

# #NISTS2019 CONFERENCE

## WORKING TOGETHER TO SIMPLIFY TRANSFER

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2019 • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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### **Collaboration is Key! Making the Most of Transfer Credit**

*Partnerships & Collaboration, Innovative Initiatives*

Collaboration can be the key to maximizing transfer credit while upholding the integrity of your curriculum. Understand how Appalachian State University's unique partnership between their Office of General Education and Office of Transfer Services has been able to identify some creative solutions to this common problem. Learn how seemingly small practices and policies can provide a big impact for your students and campus.

**Kristin Hyle**, Assistant Director of General Education  
Appalachian State University

**Jenna Reed**, Transfer Credit Evaluator, Office of Transfer Services  
Appalachian State University

# Collaboration Is Key!

## Making The Most Of Transfer Credit

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Presented by Kristin Hyle and Jenna Reed  
NISTS 2019

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# Nice To Meet You!

**Jenna Reed**

Transfer Credit Evaluator

Office of Transfer Services

Appalachian State University



# Nice To Meet You!

**Kristin Hyle**

Assistant Director

Office of General Education

Appalachian State University



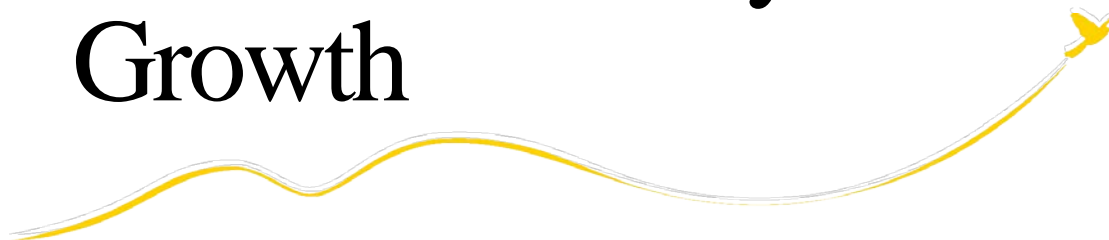
# Learning Objectives



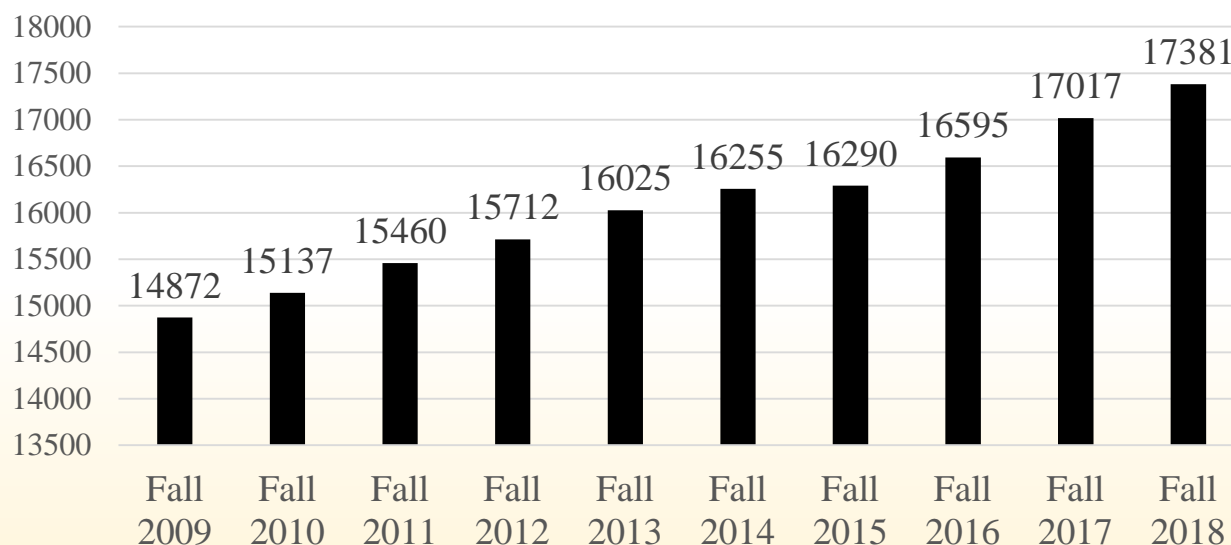
Participants will be able to identify:

