GE Courses

FTF and Transfer Students' Experience of D-F-W Grades

Cheryl Chapman, English, CLA
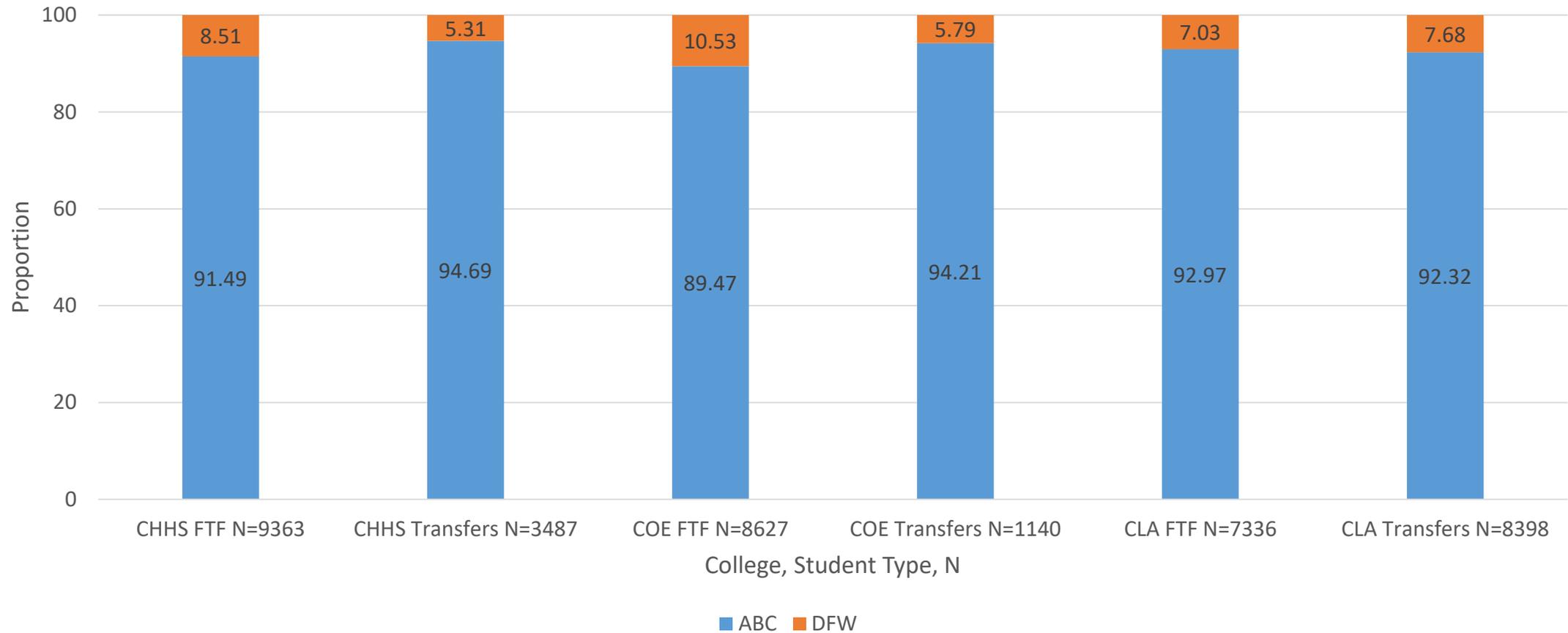
Grace Reynolds, HCA, CHHS
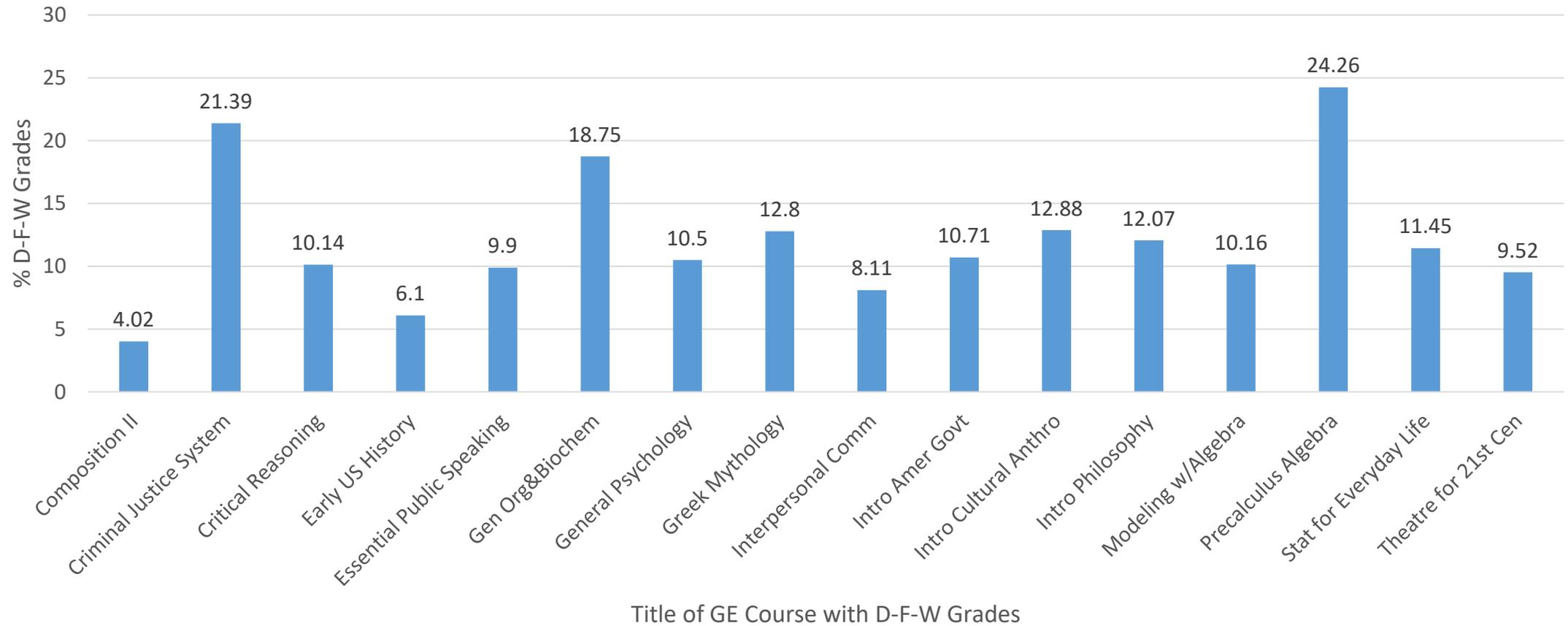
Jalal Torabzadeh, Mechanical Engineering, COE

