Gatekeeper Courses by Program: Ensuring Success and Equity for All

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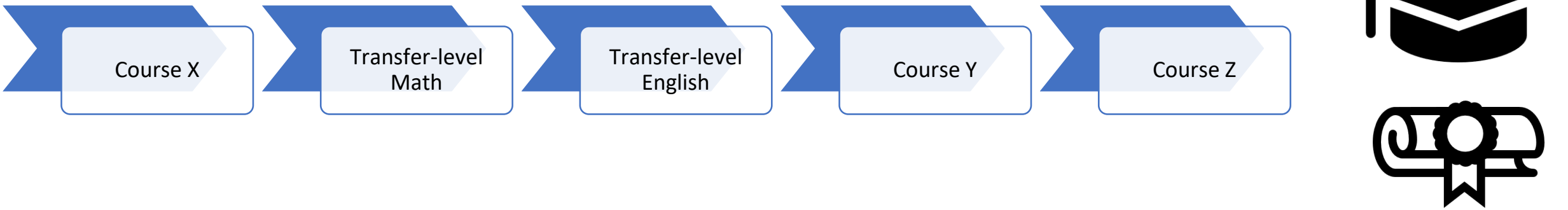
Poll

What is your role at your institution?

Completion of Program of Study

Degree / Transfer Students



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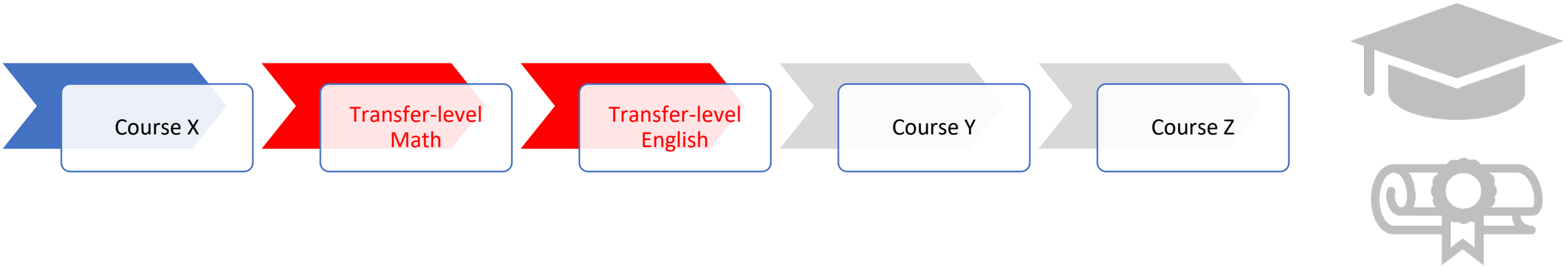
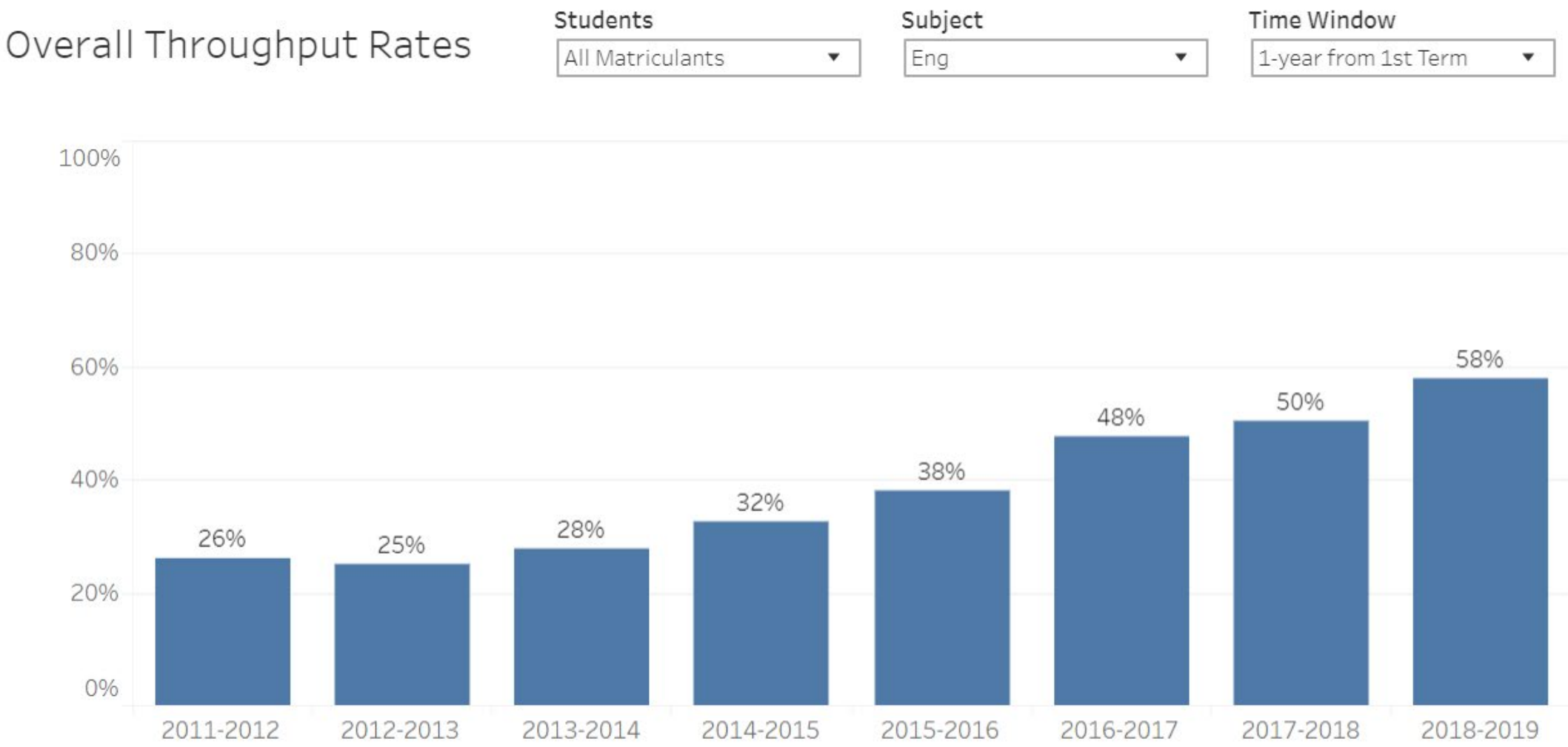


Historically: many students could not complete their program of study because they could not get through transfer-level math and/or English (inequitable placement practices, remediation, etc)



Changes: Acceleration, Placement Practices, and AB 705

Goal

Replicate gains of AB 705 for courses in other departments.

Question

Are there any gatekeeper courses in your program/department?

Definition

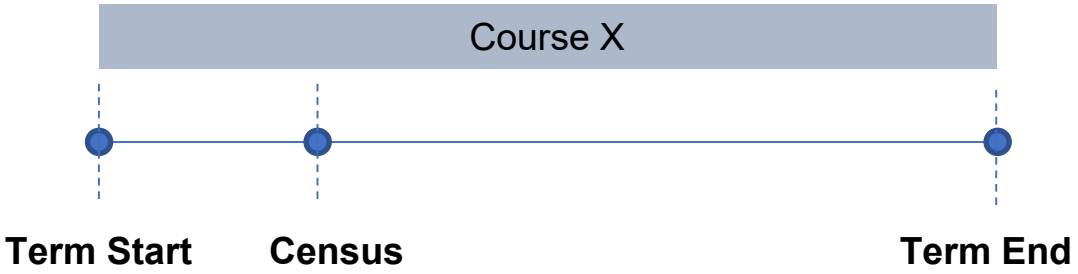
A gatekeeper course is one in which many students struggle to complete, and, as a result, prevents them from completing a program of study.

Identifying Potential Gatekeeper Courses

Poll

What metrics or outcomes would you look at to identify potential gatekeeper courses?

Brainstorm: How can a course prevent program completion?



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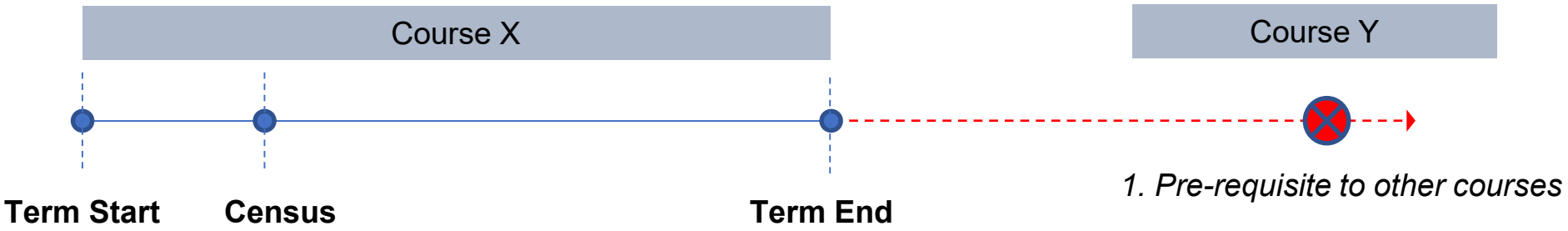