- a. Areas where their own campuses could be more generous with the awarding of transfer credit applicable to degree requirements
- b. Key offices or staff on their own campuses who can help to make that happen
- c. Steps necessary to get buy-in from campus stakeholders to move toward implementation
- d. Existing policies that can be streamlined or honed to better serve students

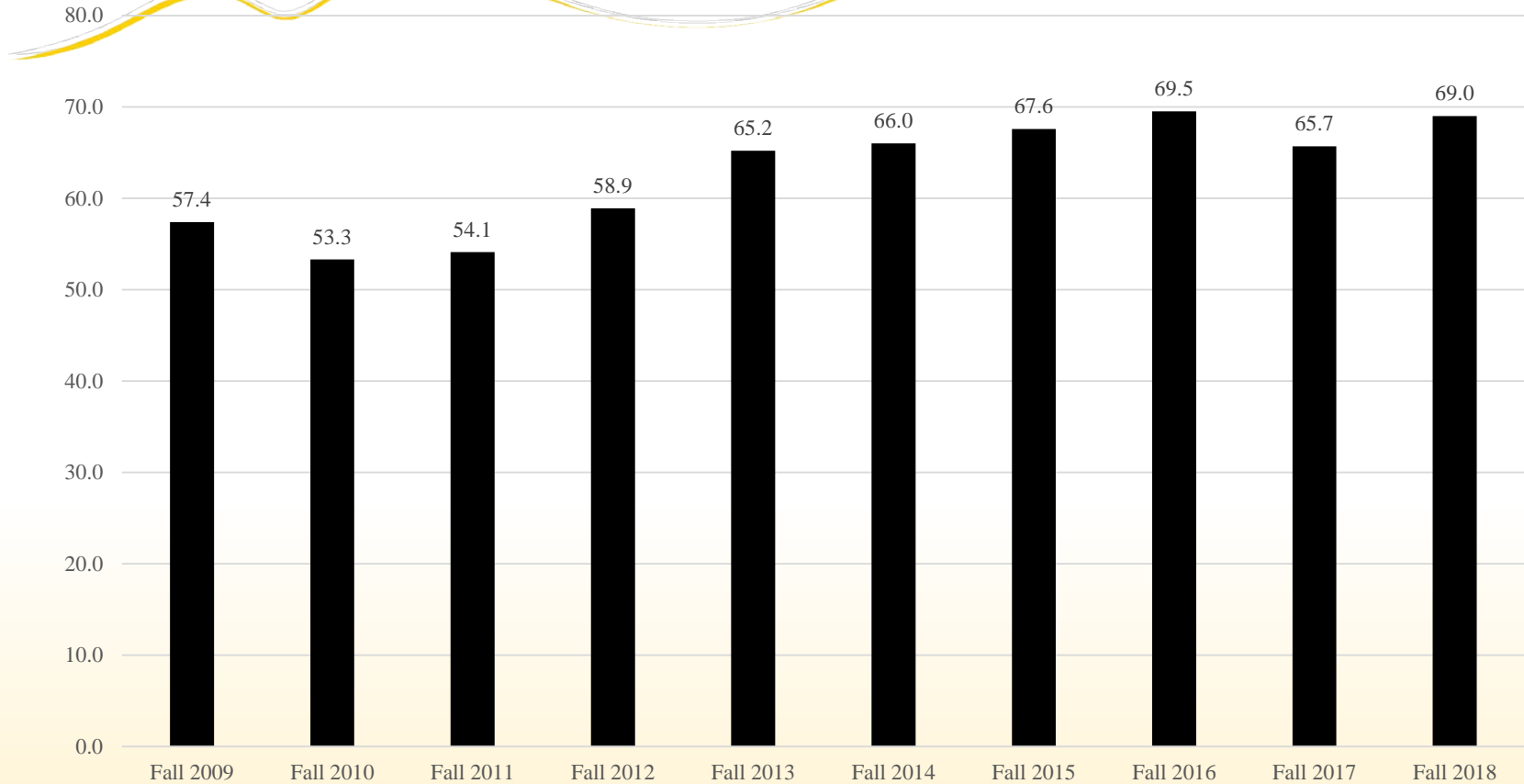
# Slow and Steady Enrollment Growth



Total Undergraduate Enrollment  
in Fall Semester

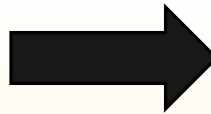


## Percentage of Overall Transfers Who Come From a North Carolina Community College



# General Education Reform

- 2005: Nationwide change of focus from disciplinary content to transferable skills