Overview D-F-W grades and GE courses

- Written Communication (A.1)
- Oral Communication (A.2)
- Critical Thinking (A.3)
- Mathematics/Quant. Reasoning (B.2)
- Life Sciences (B.1.a)
- Life Sciences No Lab (B.1.a.NL)
- Physical Sciences (B.1.b)
- Physical Sciences No Lab (B.1.b.NL)
- The Arts (C.1)
- Humanities: Literature (C.2.a)
- Humanities: Philosophy (C.2.b)
- Humanities: Foreign Lang. (C.2.c)
- U.S. History (D.1.a) Const. & American Ideals (D.1.b)
- Social Sciences & Citizenship (D.2)
- Lifelong Learning & Self-Dev. (E)

- Short-term goal:
  - Describe the phenomenon of D-F-W grades in GE courses across colleges for FTF as a measure of student success.

- Long-term goal:
  - What is the impact of D-F-W grades during the first semester at CSULB on attrition?

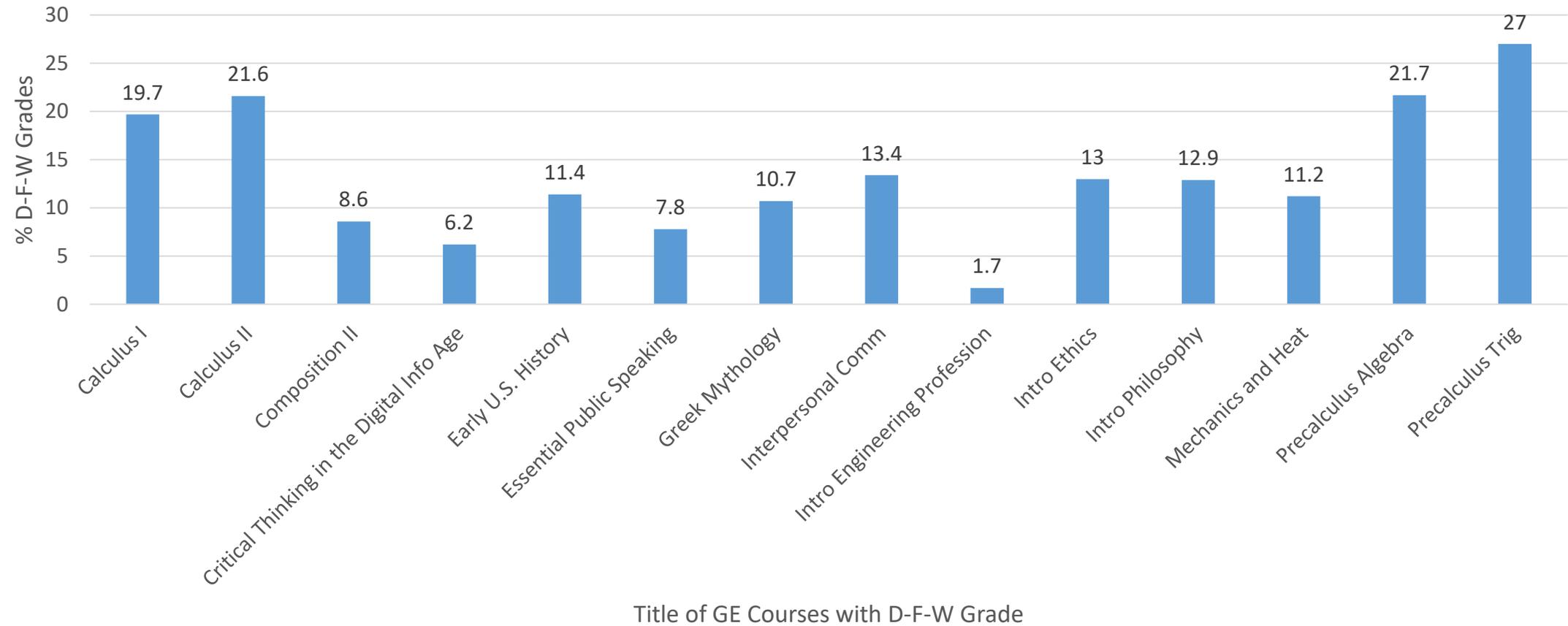# % of ABC versus DFW grades across colleges, *GE courses only*