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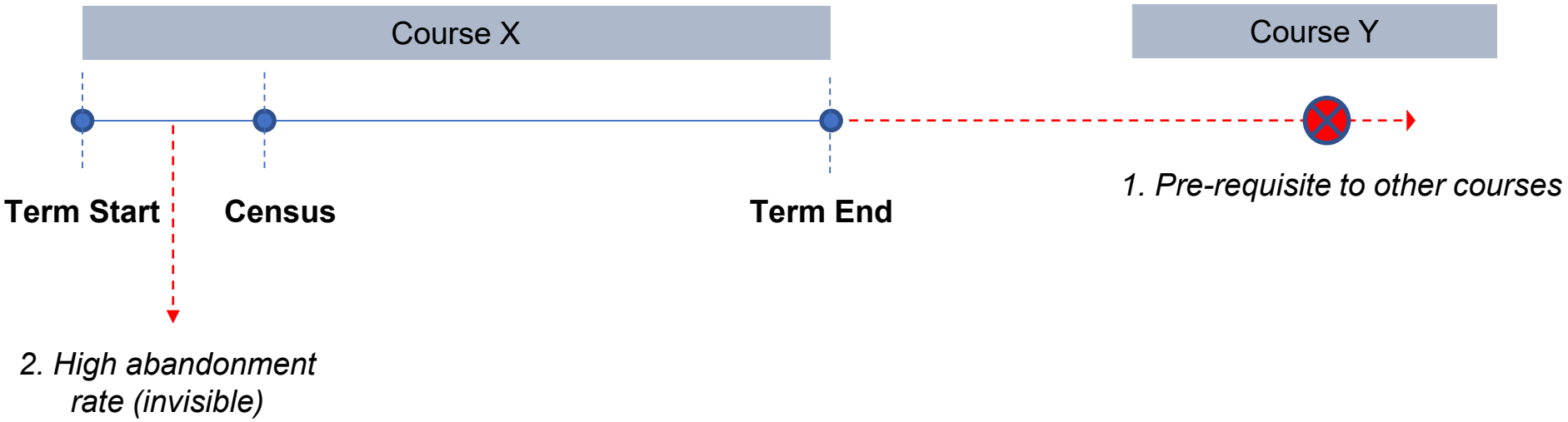

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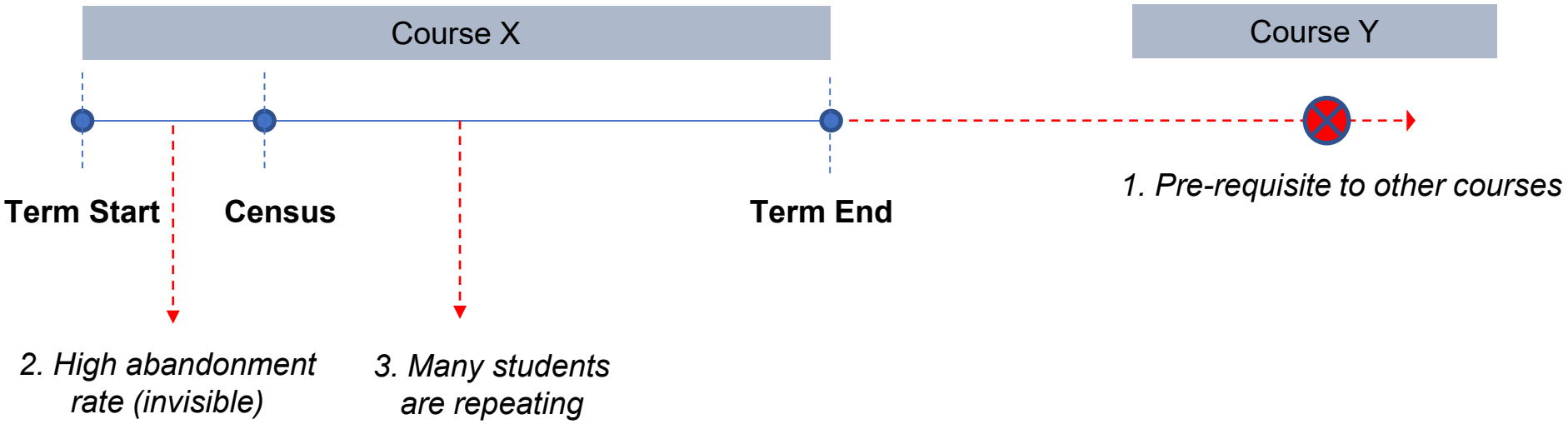

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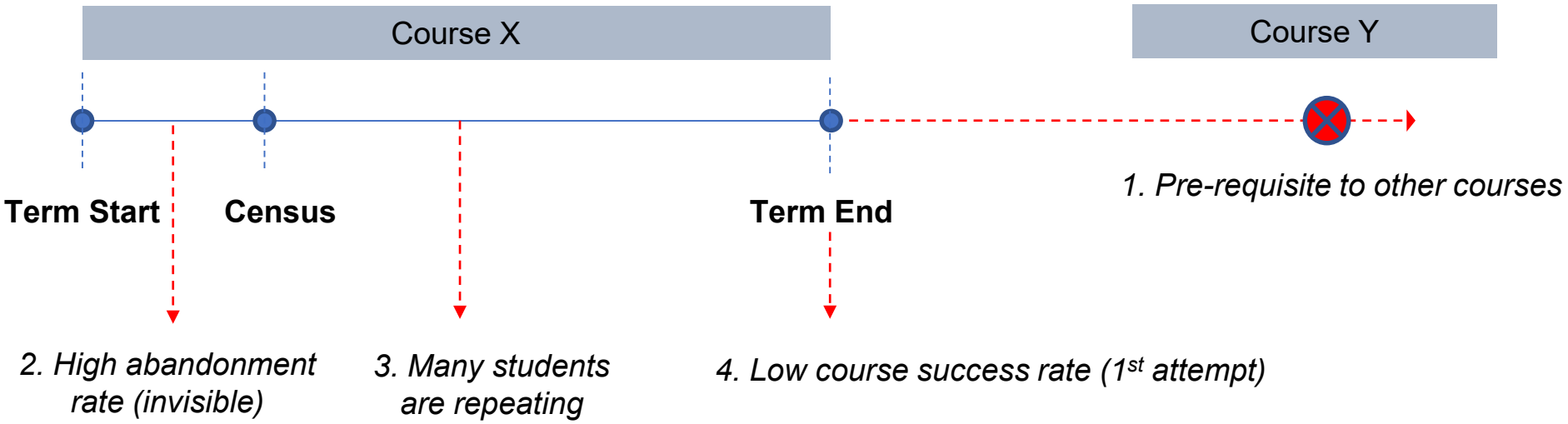

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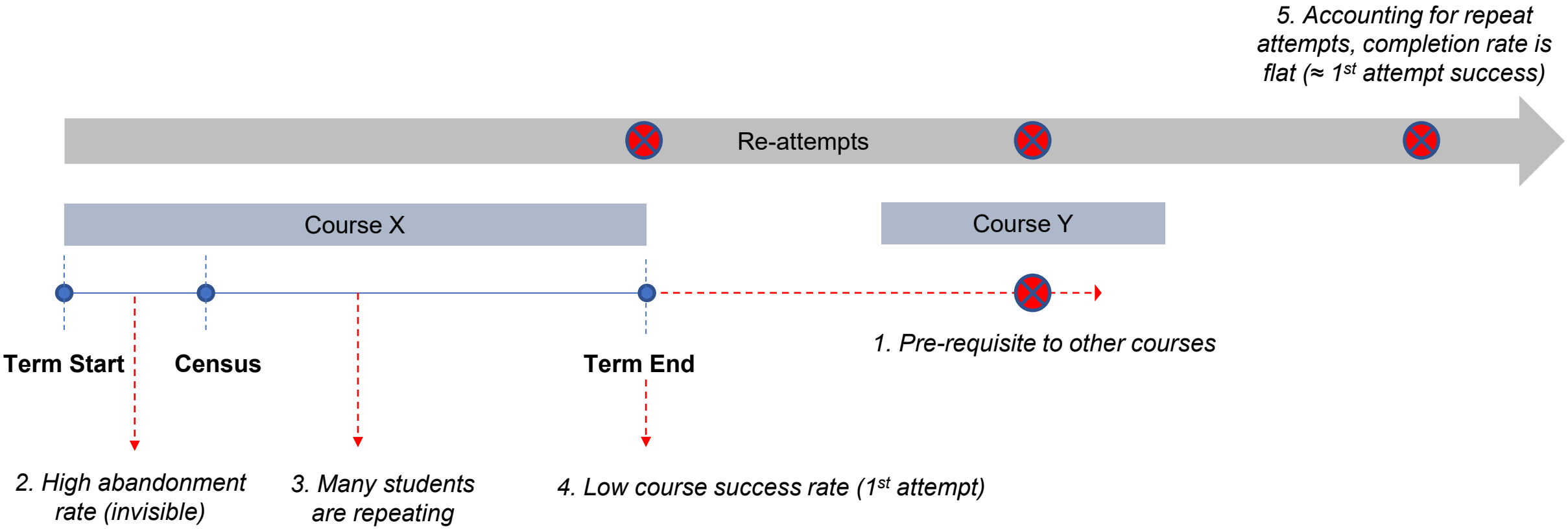

