders
  - John Byrne, lab manager, office in REH2??
- DDF – digital design & fabrication
  - minor + master's degree offered
  - interesting 3D modeling classes, do not count as tech electives
  - digital fabrication lab
    - lasercutter, CNC router, large format printer, 3D scanner
    - SAB 100 (Smiley Arts Bldg)
    - lasercutter, CNC router, large format printer, 3D scanner
    - DFL calendar
    - CNC router in FAB 223 (Fine Arts Bldg)
    - Ben Kellogg – support technician
- CompSci Lab
  - An ongoing CS project, run by Michael Curry
- Fine Arts Building
  - Accessible by taking art classes
  - Sculpture facilities – wood, metal and moldmaking tools
  - Ceramic facilities – clay tools, kilns, ceramic 3D printers
  - Metal shop – saws, rollers, smithing tools

Campus Resources

This is a resource list for engineering students by the New Paltz Engineering Club (NPEC)
Contact npengineeringclub@gmail.com with questions or suggestions

Computer Labs

- REH107 – computer lab (no classes)
- REH 221 – computer classroom
- EIH218 – computer classroom
- WH 219/221/223 – computer classrooms
- Full Computer Lab List

Academic Resources

- CSS – Center for Student Success, tutoring center, OM B106
- Math Lab – math tutoring, SH168
- DRC – Disability Resource Center
- Miriam Marx – STEM student support specialist, go meet her!
  - Miriam's first semester checklist
  - Miriam's online resources for engineers
- CRC – Career Resource Center at New Paltz
  - First Year Internship Program
  - Amanda Becker Torres – engineering career specialist

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We shape our students' experience.

Our students' success depends on how well we align support across institutions.

Thank you!

Miriam Marx

STEM Student Support Specialist

How to contact me (in order of preference/efficacy):

- Email: marxm1@newpaltz.edu

- Schedule a meeting with me on Calendly: https://calendly.com/marxm1

- Virtual Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30 - 2pm: https://newpaltz.webex.com/meet/marxm1

- Phone: (845)-257-2998