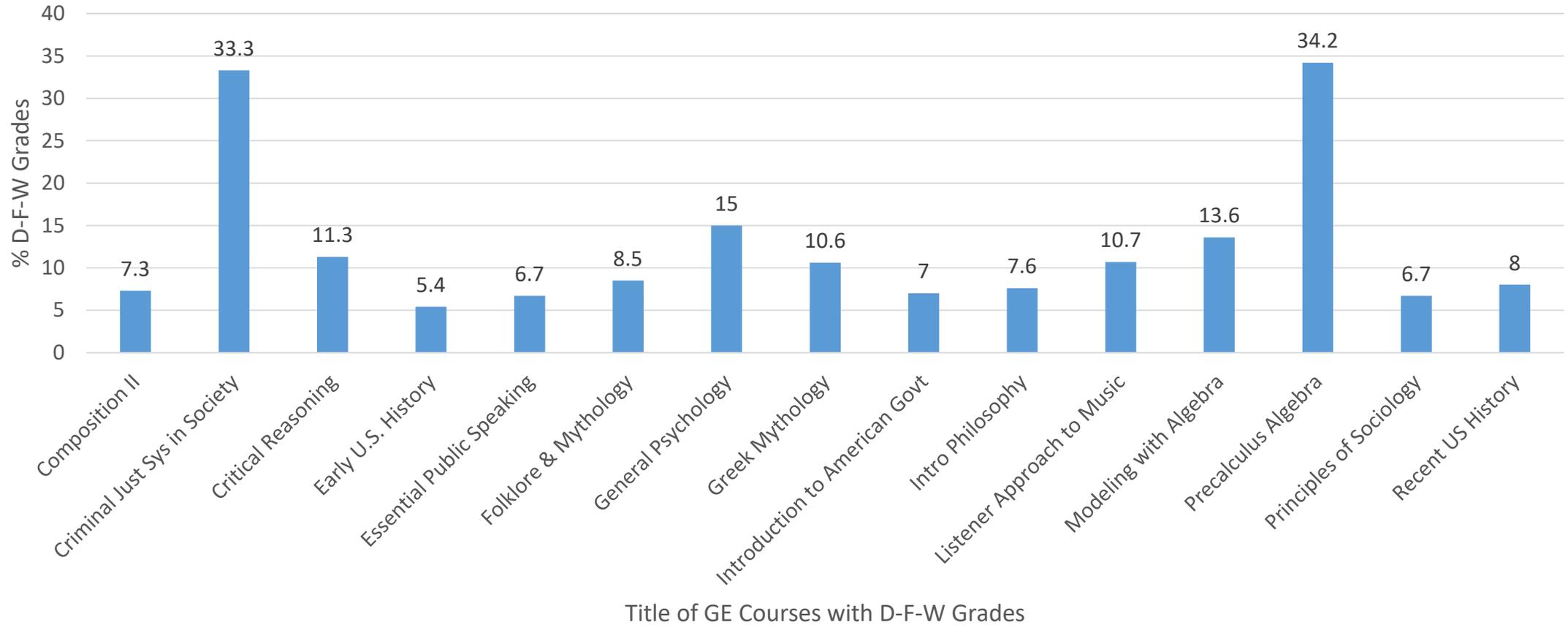# % D-F-W Grades for __CHHS FTF__ by Course Title across 3 cohorts (FA 13, FA 14, FA 15)