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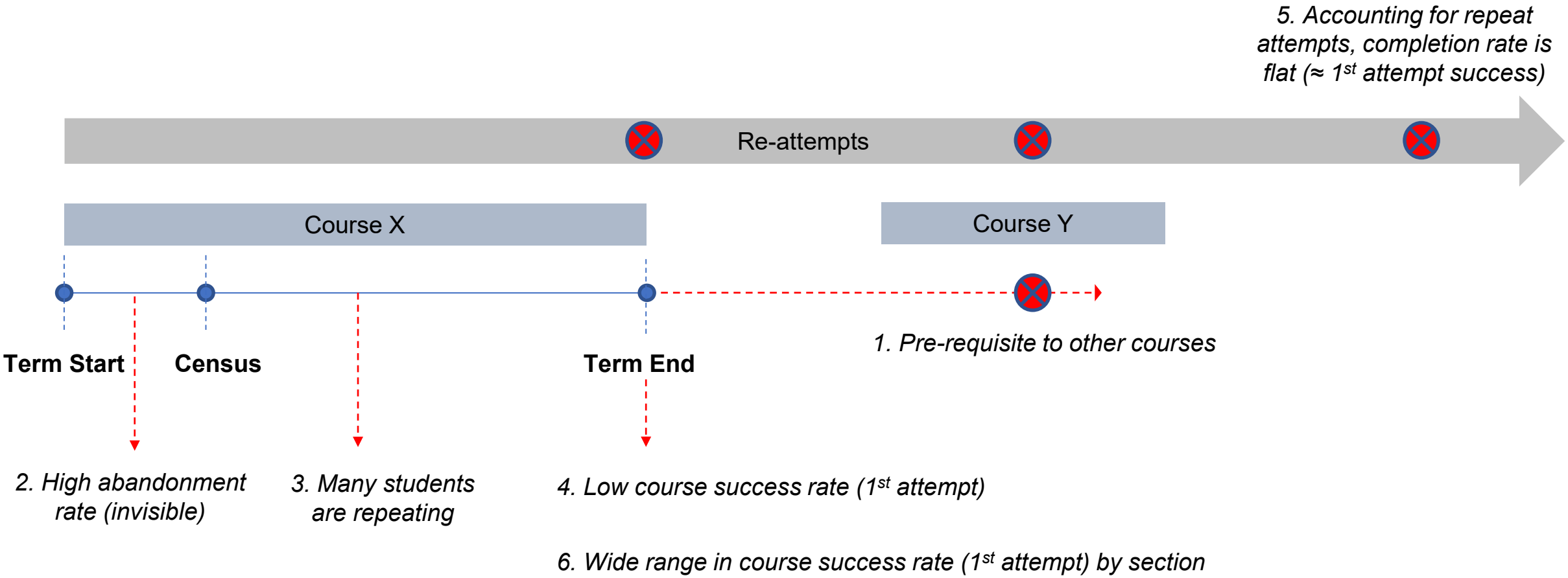

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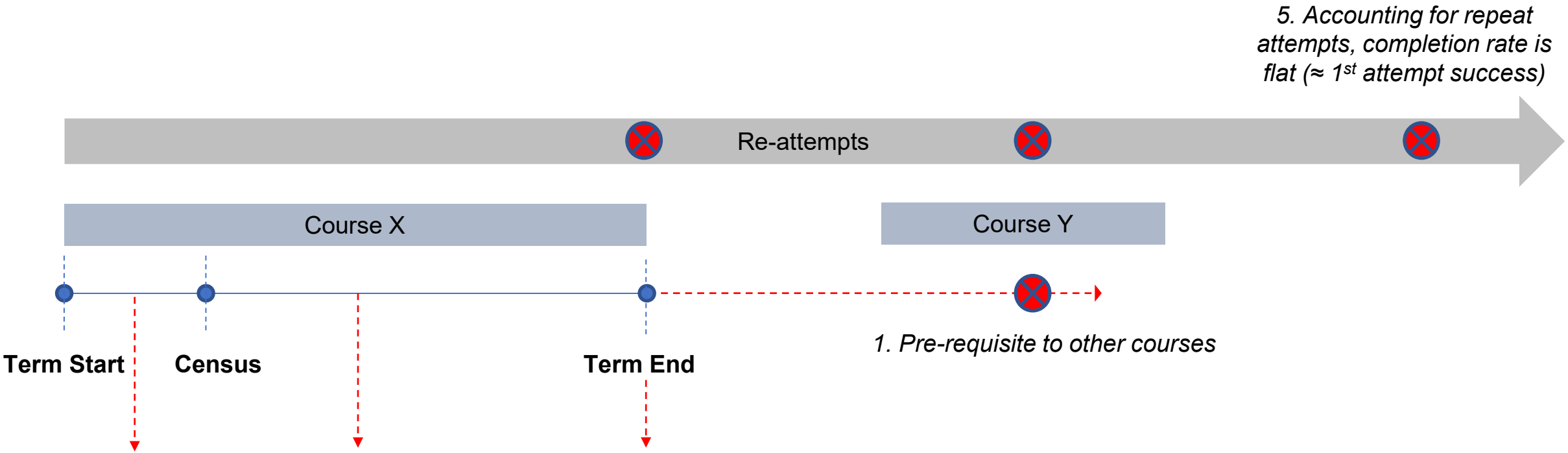


How do we identify gatekeeper courses?

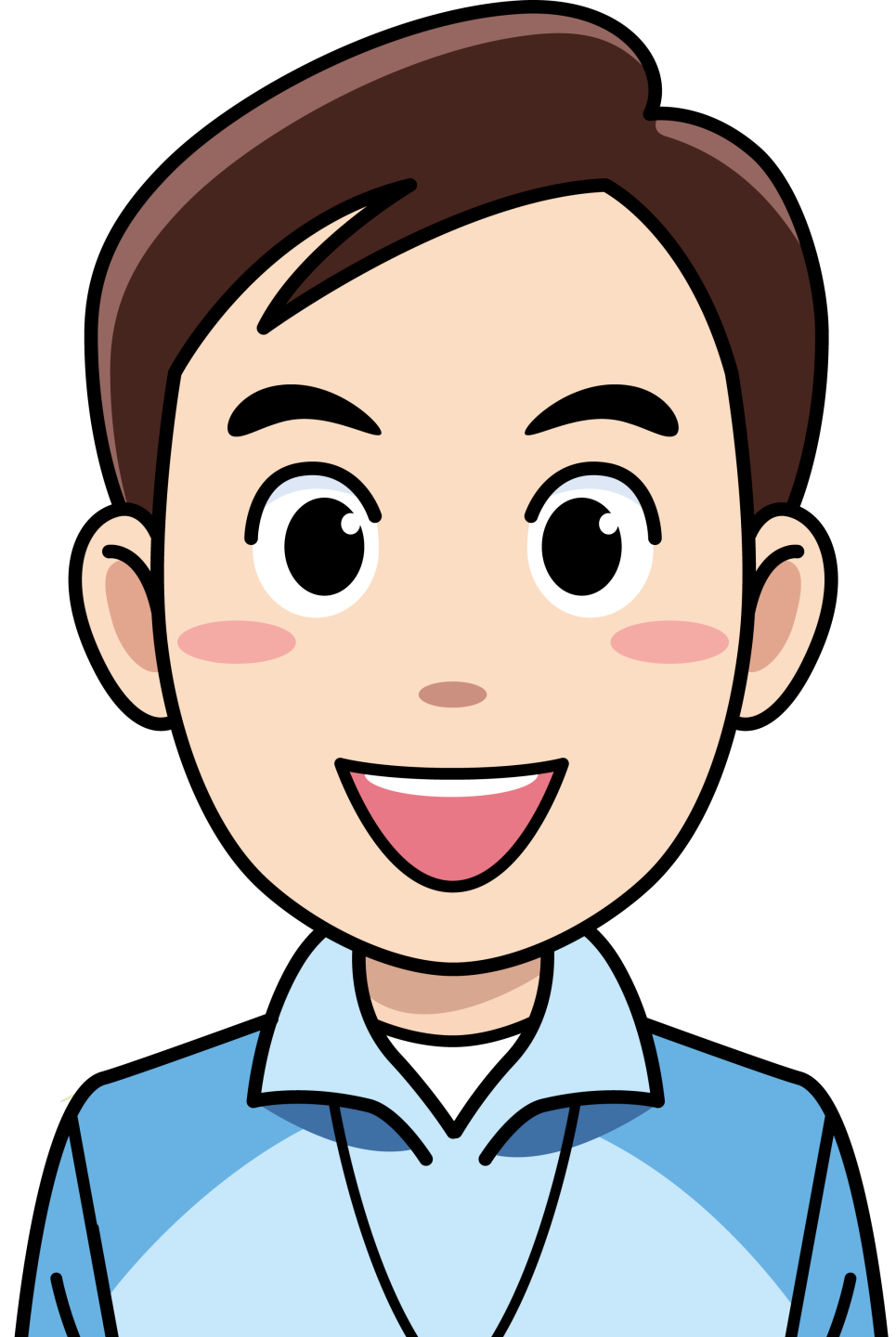
- Institutional researchers: expertise in data, but not in curriculum or specific disciplines
- Rely on discipline expert: department chairs and faculty
- Data exploration / reflection activity (PD week, department meetings)

1. Reflection: *a'priori* hypotheses on gatekeeper courses within department; reasonable thresholds for metrics of interest.
2. Review metrics for each course offered by department: highlight courses with "extreme" values.
3. Inquiry: aha's? Why? What could be done?
4. Immediate action steps

Poll

What abandon rate (0-100%) or above would concern you?

Abandon rate = rate at which students drop a course between the start of class and census, without re-enrolling in a different section of the same course.