# Shared Governance: A Process



- Faculty has primary authority over the academic area including such matters as the curriculum
- Faculty approval needed for:
  - Revision of Gen Ed requirements
  - Establishment of committee structure for Gen Ed approvals
  - Additions of or changes to individual courses
  - Any changes to university policy

# One of Three ‘Perspectives’ in the 2009-10 General Education Program



**HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE (6-9 s.h. from one theme; students must take courses from at least two disciplines in the chosen theme)**

Ancient Worlds: \_\_\_ANT 1420, \_\_\_ART 2030 (FA), \_\_\_HIS 2312 (HS), \_\_\_REL 2010 (LS)

Appalachia: \_\_\_AS 2410, \_\_\_AS 2411, \_\_\_COM 3118, \_\_\_HIS 3726 (HS), \_\_\_AS/MUS 2016, \_\_\_SOC 3710,

Cultural Diversity: , \_\_\_ANT 1415, \_\_\_GHY 1040, \_\_\_HIS 1120 (HS), \_\_\_REL 1110, \_\_\_SOC 4560, \_\_\_WS 2421

Individual And Society: \_\_\_ANT 2420, \_\_\_FCS 2111, \_\_\_PHL 2000, \_\_\_PSY 1200, \_\_\_SOC 1000, \_\_\_WS 2400

Mind: \_\_\_FL 2050, \_\_\_HIS 3923 (HS), \_\_\_IDS 3260, \_\_\_PHL 1501, \_\_\_PSY 1200

Religion, Myth and Society: \_\_\_ANT 2430, \_\_\_ART 2030 (FA), \_\_\_IDS 3261, \_\_\_REL 1110, \_\_\_THR 3730

Revolutions and Social Change: \_\_\_COM 3532, \_\_\_HIS 1501 (HS), \_\_\_PHL 3030, \_\_\_REL 2120, \_\_\_SOC 1100

This American Life: \_\_\_ECO 2030, \_\_\_ENG 2350 (LS), \_\_\_HIS 1200 (HS), \_\_\_PS 1100, \_\_\_PS 3722

