

GETTIN' FIGGY WITH IT

A Mixed Methods Data-Driven Analysis of FIGs at the University of Washington

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BACKGROUND

The First-Year Interest Group (FIG) Program at the UW offers linked courseloads through which Freshmen take classes with the same group of 20-25 students during fall quarter.

The UW's goal for the FIG program is for students to:

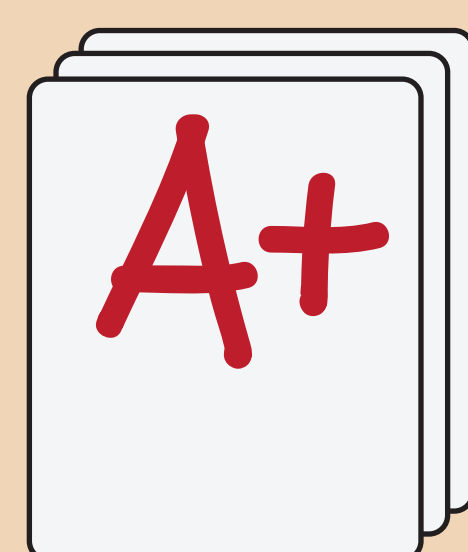
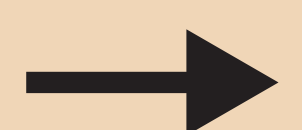
- Connect with more experienced undergraduate students
- Build an academic foundation for future quarters
- Experience a small community within the large university¹

In conducting this study, we wish to observe the effects of FIGS on student success and experience.

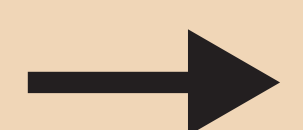
METHODS



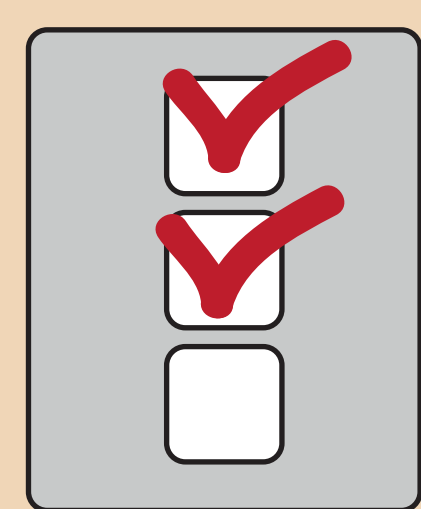
Analyzed the transcript and pre-entry data of 60,000+ students



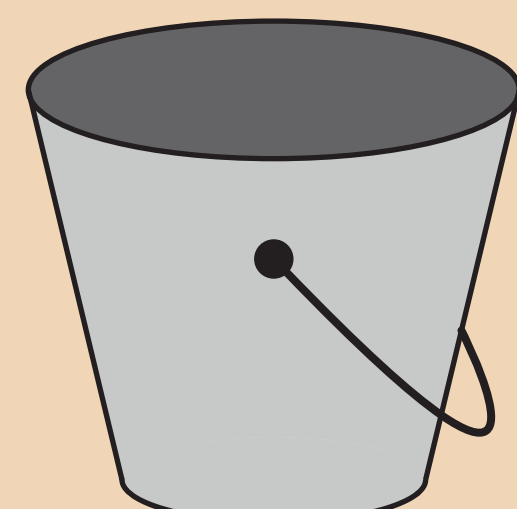
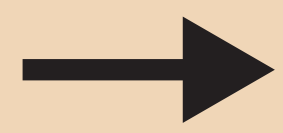
Conducted study comparing FIG effects on retention, GPA and class percentile



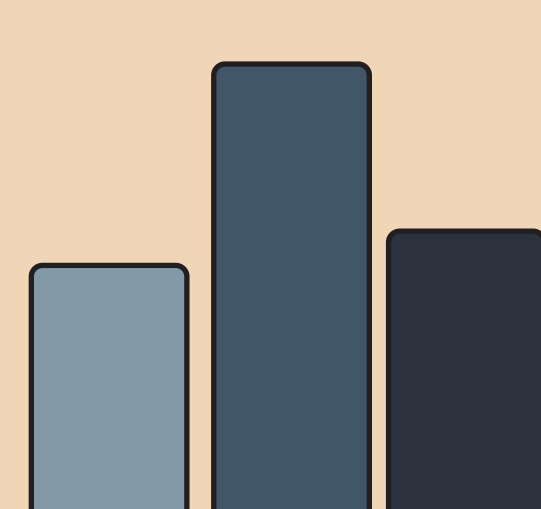
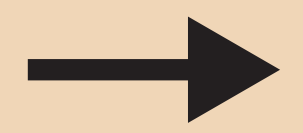
Employed propensity score matching to account for selection bias