Case Study: Psychology Department

- A’priori hypotheses:
  - PSYC 10 (statistics): required, highly quantitative
  - PSYC 2 (research methods): capstone course
  - Low success rates

- Concern thresholds:
  - Abandon rate: 10%
  - Repeater rate: 35%
  - 1st Attempt Success rate: 70%

List By: Course Prefix

Selection: PSYC

Abandon Rate >= 10%

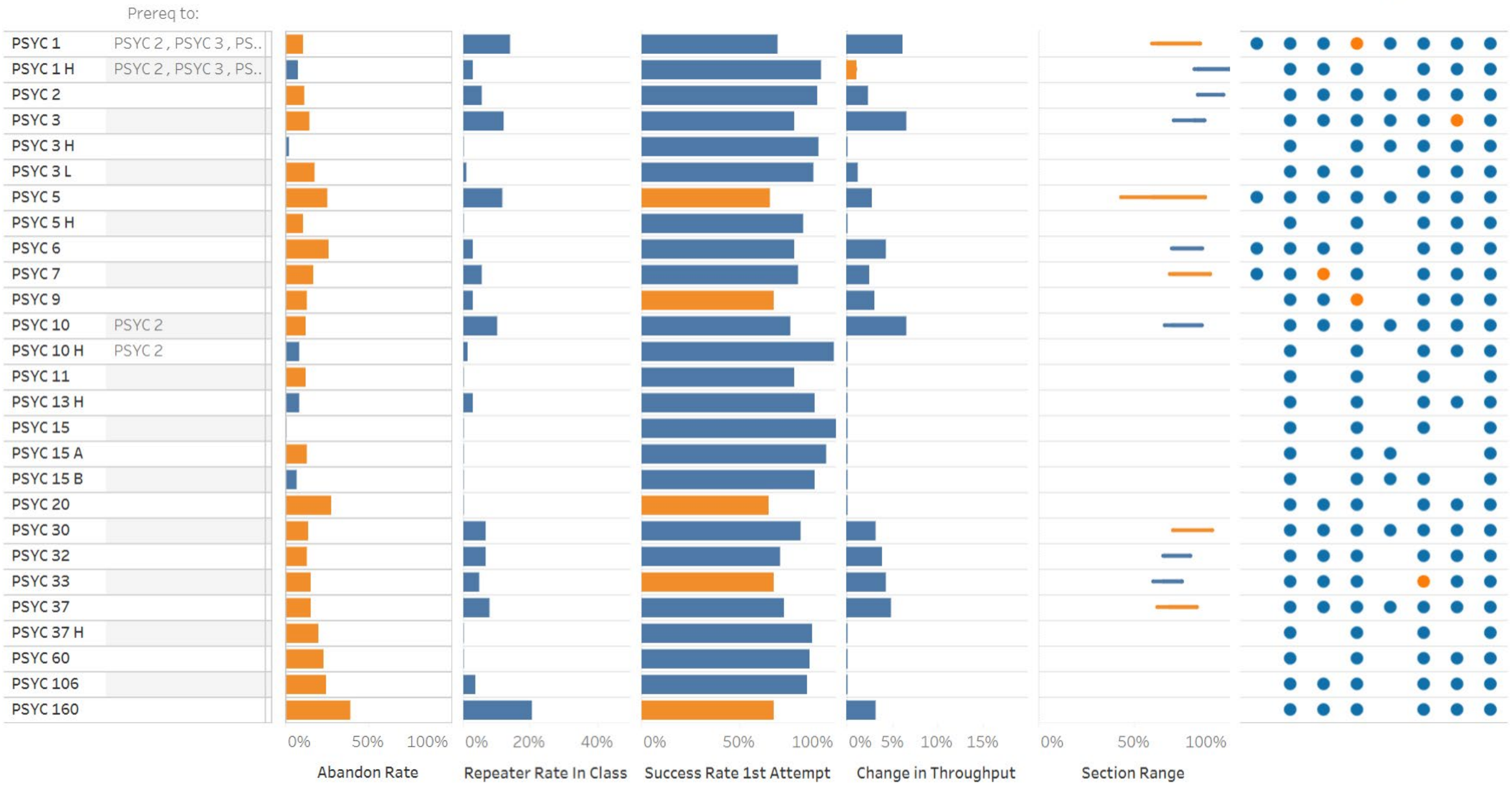
Repeater Rate in Class >= 0.35

1st Attempt Success <= 70%

Change in Throughput and 1st Attempt Success <= 2%

Range in Section 1st Attempt Success Rate >= 20%

American I… | Black o… | His… | Native Hawa… | Two… | Unrepo…



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PSYC 1 H	PSYC 2 , PSYC 3 , PS..
PSYC 2	
PSYC 3	
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PSYC 3 L	
PSYC 5	
PSYC 5 H	
PSYC 6	
PSYC 7	
PSYC 9	
PSYC 10	PSYC 2
PSYC 10 H	PSYC 2
PSYC 11	
PSYC 13 H	
PSYC 15	
PSYC 15 A	
PSYC 15 B	
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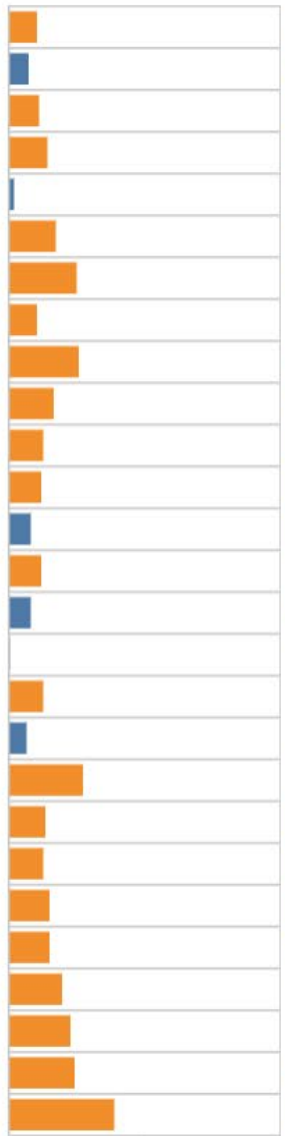
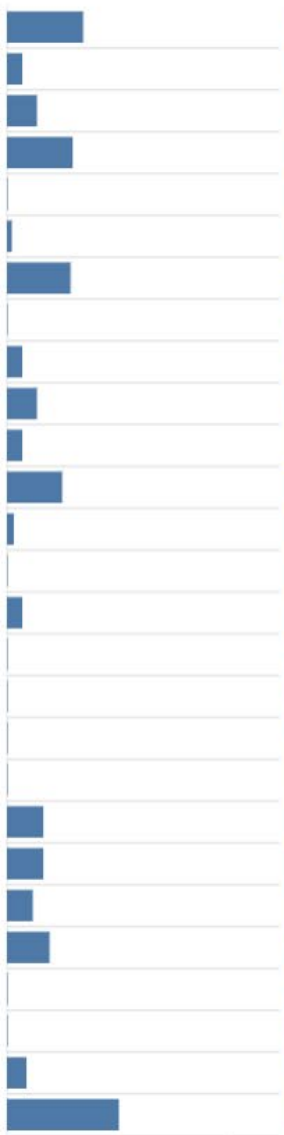
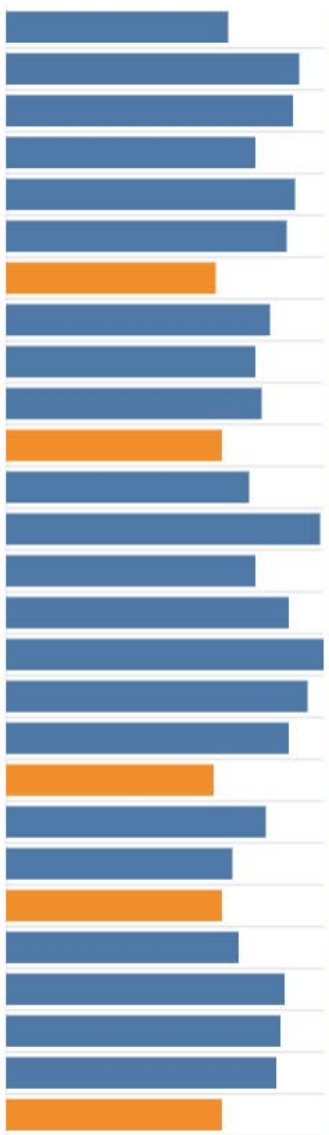