Note: Courses with >10 students w/DFW grades

D-F-W Grades for **College of Engineering FTF** by Course Title across 3 cohorts (FA 13, FA 14, FA 15)
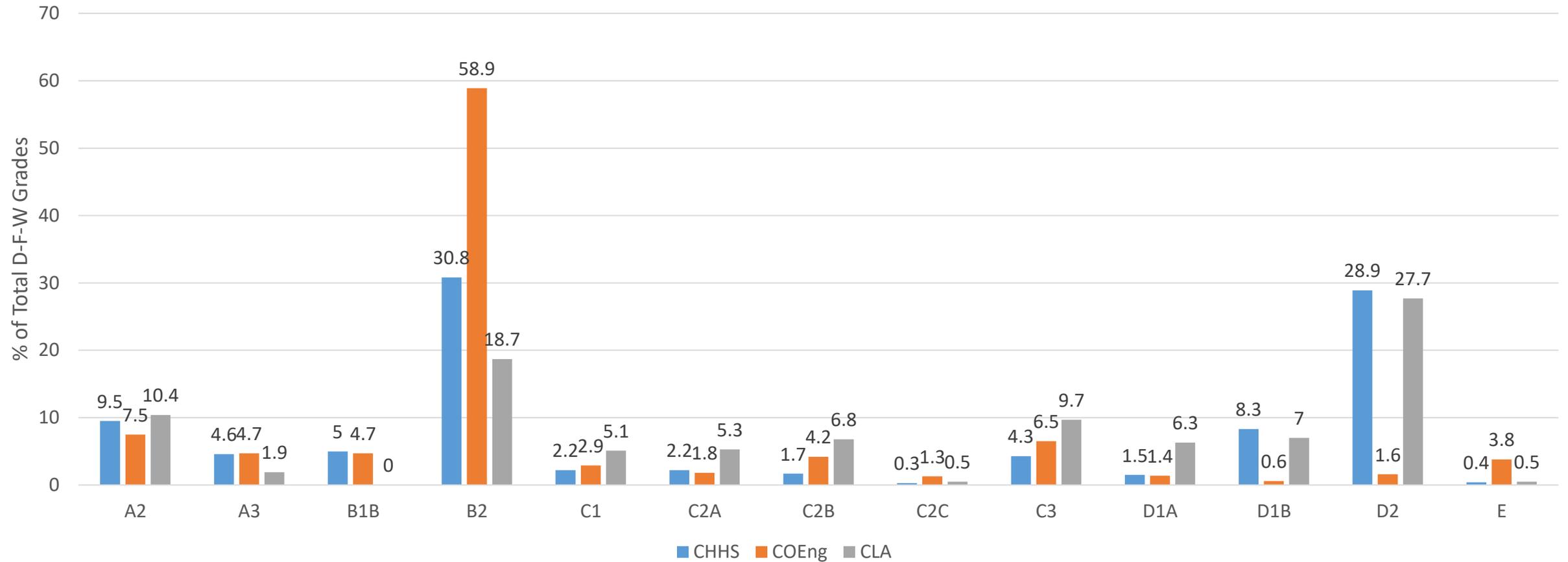
Note: >10 students with DFW grades

D-F-W Grades for **College of Liberal Arts FTF** by Course Title across 3 cohorts (FA 13, FA 14, FA 15)
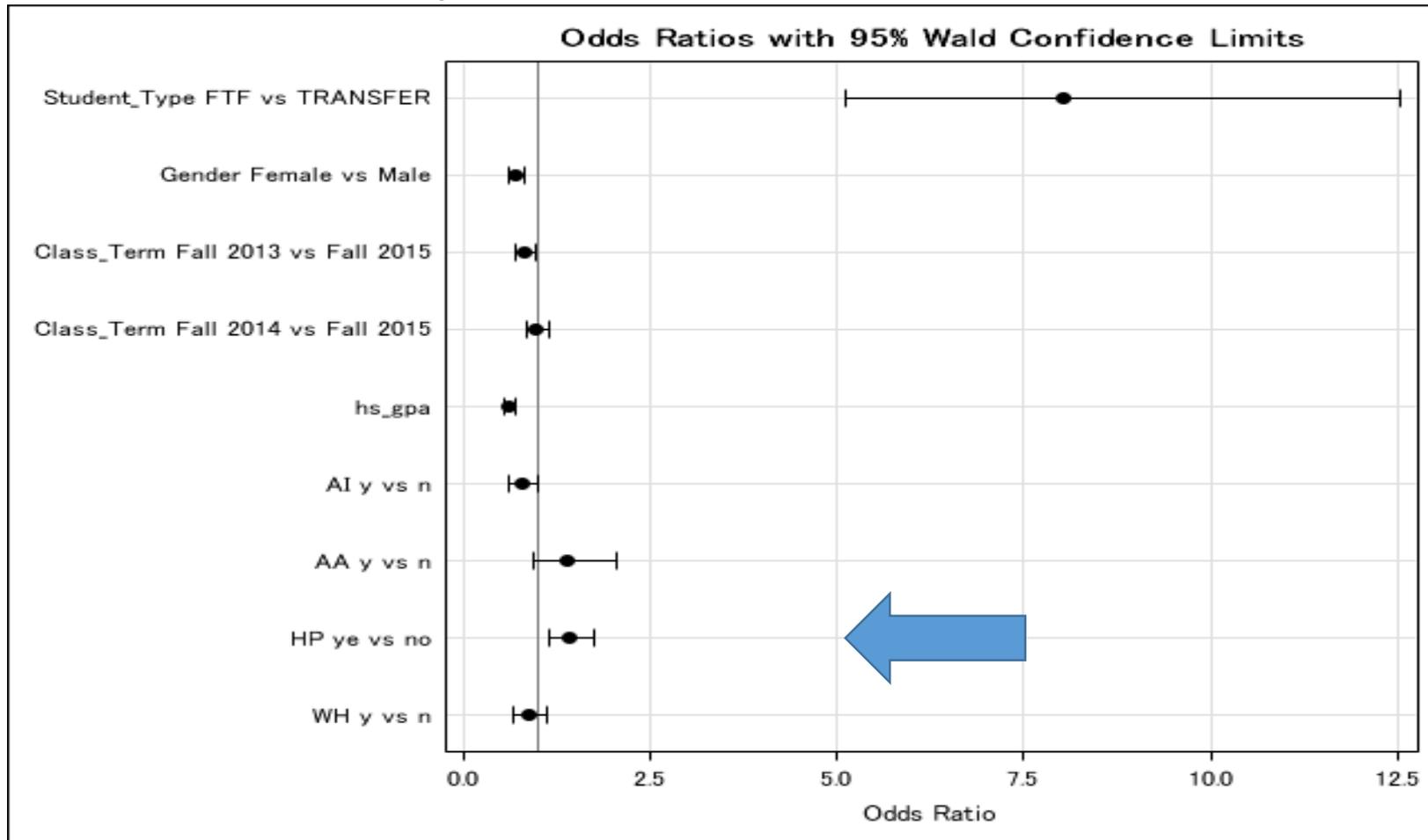

