



# Who Comes Back for a Credential?

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## DATA FELLOWS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



Scanning the QR code on your mobile device will allow you to access electronic version of this Data Fellow's project.

1. Open your camera app on your mobile device.
2. Hold your device over the QR code so that it is clearly visible.
3. Open the website when it pops up on your screen.

### Research Questions

How many CSULB Liberal Studies BA graduates return to CSULB to earn a teaching credential?

Which credential programs do they come to?

How many students do not return to CSULB's College of Education?

What differences are there, if any, by race/ethnicity or gender?

### Introduction

Table 1 shows the number of students who graduated with a BA from 2013-17 (786). It also shows the number of ITEP students who graduated with a BA and an Education Specialist, Multiple Subject, or Urban Dual credential (344). The ITEP students automatically return for a credential as part of their program pathway. Tables 2, 3, and 4 focus on the BA students who did or did not return to us.

This project helps us see how many of our undergraduate students come back to us for highly valued graduate degrees. Undergraduate and credential data systems are not linked and getting accurate counts is difficult. We have not had an accurate sense of how many BA students do not return, and which programs they attend when they do.

### Methods

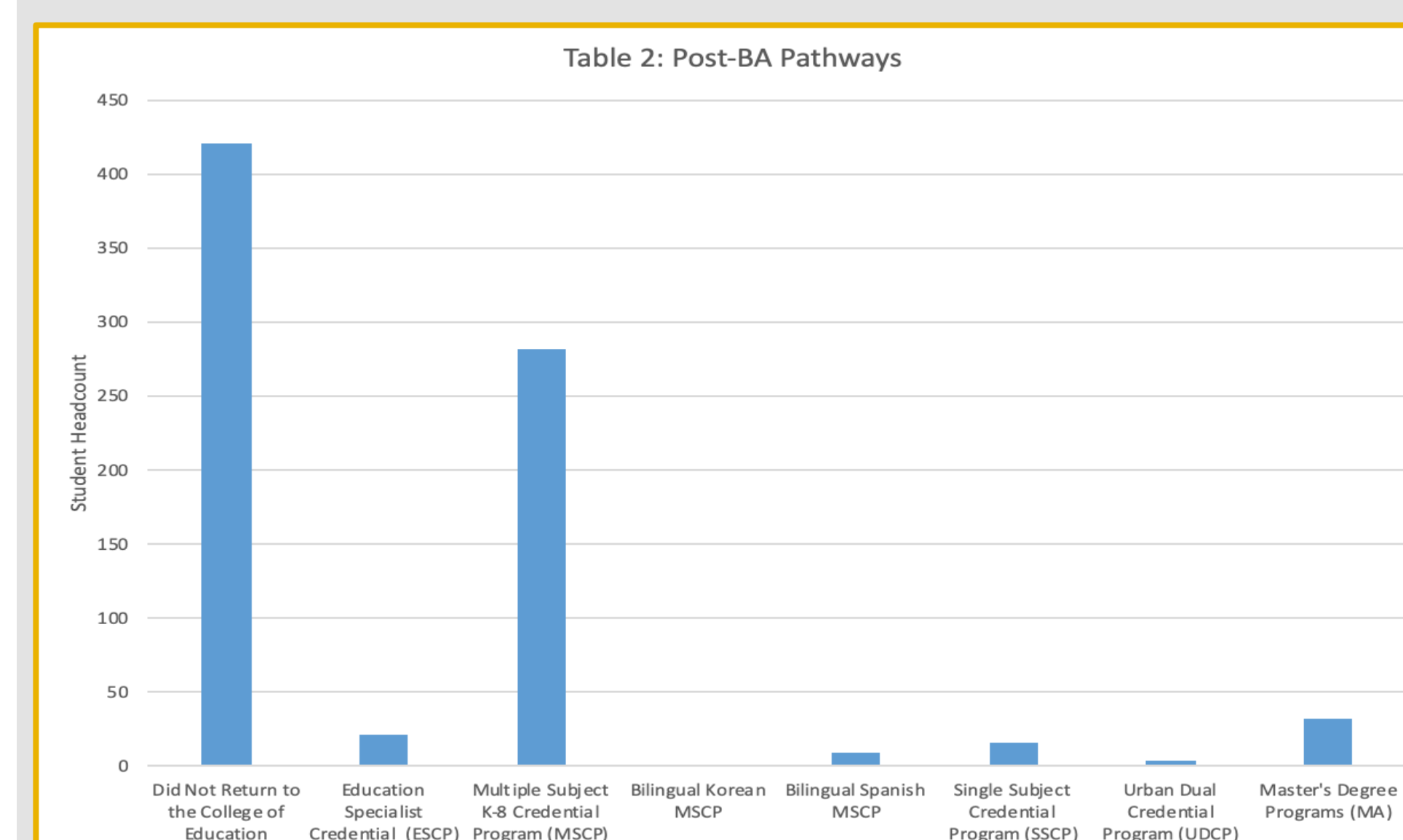
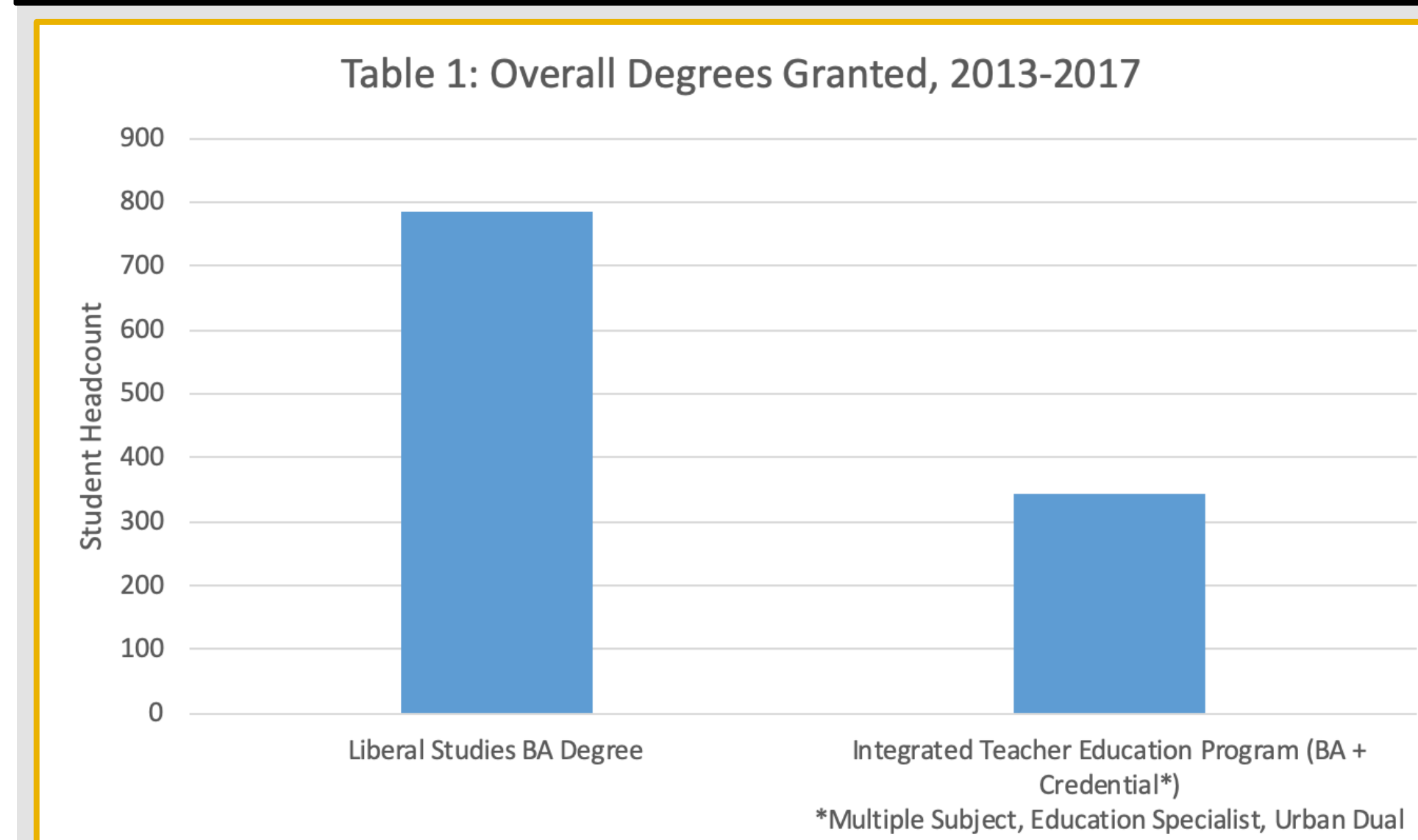
We worked with IR&A to gather data from two sources:

1. CSULB College of Education Teacher Preparation Advising Center's data on admissions to credential programs by year.
2. Graduation data from BeachData to count Liberal Studies BA and ITEP graduates.

IR&A then merged the data sets to provide numbers of students who did and did not return by program pathway. They also provided numbers of returners to various programs by race/ethnicity and by gender.

We want to thank Ryan Weitzman for his tireless efforts to merge separate data sets, answer countless questions, and revise his coding several times!

### Results



### Table 3

Shows returners and non-returners by credential or MA pathway and by race/ethnicity. Latino/a students, 51% of our student population, are the largest number in all categories. They made up 192 of 420 non-returners and 152 of 282 students who were admitted to our Multiple Subject Credential Program.

### Table 4

Shows returners and non-returners by credential or MA pathway and by gender. 89 percent of our graduates in this period were female. 44 of the 420 non-returners were male and 23 of the 282 students admitted to the Multiple Subject Credential Program were male.

### Table 1

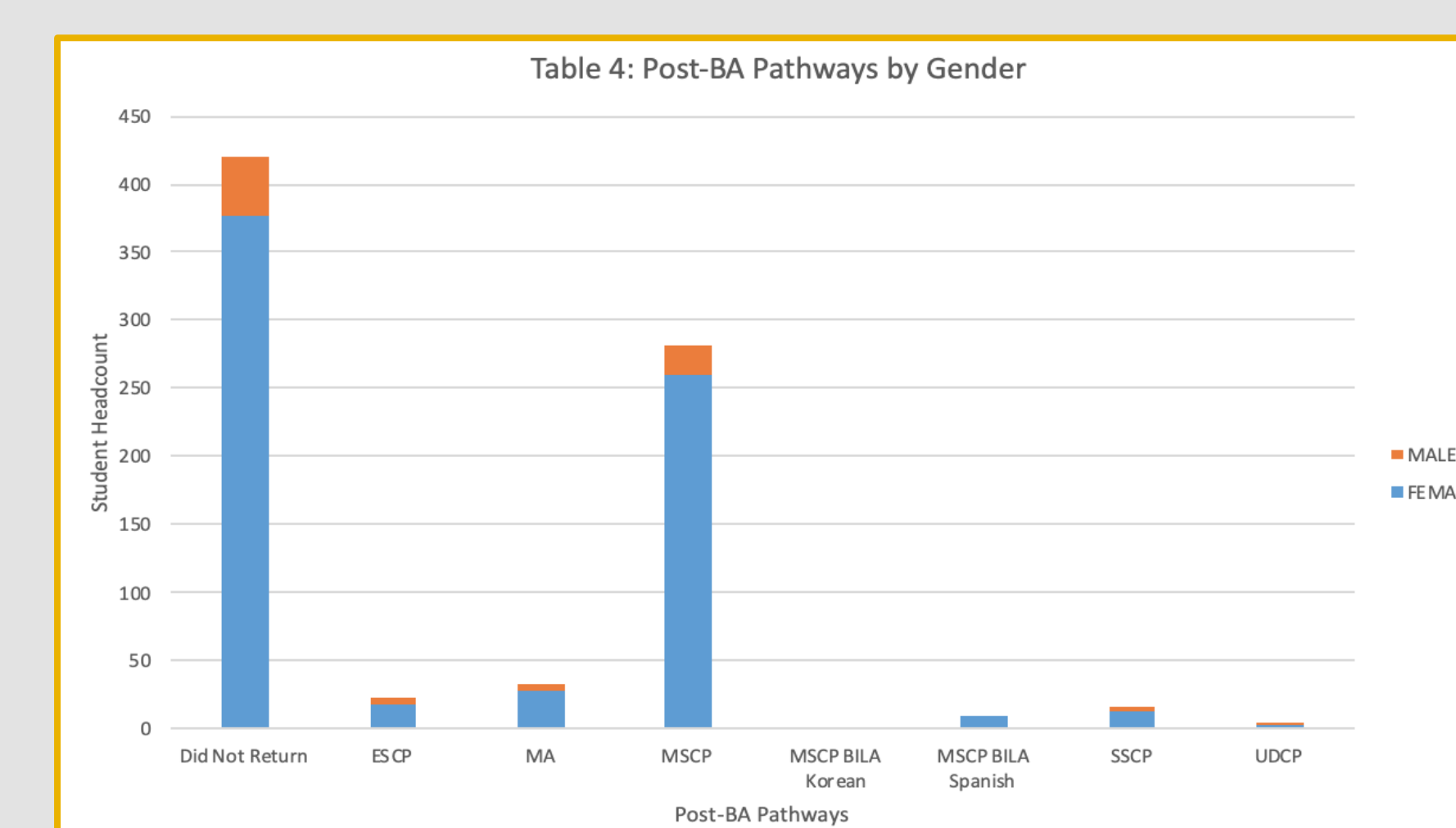
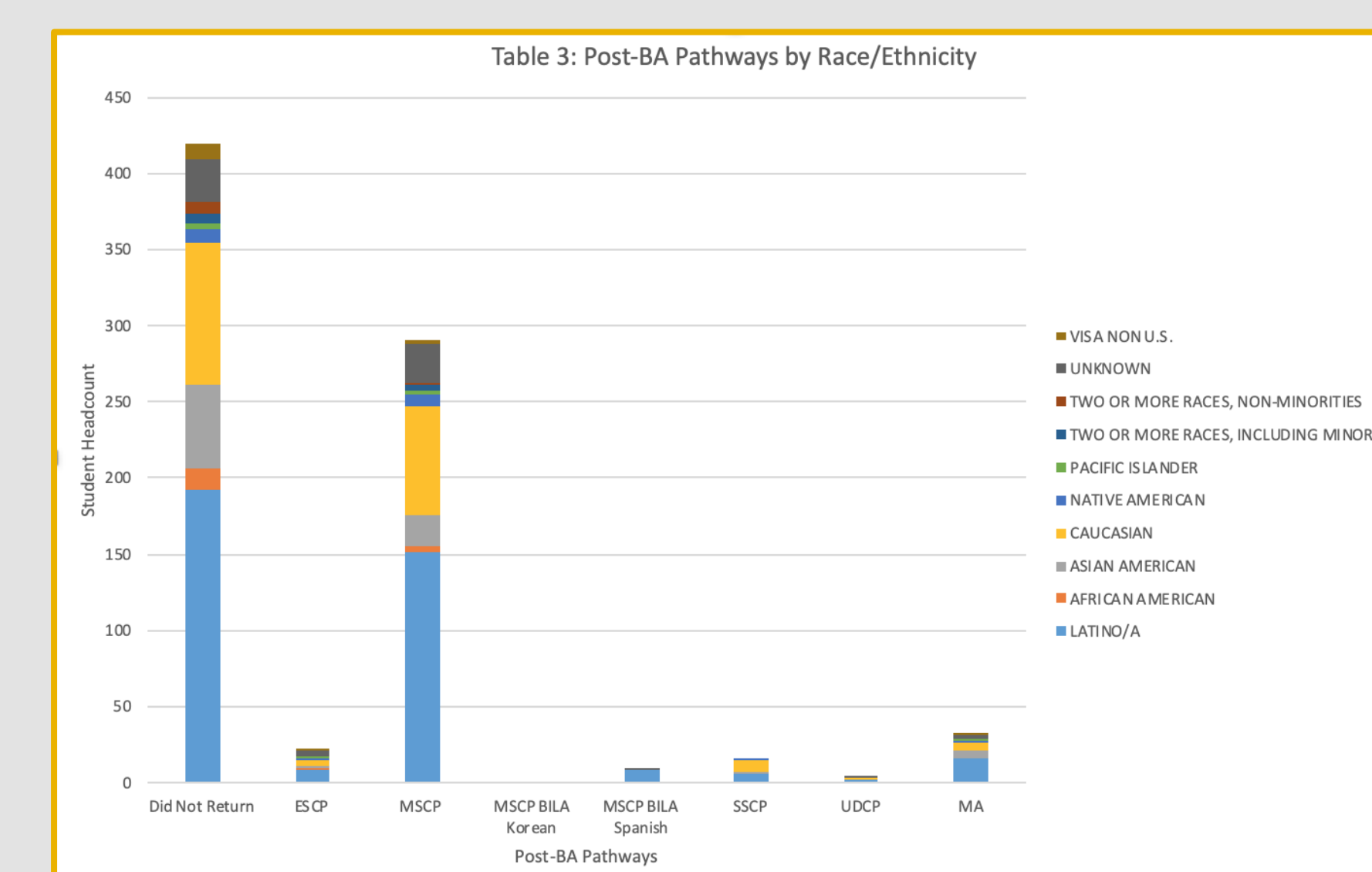
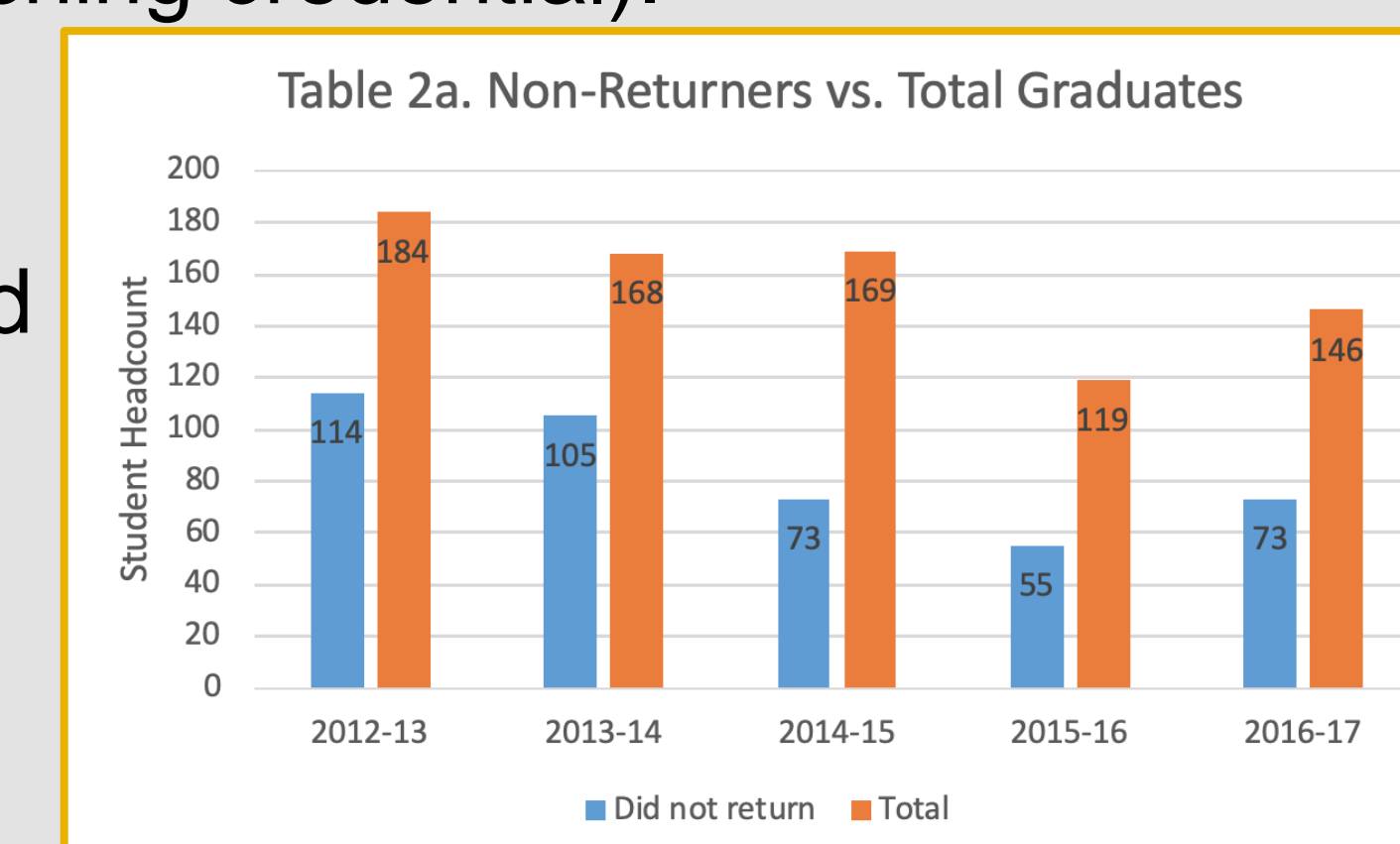
Shows the number of students who graduated with a BA from 2013-17 (786). It also shows the number of ITEP students who graduated with a BA and an Education Specialist, Multiple Subject, or Urban Dual credential (344). We focus on the 786 BA graduates in Tables 2-4.