Gathered survey responses from freshmen about their FIG experience

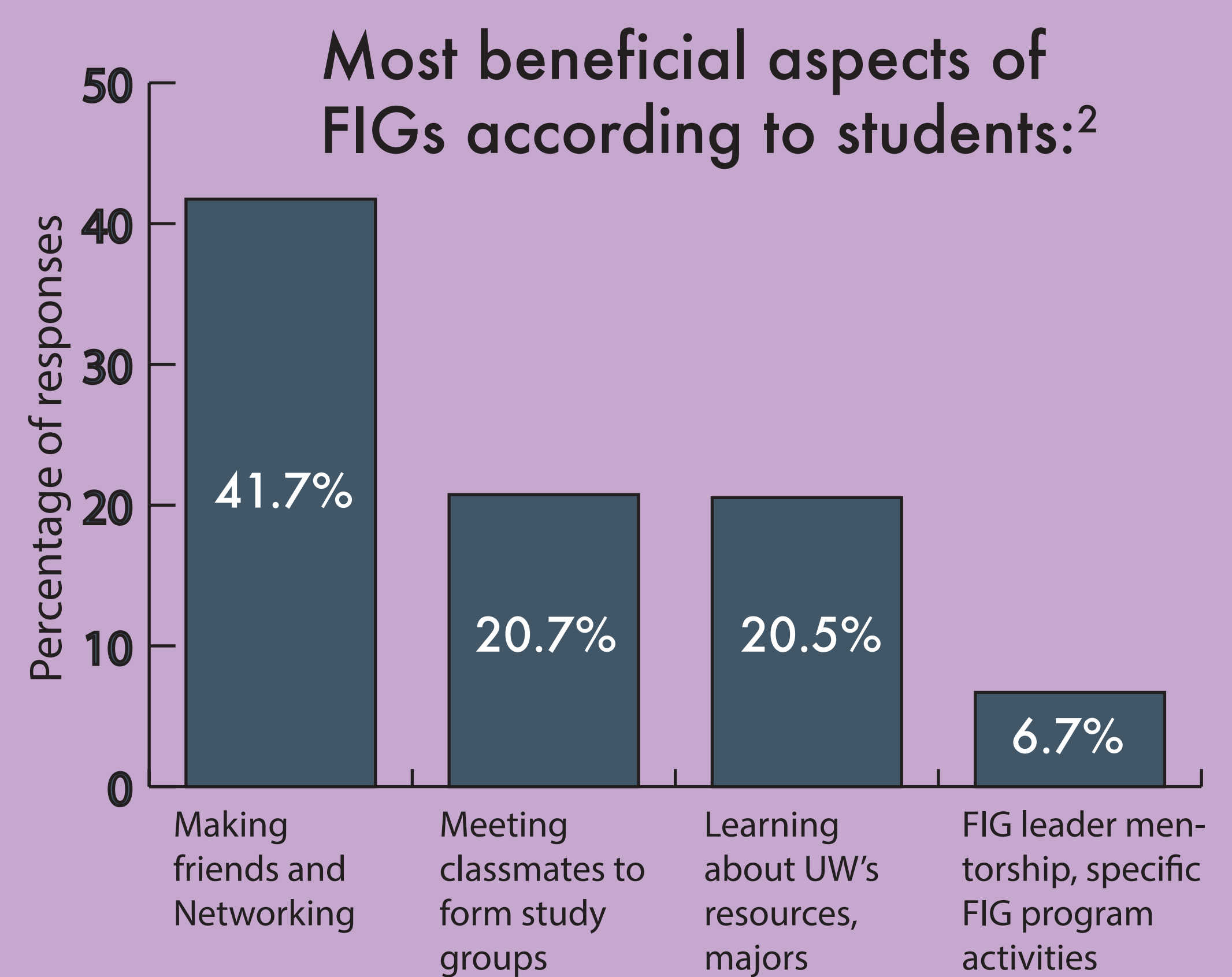


Hand-coded response grouping on students' FIG experience surveys



Noted the most common responses

RESULTS



6%

Higher graduation rate among FIG students when compared to non-FIG students

13%

Higher graduation rate in under-represented populations that took FIGs³

KEY FINDINGS

FIGs provide a wide range of benefits to their students.

- UW First Year Programs succeeds in the goals and outcomes they set for the FIG program
- FIGs are associated with heightened graduation rates among students, even after controlling for self-selection
- FIGs may be particularly useful in helping underrepresented students remain enrolled in and graduate from the UW

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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DataLab



FIRST YEAR PROGRAMS
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

1. <http://fyp.washington.edu/first-year-interest-groups/> 2. Graph is based on the responses of 448 FIG students when asked the most beneficial aspect of their FIG experience. 3. "Under-represented" is defined by the UW as students that are African, African American, American Indian, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.