Note: >10 students with DFW grades

% of D-F-W Grades for **FTF** by GE Category across CHHS, COE, and CLA, 3 cohorts (FA 13, FA 14, FA 15)
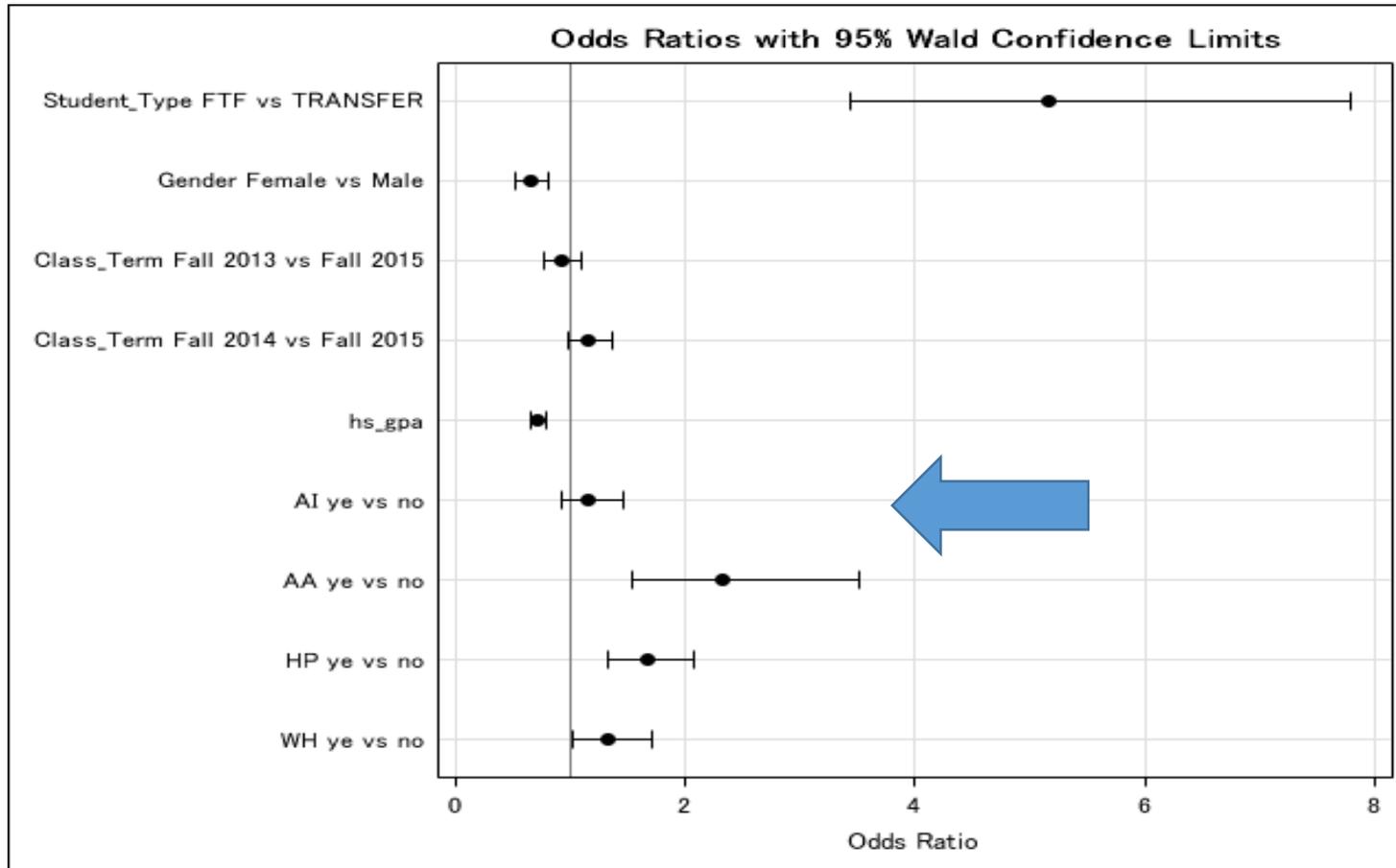
Logistic regression predicting DFW grades in GE courses, CHHS