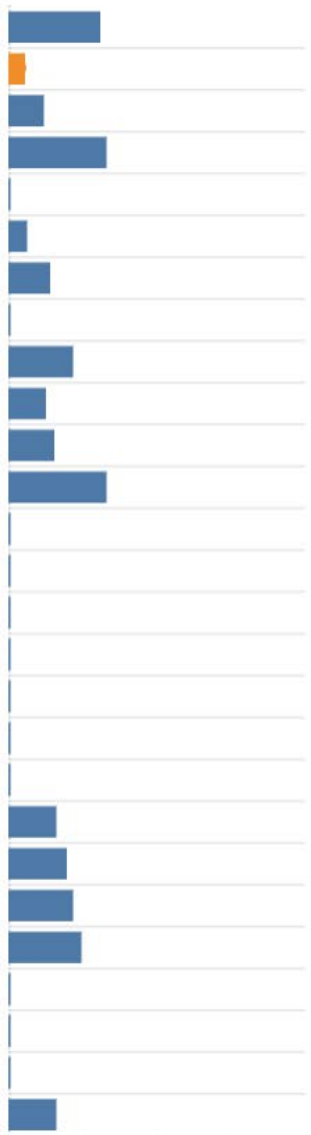
Abandon Rate



Repeater Rate In Class



Success Rate 1st Attempt



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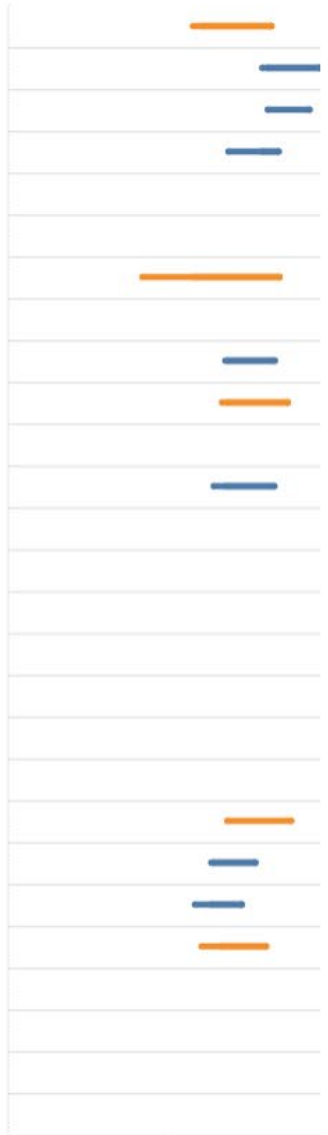

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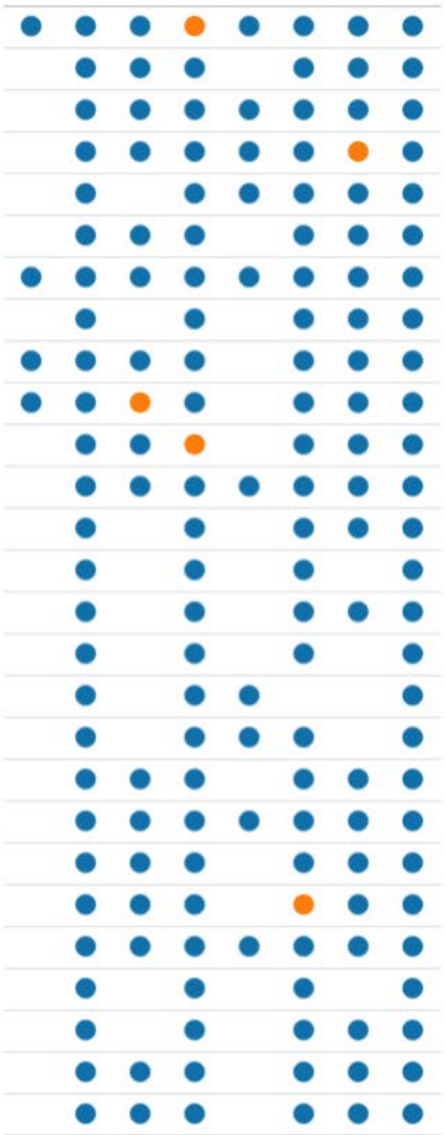

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PSYC 7	
PSYC 9	
PSYC 10	PSYC 2
PSYC 10 H	PSYC 2
PSYC 11	
PSYC 13 H	
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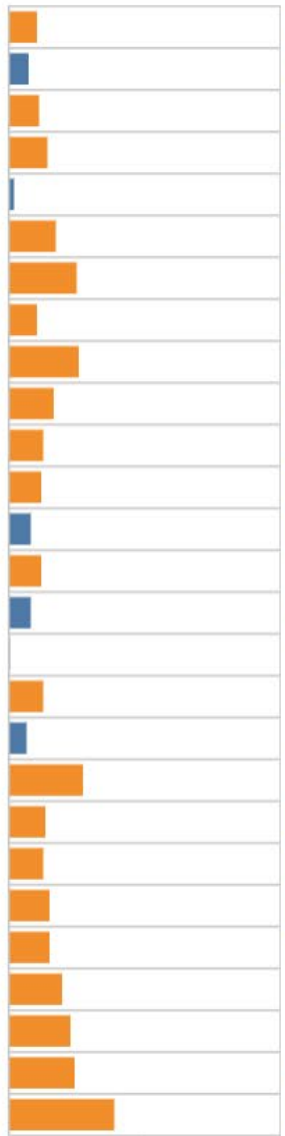