# A Tale of Two Offices



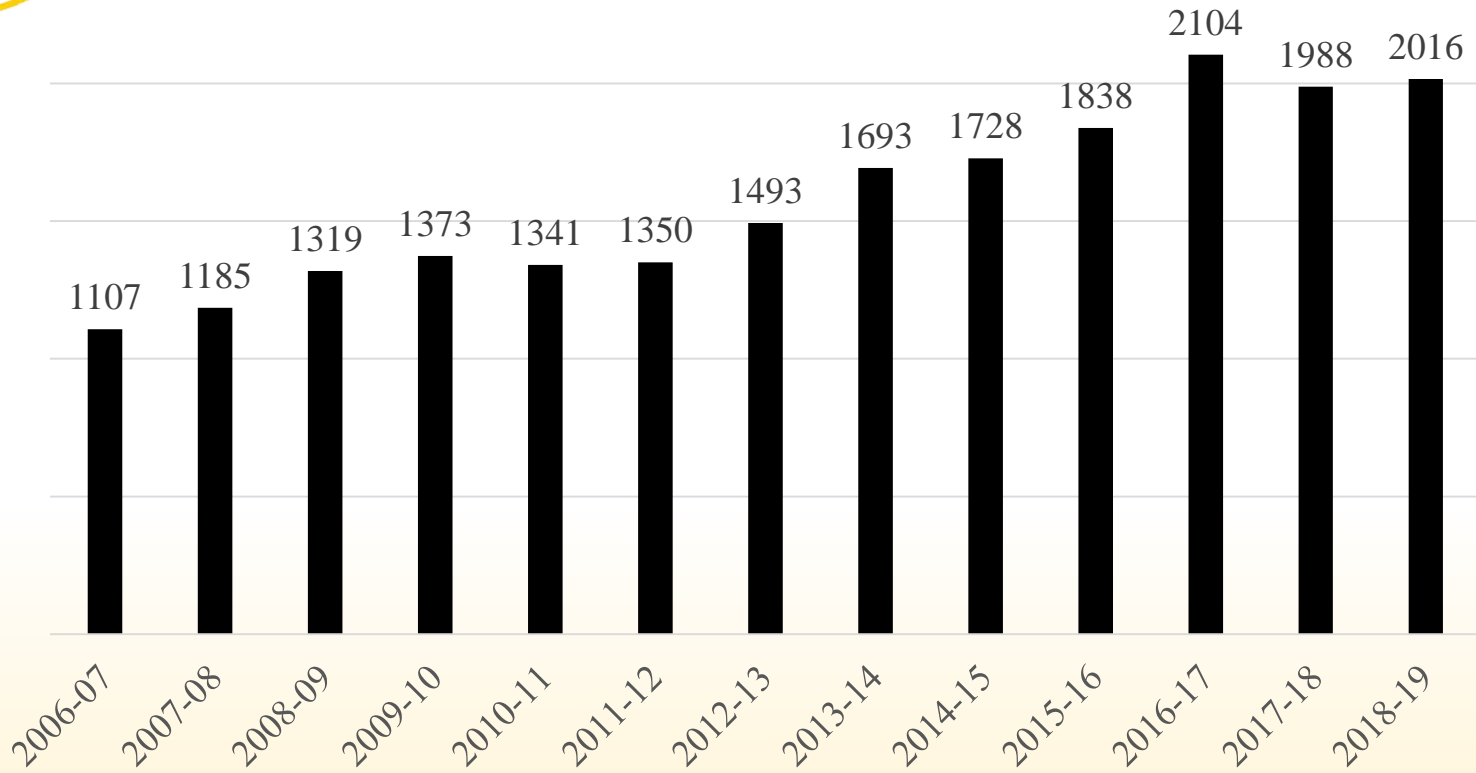
## Office of General Education

- Fall 2007 office was created
- Fall 2009 major curriculum changes **“New Gen Ed”**