AI=Asian
AA=African American
HP=Hispanic
WH=White

Hispanics have significant and positive odds of D-F-W grades
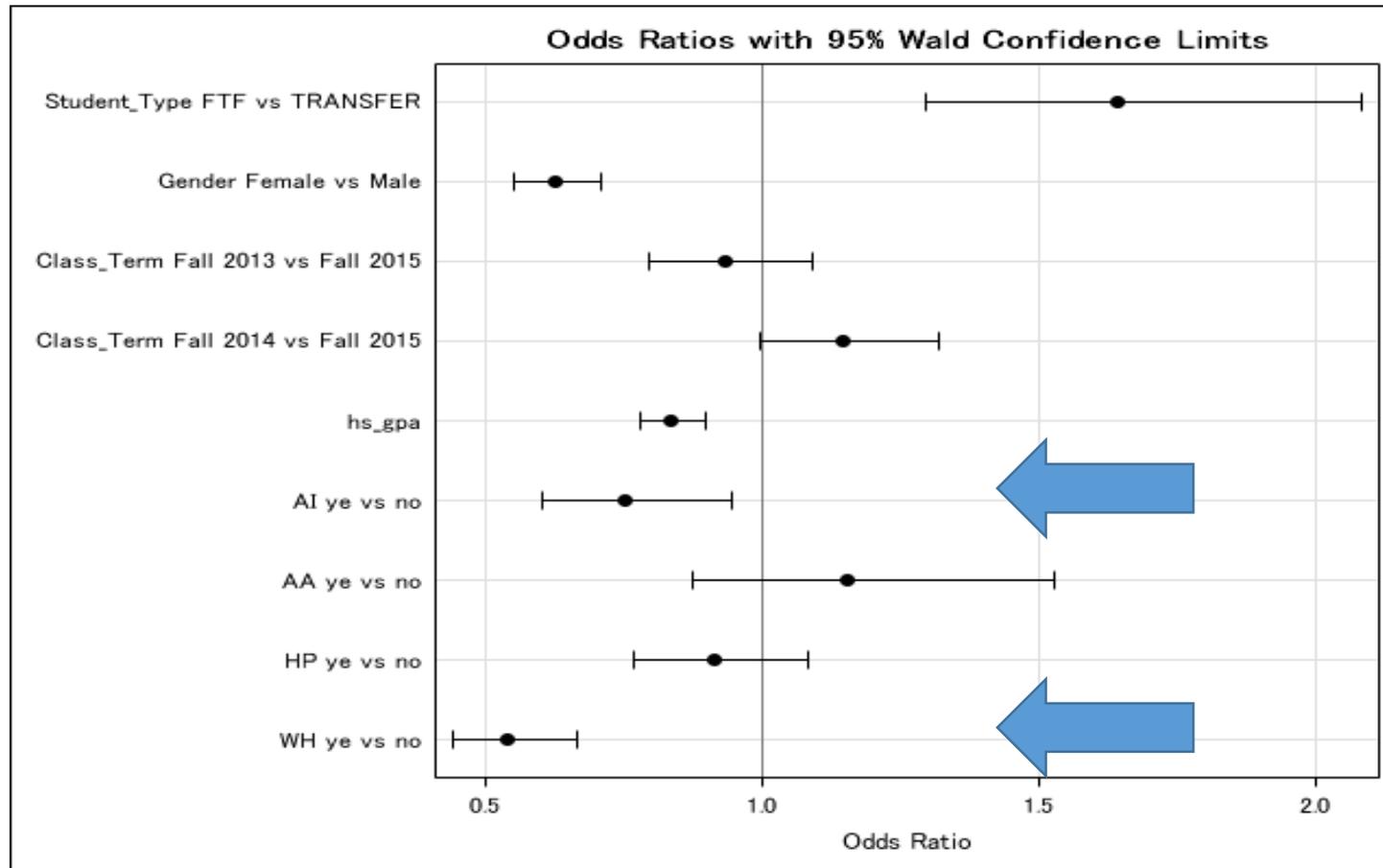
Logistic regression predicting DFW grades in GE courses, COE

Odds Ratios with 95% Wald Confidence Limits

AI=Asian
AA=African American
HP=Hispanic
WH=White

Asians are only group with no significant odds of D-F-W grades.

Logistic regression predicting DFW grades in GE courses, CLA

Odds Ratios with 95% Wald Confidence Limits

- Student_Type FTF vs TRANSFER
- Gender Female vs Male
- Class_Term Fall 2013 vs Fall 2015
- Class_Term Fall 2014 vs Fall 2015
- hs_gpa
- AI ye vs no
- AA ye vs no
- HP ye vs no
- WH ye vs no