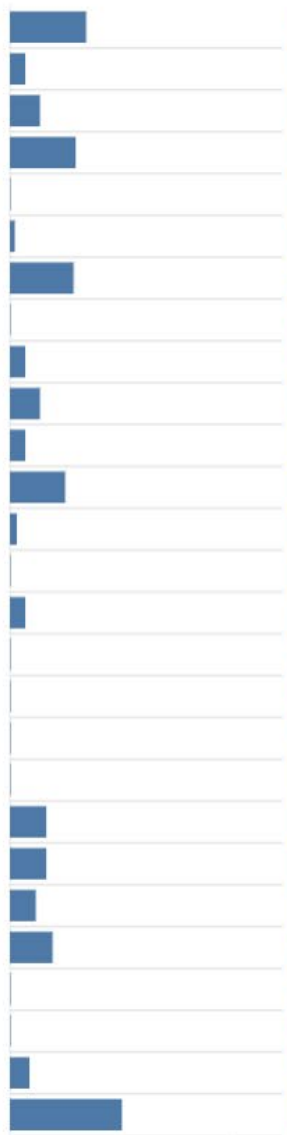

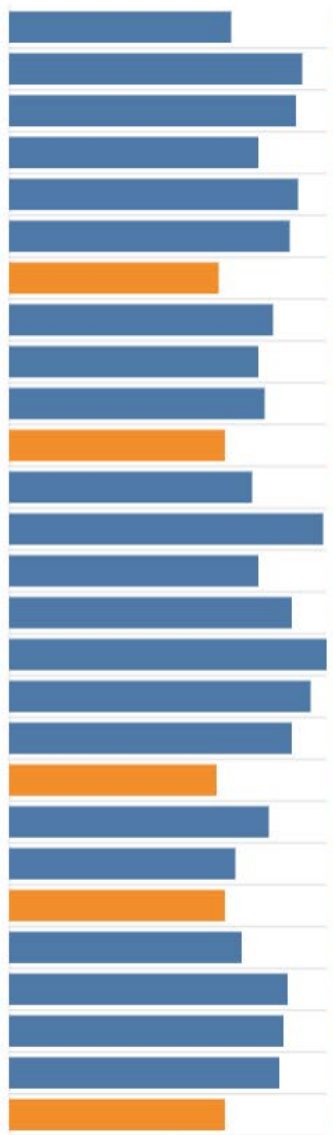

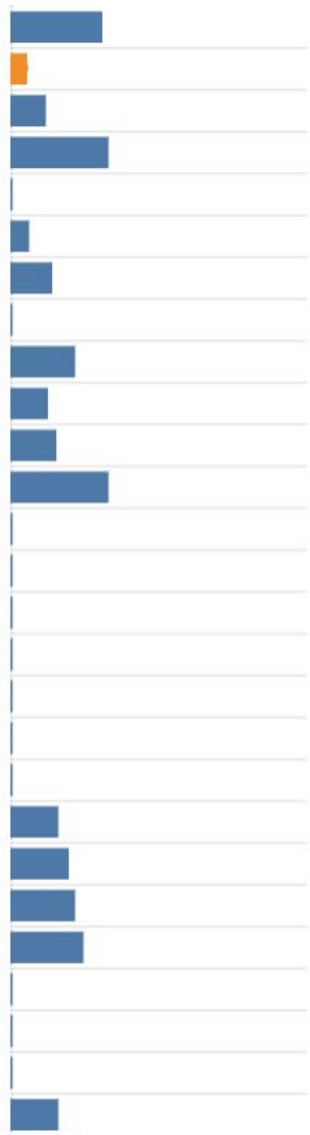

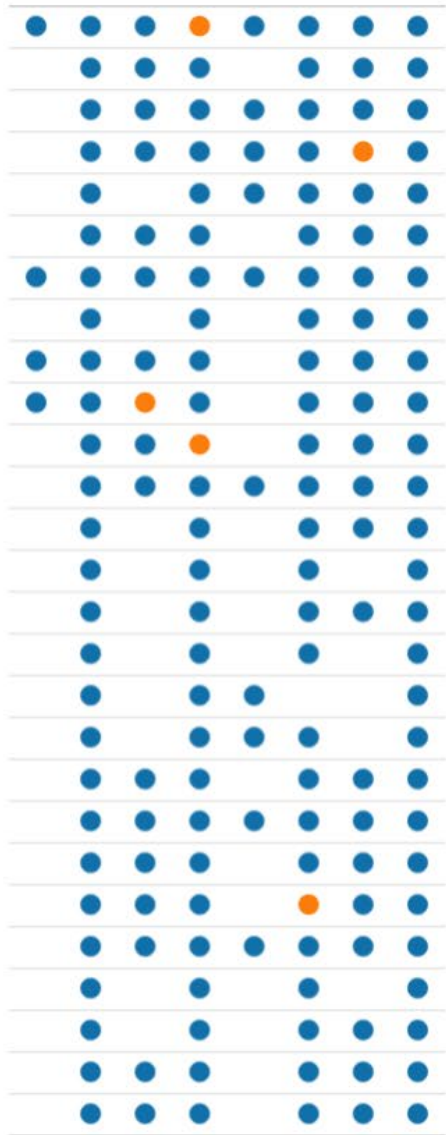

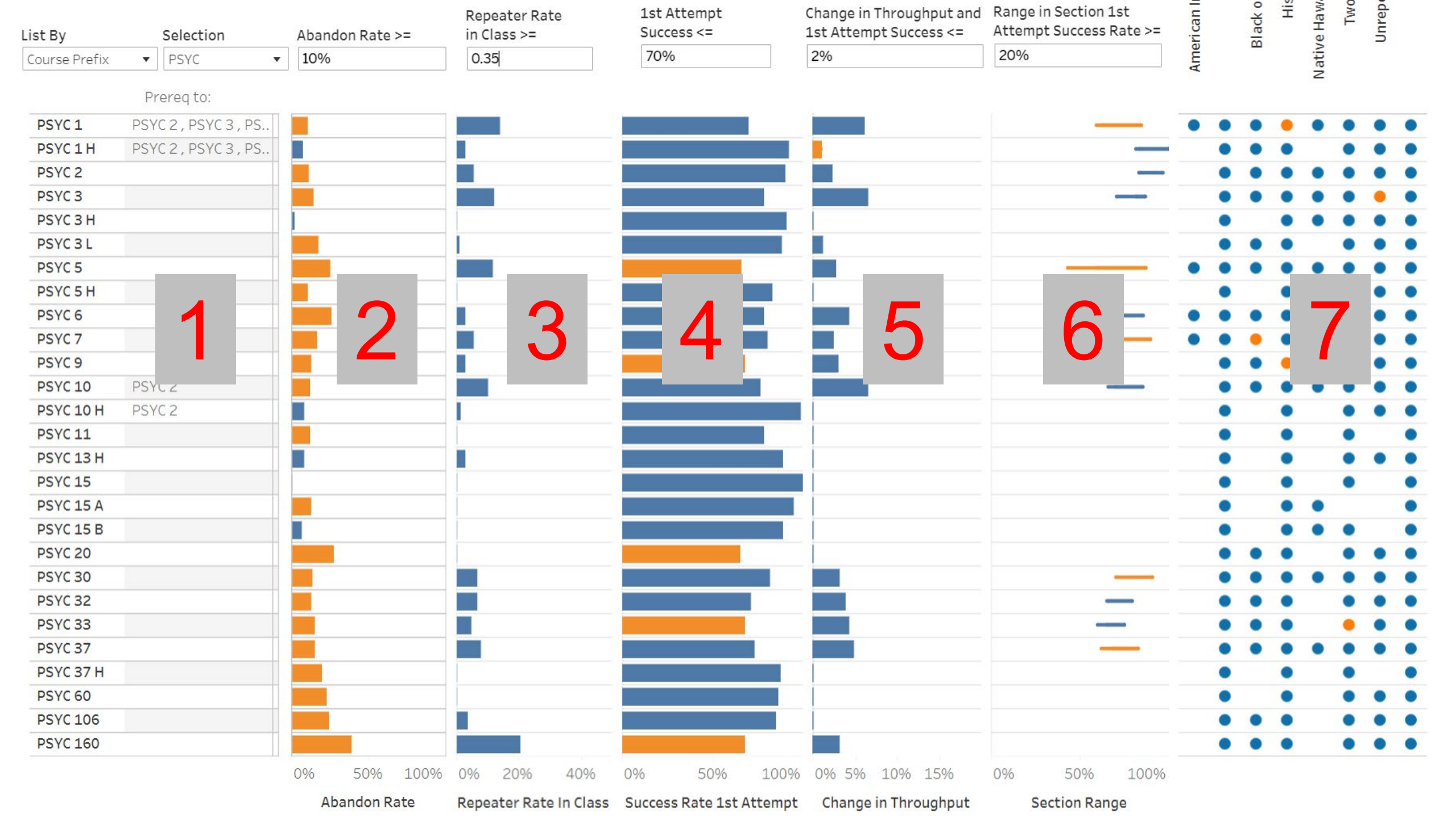
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PSYC 5 H
PSYC 6
PSYC 7
PSYC 9
PSYC 10
PSYC 10 H
PSYC 2
PSYC 11
PSYC 13 H
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PSYC 15 A
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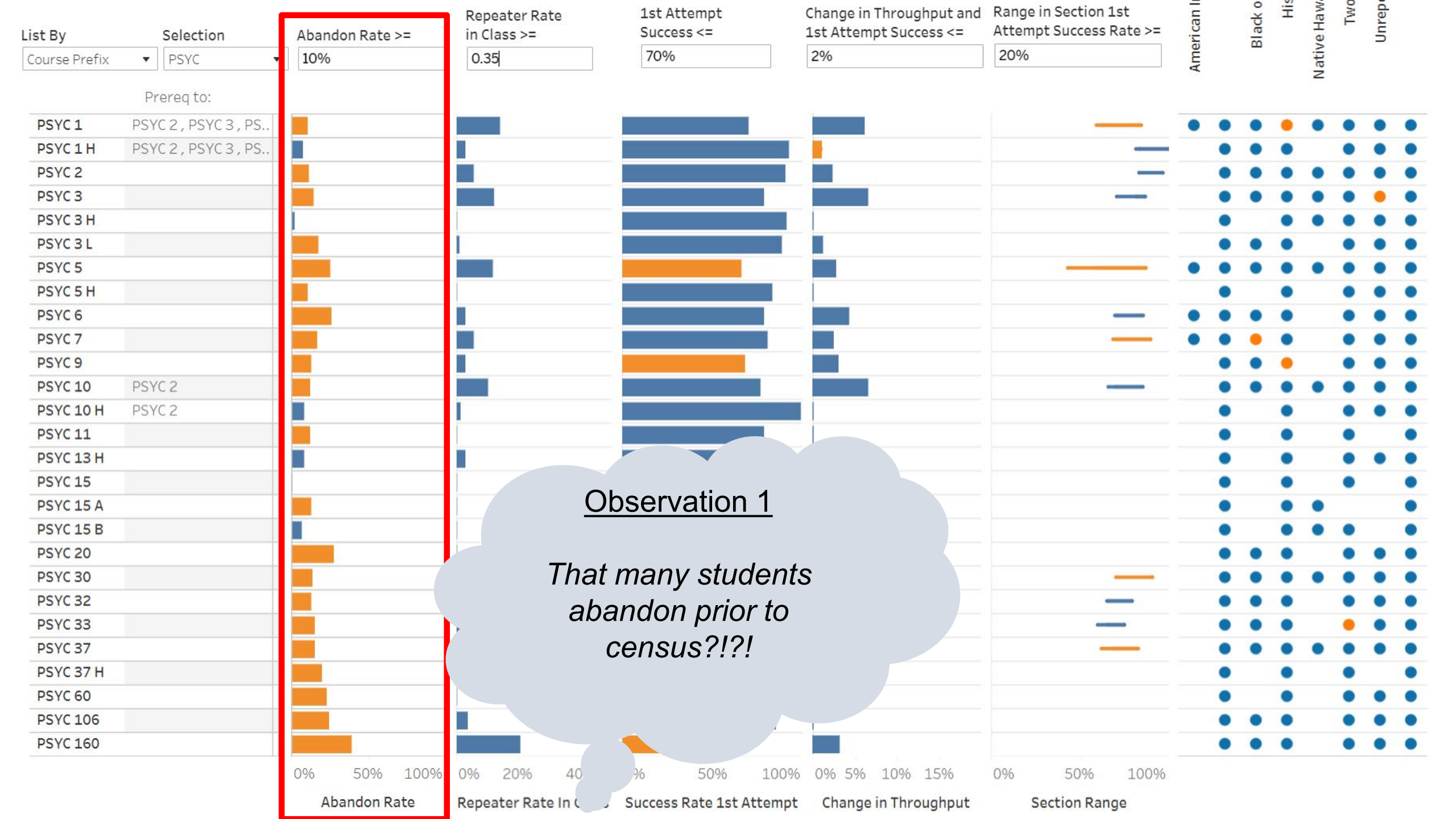
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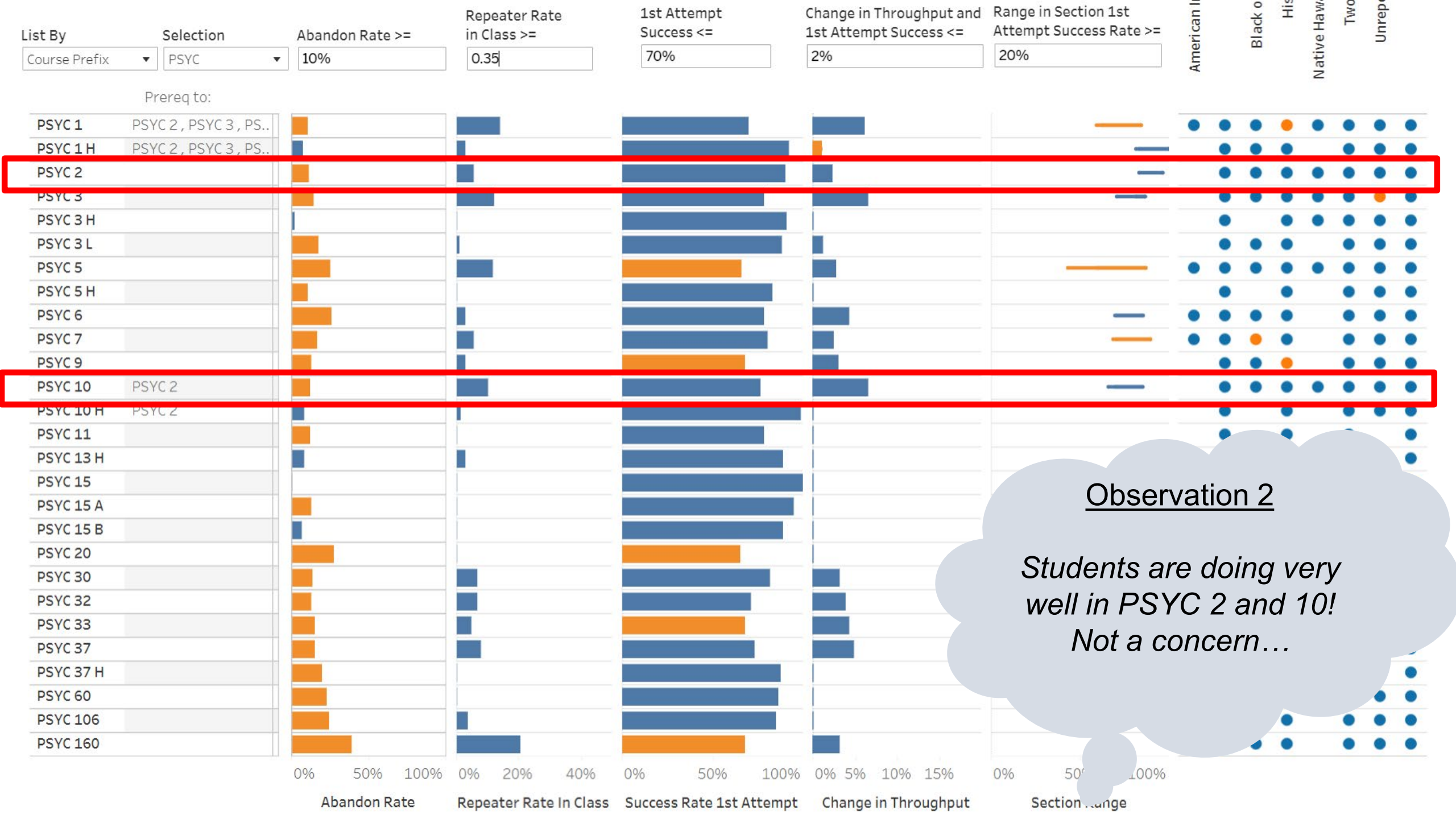