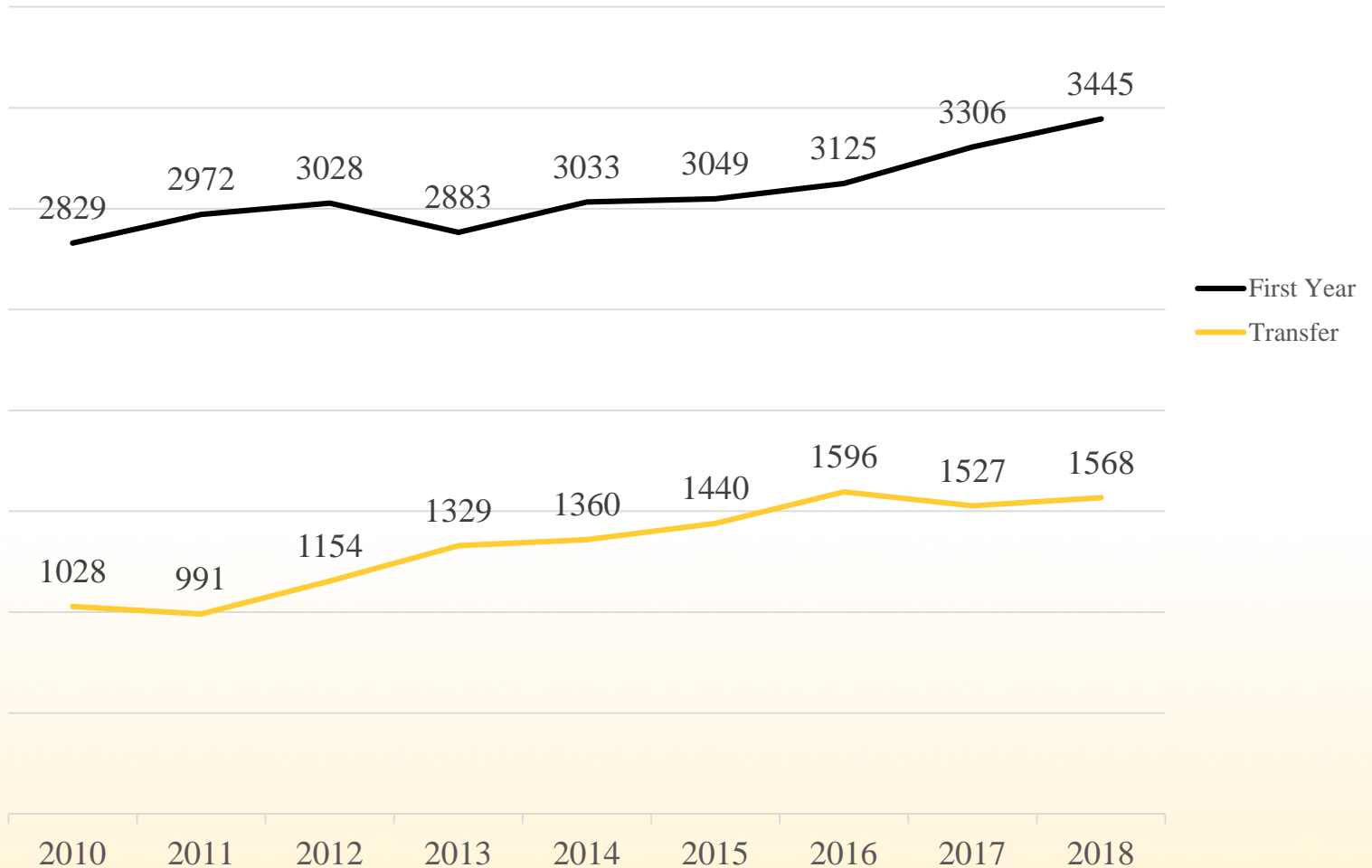
## Office of Transfer Articulation

- Established summer 2010
- Initially created to support other offices in credit evaluation