Odds Ratio

AI=Asian
AA=African American
HP=Hispanic
WH=White

Asians and Whites significantly less likely to receive D-F-W grades

Observations as of today…

- Overall
  - FTF more likely to receive D-F-W grades compared to transfer students for GE courses.
  - The higher the overall HS GPA, the less likely the student is to get D-F-W grades in GE course.
- Differential effects of gender/ethnicity across colleges
  - Female students less likely to fail GE courses.
  - Hispanics in CHHS more likely to fail GE courses.
  - All ethnic groups likely to fail GE courses in COE except Asians.
  - Whites and Asians significantly less likely to fail GE courses in CLA
- Differential effects of GE categories
  - B2 courses have high proportions of D-F-W grades across all colleges; more B2 courses required for COE majors.
  - CLA and CHHS very similar with respect to proportion of DFW grades in D2 courses.
- Difficult to analyze GE courses because of double counting—GE or major?
- Not possible to address class size because enrollment caps for the same GE course vary across modalities (in person, on-line) and target students (honors, remedial, general).
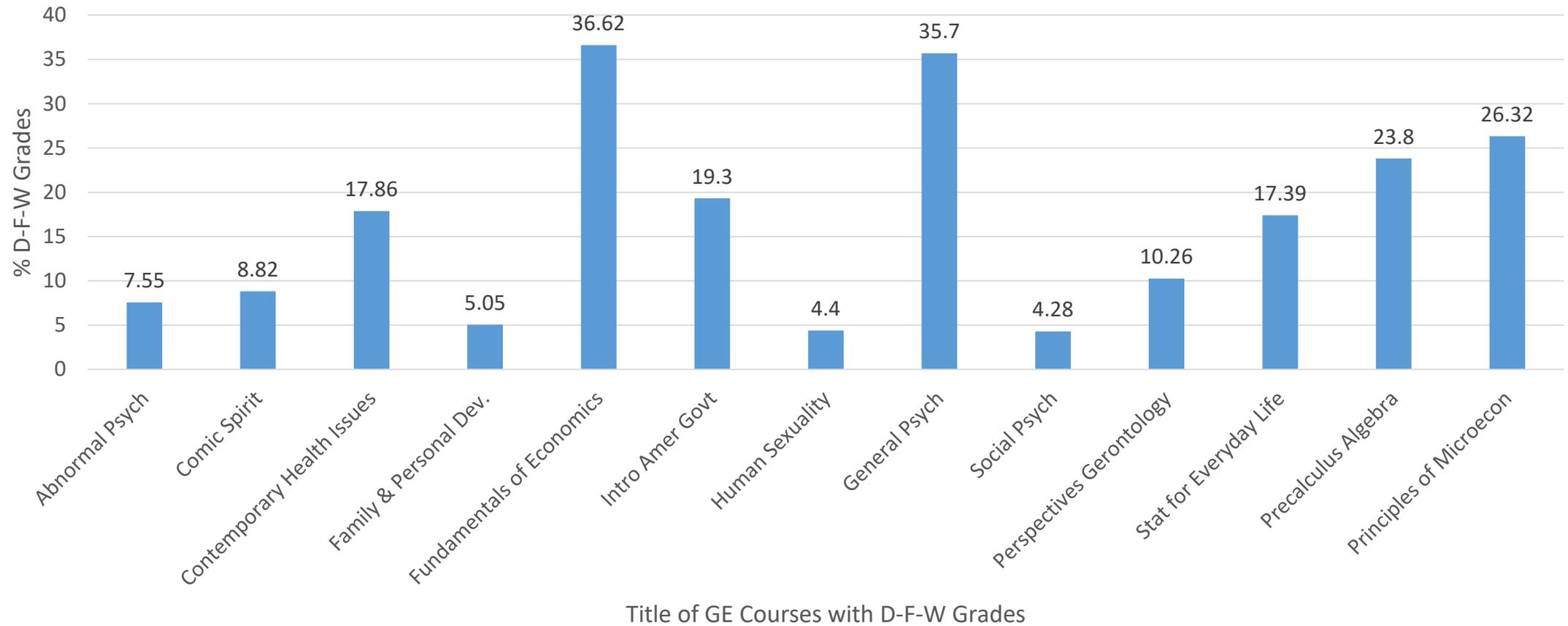
Future directions…

- Continue to work with data from all colleges (not just CHHS, COE, CLA) to describe patterns of D-F-W grades in GE courses.

- Obtain spring semester data on 3 cohorts to assess attrition from D-F-W grades in all colleges; separate out D-F grades from Ws.

- Conduct further analyses of transfer students and Writing Intensive, Global Issues and Human Diversity courses.

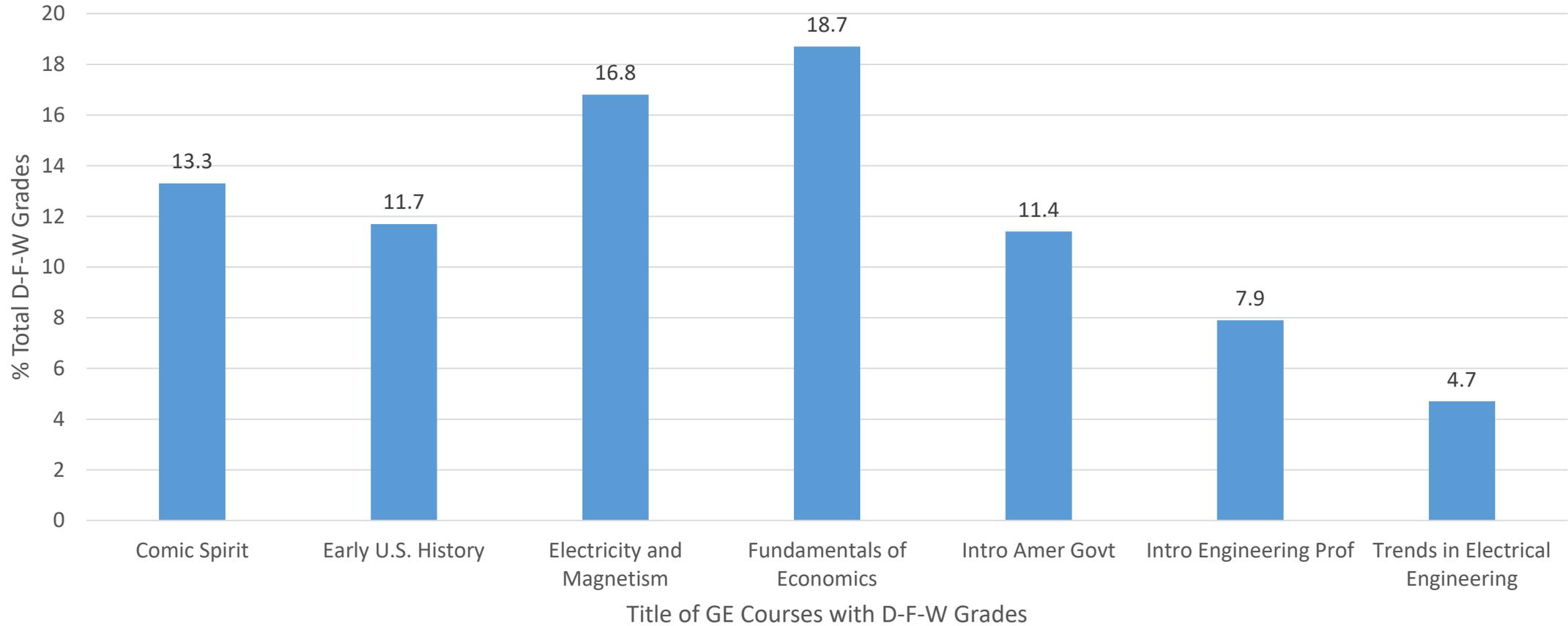- Reflection: We've come a long way as new data fellows and learned a lot!