### Table 2

Shows that over half (420) of the 786 BA graduates from 2013-2017 did not return, or have not yet returned to CSULB, for a credential or a MA in the College of Education. The vast majority of the rest were admitted to our Multiple Subject Credential Program (K-8 teaching credential).

### Table 2a

Non-returners and all graduates by graduation year.



### Conclusion / Discussion

Questions we can't yet answer but that are raised by the data:

**Where else do Liberal Studies BA graduates go, and why don't they come here for credentials?** We need to conduct an exit survey with BA graduates each year to ask what their plans are.

**Connecting the data:** We need to connect more data sets for four key points:  
BA graduation  
Credential admission  
Credential course completion  
Credential recommendation (passing CalTPA and RICA)

With these data, we can ask: How many of these admitted students actually enter the programs to which they are admitted, complete them, and are recommended for credentials?

How many of our credential students are Liberal Studies BA alumni or ITEP students?

Do completion and recommendation rates vary for BA and ITEP students? If so, what preparation or other variables account for any differences?

### Implications for Action

**Account for CSET Waiver effect:** The California Subject Examination Test, required for completion of some credentials, was a stopping point until 2017; some students could not pass it and so graduated with their BA and left teaching. Since 2017, the Liberal Studies Department grants a waiver for the exam, so we may see more BA students returning for credentials since the CSET test is not in their way.

We also need to:

- Learn more about our students' pathways other than at CSULB.
- Work on seamless data pathways so we can answer the questions above.

### Next Steps / Future Directions

We are in the process of a second set of analyses where we merge our existing data from the College of Education Credential Center to determine which returners complete their program coursework ("completers") and which completers are recommended for their credentials to the state (that is, which completers pass the high-stakes tests they take after they finish their coursework).