That many students abandon prior to census?!?!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PSYC 10 H
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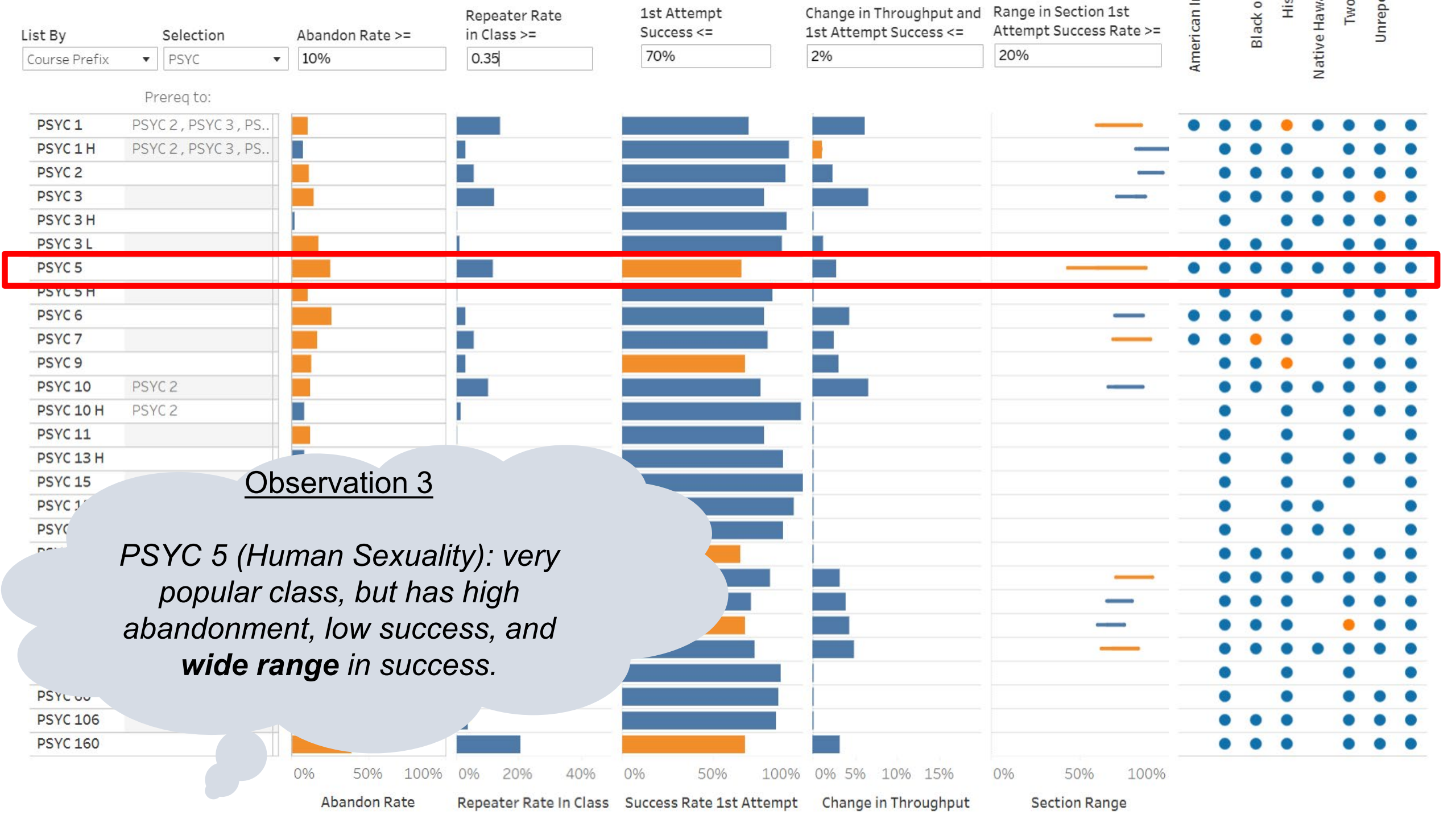
Observation 2
Students are doing very well in PSYC 2 and 10! Not a concern…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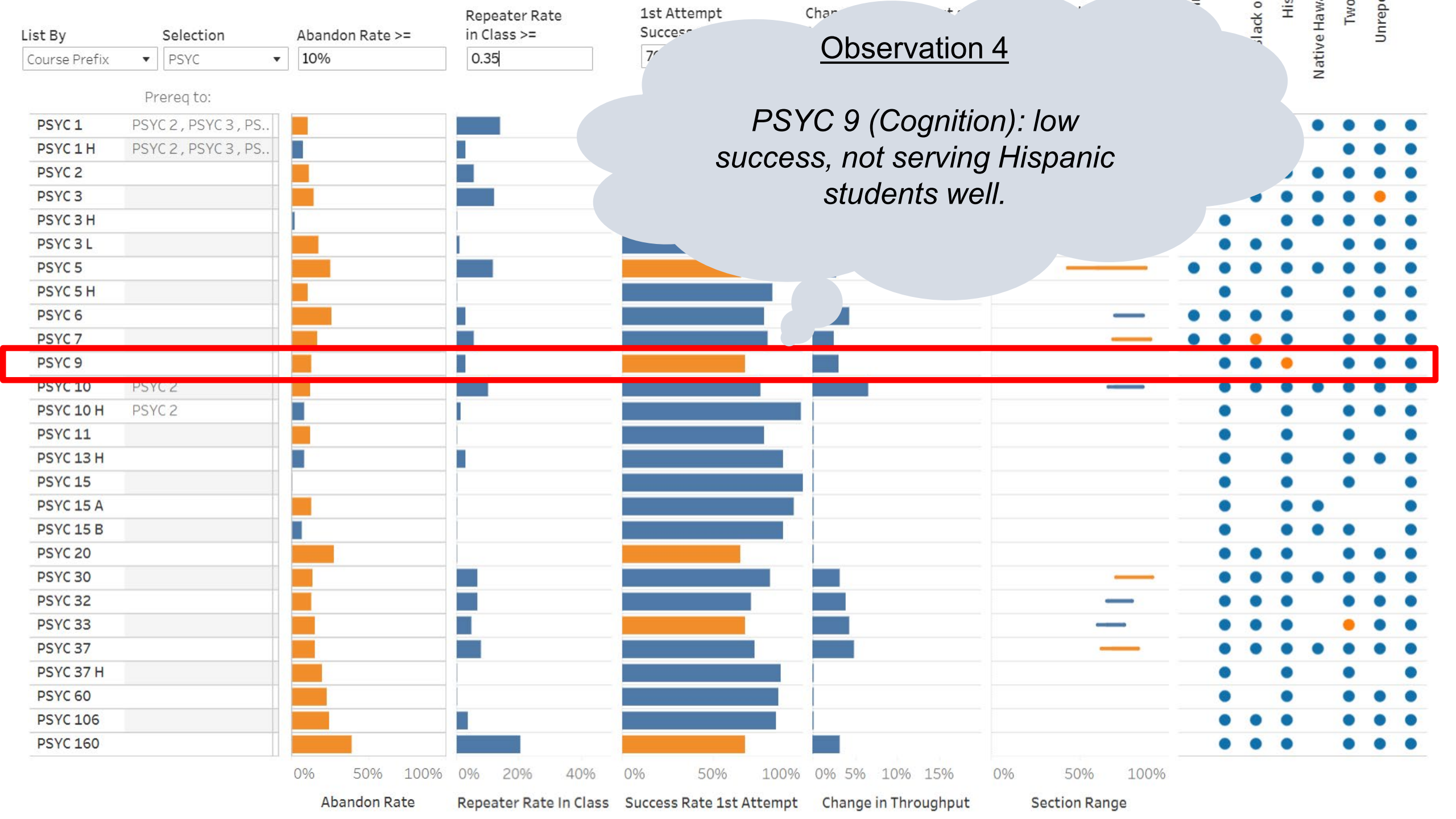
Observation 3
PSYC 5 (Human Sexuality): very popular class, but has high abandonment, low success, and wide range in success.