- Expanded to the Office of Transfer Services to support university in all things transfer

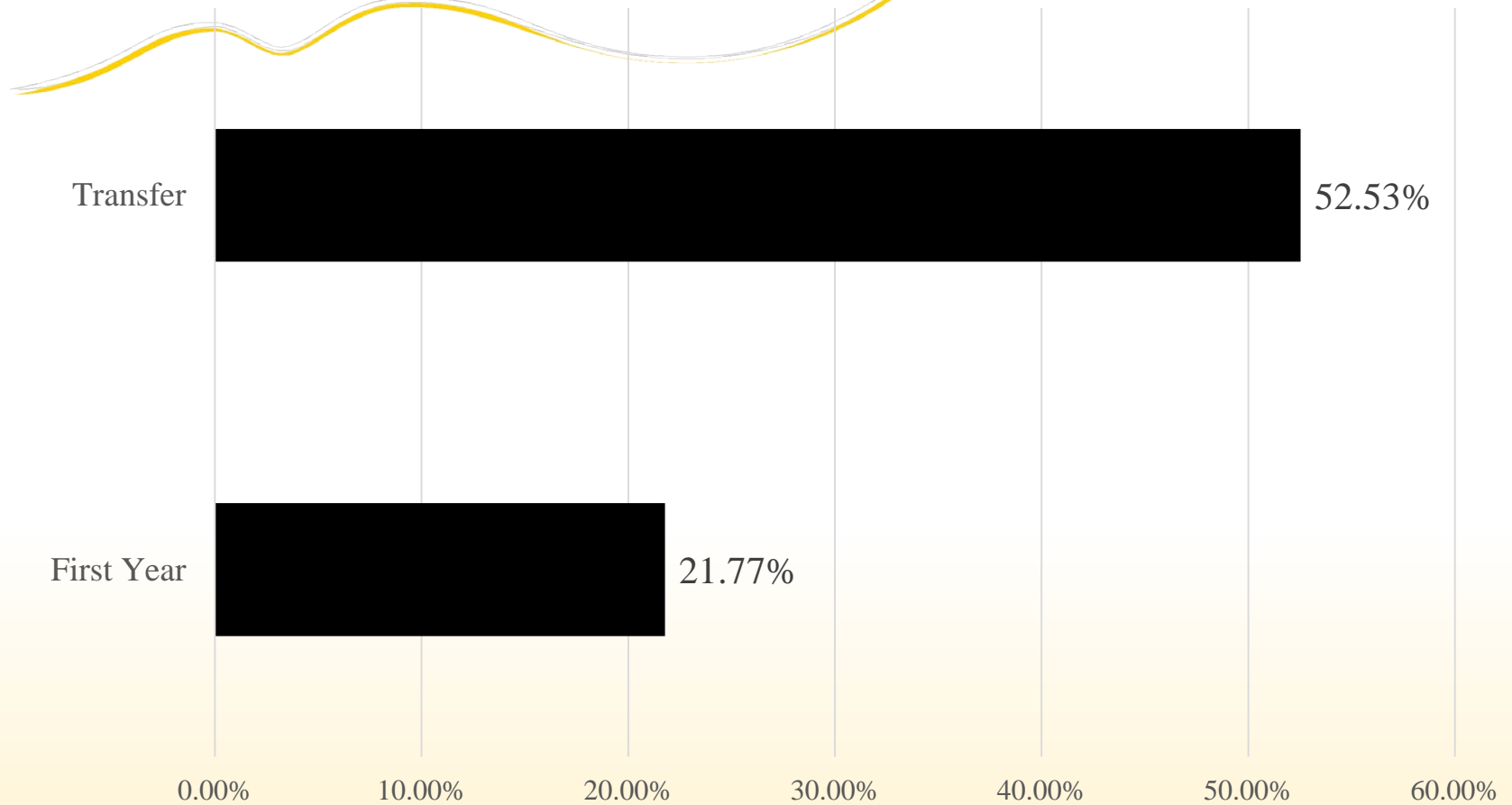
## Total Transfer Students Entering Each Academic Year