Supplemental Slides

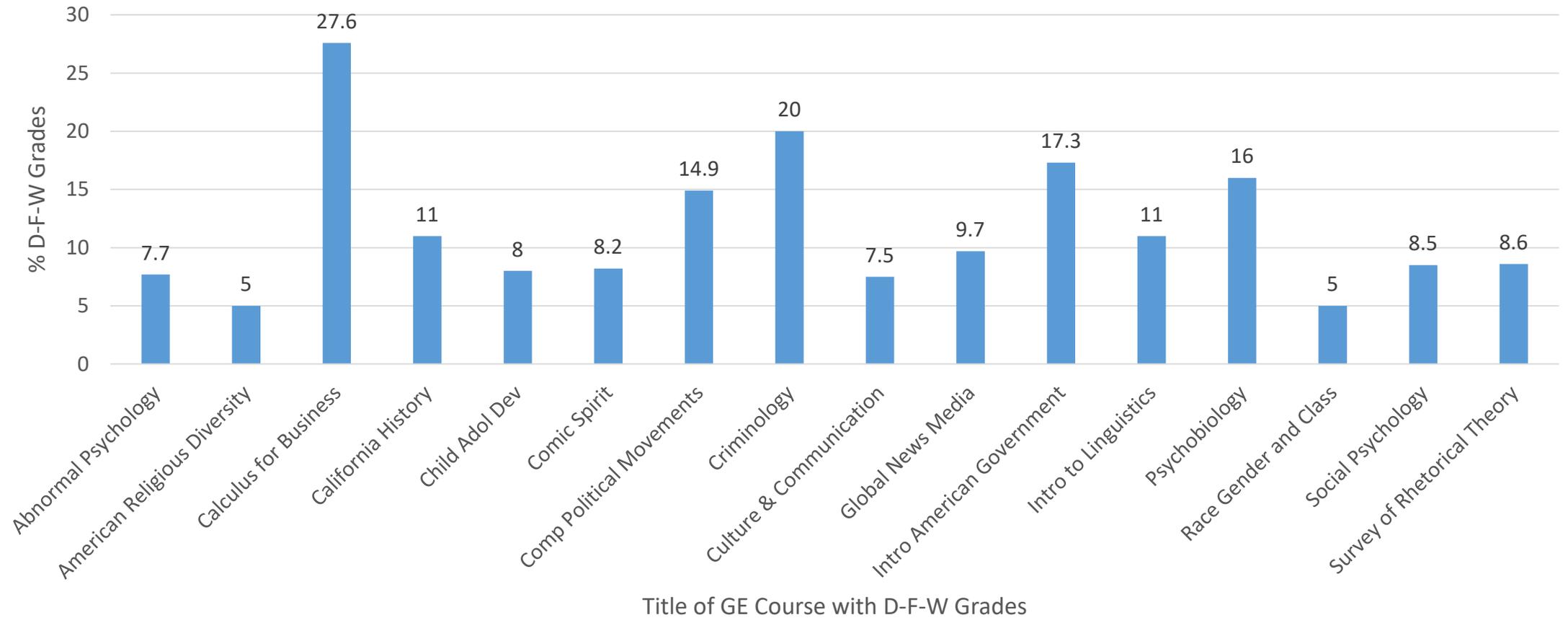For transfer students, GE courses and D-F-W grades

% D-F-W Grades for <u>CHHS Transfers</u> by Course Title across 3 cohorts (FA 13, FA 14, FA 15)

Title of GE Courses with D-F-W Grades

% of D-F-W Grades for **College of Engineering Transfers** by Course Title across 3 cohorts (FA 13, FA 14, FA 15)

D-F-W Grades for **College of Liberal Arts Transfers** by Course Title across 3 cohorts (FA 13, FA 14, FA 15)

% of D-F-W Grades for **Transfers** by GE Category across CHHS, COE, and CLA, across 3 cohorts