List By
Course Prefix
Selection
PSYC
Abandon Rate >=
10%
Repeater Rate in Class >=
0.35
1st Attempt Success
Native Hawa
Unrepo
Observation 4
PSYC 9 (Cognition): low success, not serving Hispanic students well.
Prereq to:
PSYC 1
PSYC 2 , PSYC 3 , PS..
PSYC 1 H
PSYC 2 , PSYC 3 , PS..
PSYC 2
PSYC 3
PSYC 3 H
PSYC 3 L
PSYC 5
PSYC 5 H
PSYC 6
PSYC 7
PSYC 9
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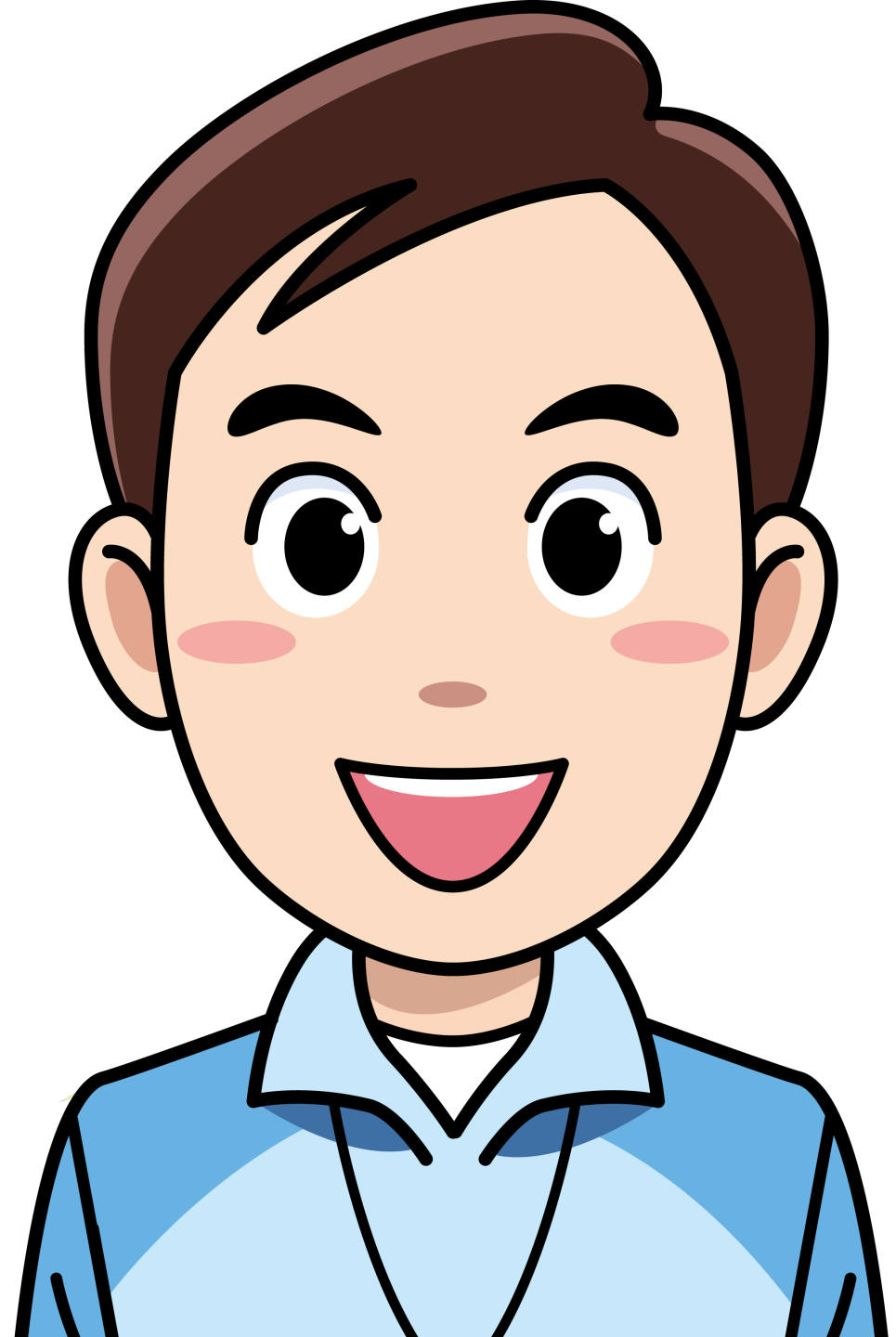

Case Study: Psychology Department

1. That many students abandon prior to census?!?!
2. Students are doing very well in PSYC 2 and 10! Not a concern...
3. PSYC 5 (Human Sexuality): very popular class, but has high abandonment, low success, and wide range in success.
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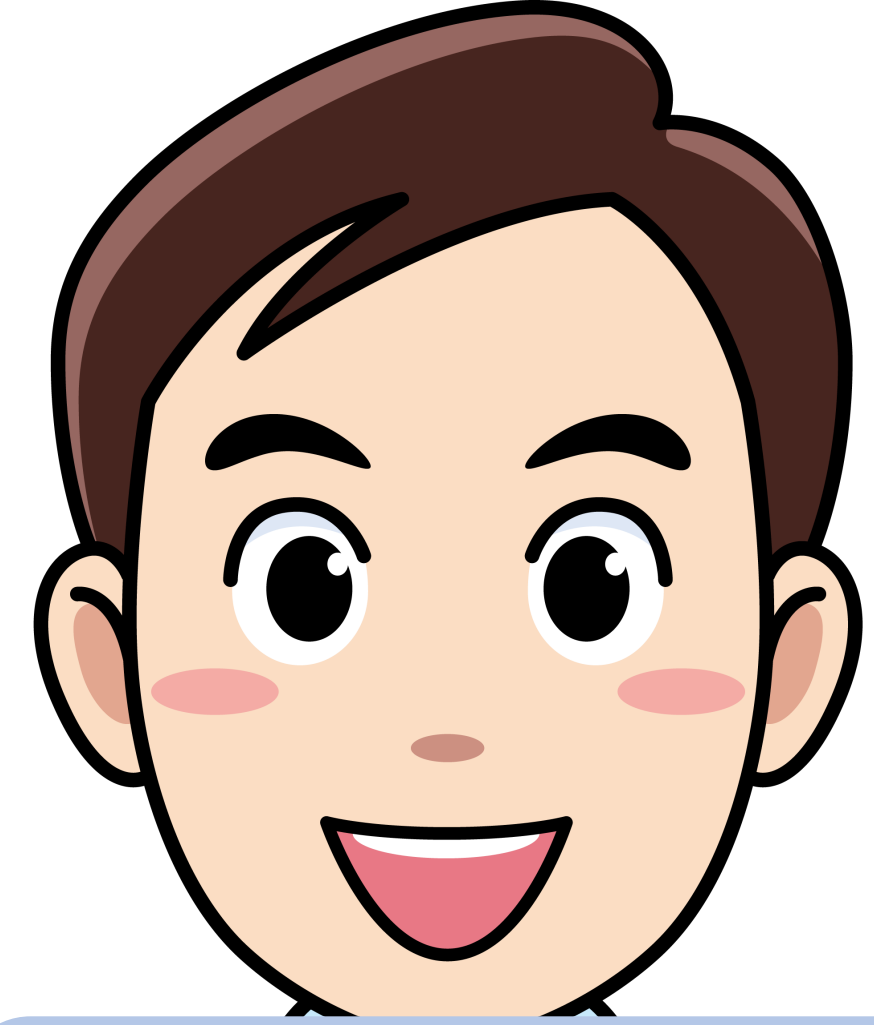

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Next Steps

1. Investigate outlier sections for PSYC 5.
2. Bring up findings at department meeting to brainstorm ways to fine-tune courses.

Now what? (after identification)

CONVERSATION WITHIN DEPARTMENT

FOLLOW-UP DATA INVESTIGATIONS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION

RESOURCE REQUEST

Resources

- Gatekeeper Course Exploration activity: https://link.ivc.edu/gatekeeper-activity (Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License)

- Additional details about data and dashboard (for institutional researchers):

  CAMP-R meeting hosted at Irvine Valley College
  February 26, 2021

Discussion

- What have you done to try to identify gatekeeper courses at your institution?
- Do you have suggestions on how to increase adoption of such a tool?
- After the “identification” step, what do you think might be effective at increasing completions in these gatekeeper courses?

Thank you!

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