## New Students Entering in Fall, by Student Type



## Rate of Increase in Enrollment by Student Type Fall 2010-Fall 2018



# Major Challenges Identified by Review Task Force

- Transfer courses not aligning with Gen Ed program
- Overall student flexibility with course choices
- First Year Seminar requirement



# Acceptance of Associate's Degrees Not Subject to CAA



- Faculty recommendation: accept any associate's degree as fulfilling Gen Ed requirements
- Issues with that recommendation
  - No control over the requirements in other states
  - Minimum Gen Ed hours required by accrediting body
- Compromise
  - Establish standards for coursework needed for a degree to be acceptable
  - Transfer-friendly in the sense that students have a new option, but maintains fairness for NC students



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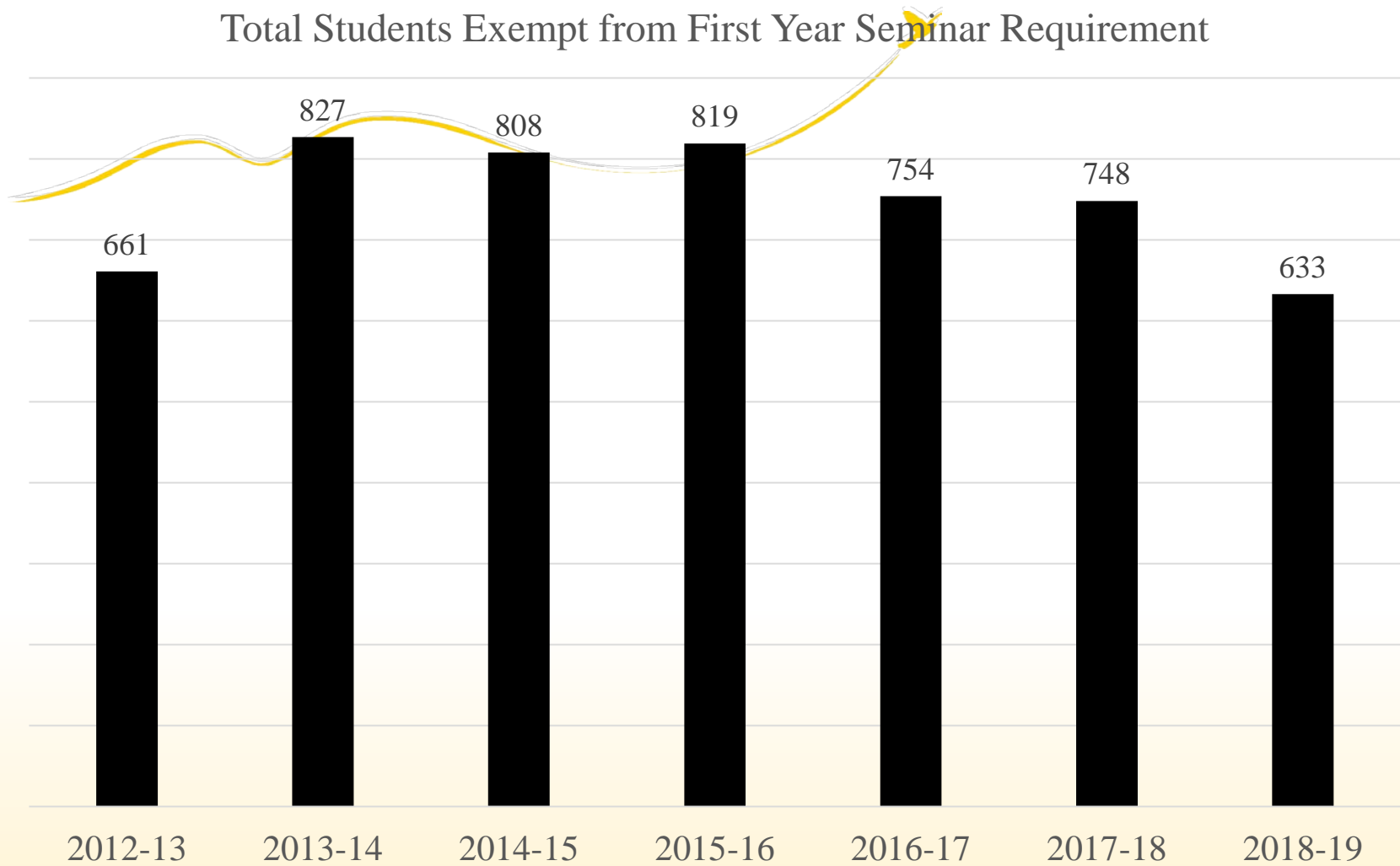
# Completion of Gen Ed at Another University

- Faculty recommendation: accept the completion of Gen Ed from any university as fulfilling Gen Ed requirements
- Issues with that recommendation
  - No transcript notation of Gen Ed completion
  - No control of requirements at other universities
- Compromise
  - Accept verified Gen Ed completion from our sister institutions in the UNC system only (no NC private schools or out-of-state)

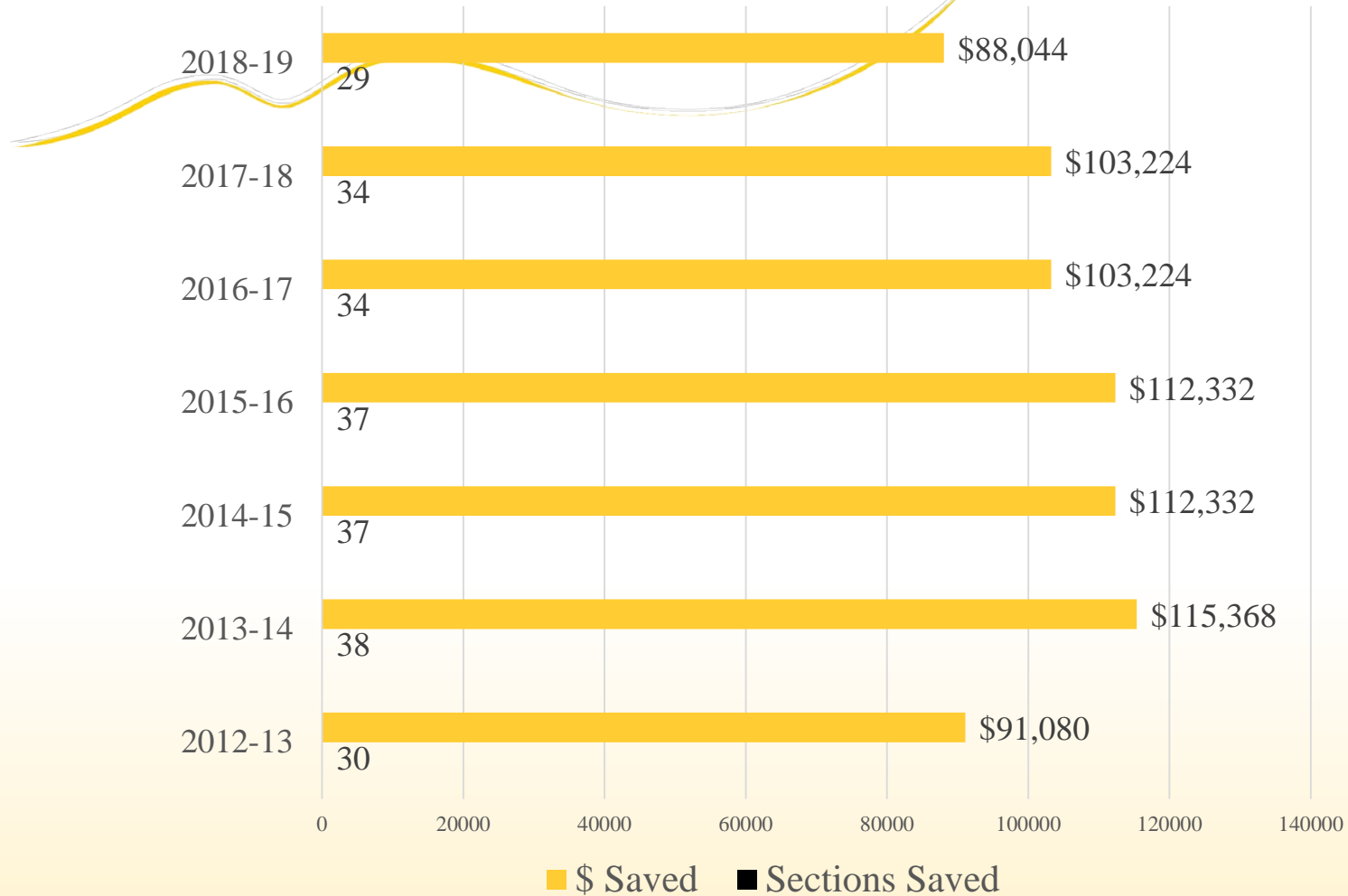
# First Year Seminar Requirement

- Faculty recommendation: change First Year Seminar from a requirement for all students to an elective and reduce total Gen Ed hours to 41
- Issues with that recommendation
  - Completion of First Year Seminar has a statistically significant correlation with higher GPA and increased student retention
  - First Year Seminar (and the previous Freshman Seminar) are programs that have factored into national rankings from various publications
- Compromise
  - Eliminate First Year Seminar as a requirement for transfer students with 30 hours of higher of transferable credit at the time of matriculation

## Total Students Exempt from First Year Seminar Requirement



## Money Saved by First Year Seminar Exemption Policy (based on 22 students per section)



# Policy vs. Practice



- A change in policy at Appalachian State requires certain types of approvals, depending on who is proposing the change.
- A change in practice at Appalachian State also requires certain types of approvals, but it is usually much less onerous than a policy change.
- Often, a policy may delegate to an individual or office the authority to change a practice.

# Existing Practice Updated for Gen Ed Needs



- Petitioning for transfer equivalent credit
  - Handled between students, Transfer Services, and individual department chairs
- Petitioning for transfer Gen Ed credit
  - Handled between students, Transfer Services, and Gen Ed office
  - Blanket approval of Gen Ed credit on courses with no Appalachian equivalent

# Shared Governance Success Story



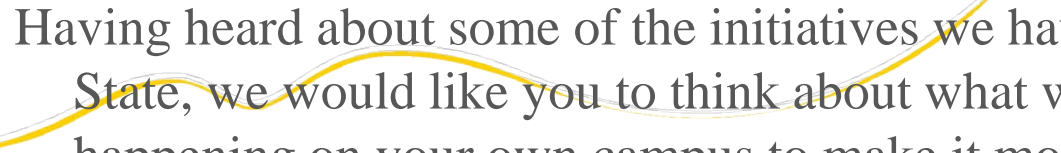
- Issue: many transfer students were 1 hour short for the Gen Ed Quantitative Literacy and/or Science Inquiry requirement
- Advisory group recommendation: reduce the requirements by 1 hour each for transfer students with credit in those areas
- Faculty reaction
  - Total pushback
  - Need for more math and science, not less

# Shared Governance Success Story

- Further investigation
  - Data on how many students take 3 hour Statistics, 4 hour Math, or 4 hour Science courses to make up a 1 hour shortage
- Compromise
  - Math department created 1 credit Math and Statistics courses for transfer students
  - Math department and Quantitative Literacy faculty committee reviewed and approved a handful of upper-level courses with quantitative content in various majors to count as the final QL hour for transfer students.
  - Most Science departments created one hour lab options for students who transfer a corresponding lecture-only course.



# Activity



Having heard about some of the initiatives we have done at Appalachian State, we would like you to think about what would you like to see happening on your own campus to make it more transfer-friendly.

- Don't be afraid to think big!
- Eliminate all-or-nothing thinking! Just because you can't do it all doesn't mean you can't do something.
- Don't limit your thinking to General Education just because we did!

# Discussion and Questions

