

Alignment of Pre-College Semester Credit Hours

A UNIVERSITY PERSPECTIVE



Additional Supports

Once the student declares a specific major, students can use Degree Works software to monitor and track their progress toward their bachelors.

The screenshot shows the Degree Works software interface. At the top, it displays the UTRGV logo and the user's name, 'Suzanne Wilson'. Below this, there are several tabs: 'English', 'Mathematics', 'Natural Science', 'Physical Science', 'Humanities', 'Social Sciences', and 'American History'. The 'Natural Science' tab is currently selected, showing a list of courses and their requirements. The courses listed include:

- ENGL 1301: Composition I (3 credits)
- ENGL 1302: Composition II (3 credits)
- ENGL 1303: Technical Writing (3 credits)
- NATURAL SCIENCE (REQUIRED)
- General Astronomy (3 credits)
- General Biology (3 credits)
- Human Biology (3 credits)
- Astronomy and Physics (3 credits)
- General Chemistry I & II (6 credits)
- Chemistry in Society (3 credits)
- Physical and Historical Geology (3 credits)
- Physical Science (3 credits)
- General Physics (3 credits)
- Physics for Scientists & Engineers (3 credits)
- MATHEMATICS (REQUIRED)
- HUMANITIES (REQUIRED)
- English Literature (3 credits)
- The Arts (3 credits)
- Philosophy and Modern or Classical Language (3 credits)
- SOCIAL SCIENCES (REQUIRED)
- History of American History (3 credits)
- American Heritage (3 credits)
- Discovery with a Social Science Major (3 credits)
- Discovery with a Natural Science Major (3 credits)
- Discovery with a Humanities Major (3 credits)

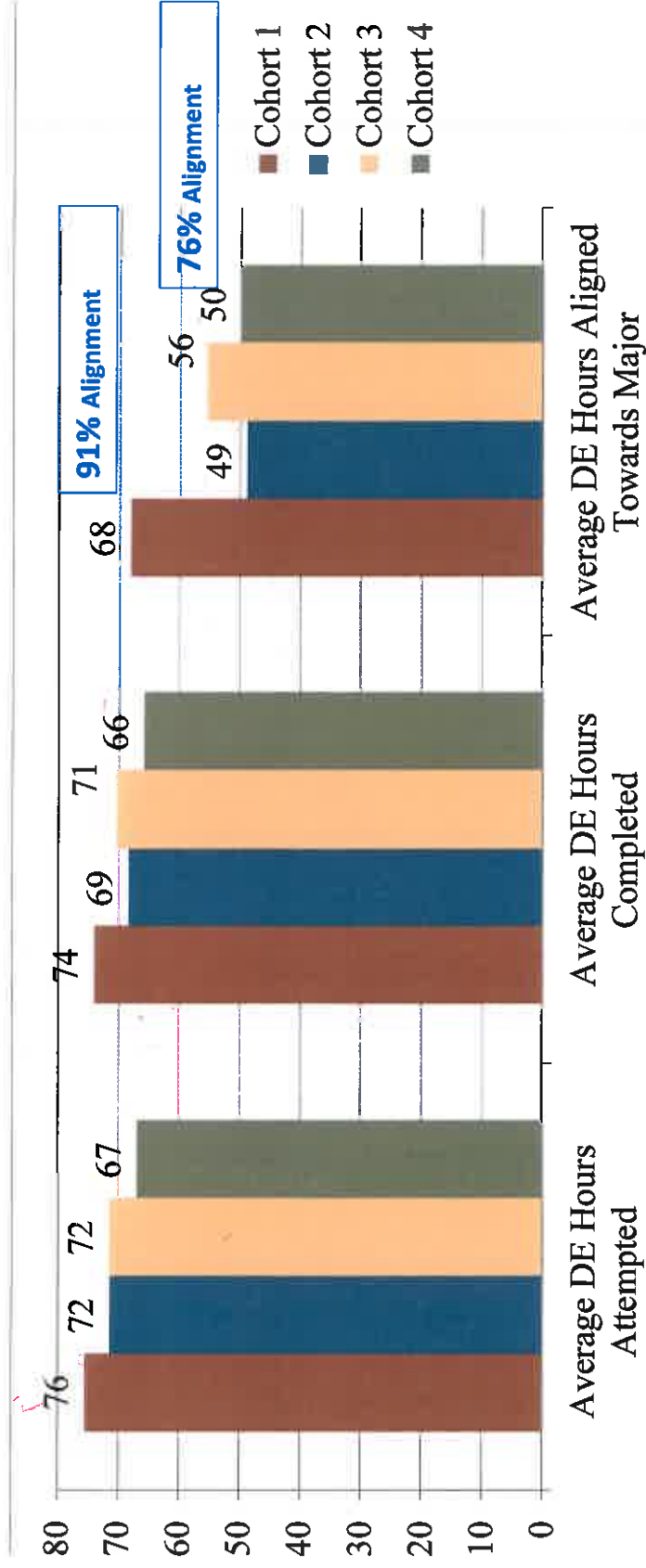
The screenshot shows the UTRGV website's 'Degree Progress' section. At the top, it displays the UTRGV logo and the user's name, 'Suzanne Wilson'. Below this, there are several tabs: 'English', 'Mathematics', 'Natural Science', 'Physical Science', 'Humanities', 'Social Sciences', and 'American History'. The 'Natural Science' tab is currently selected, showing a list of courses and their requirements. The courses listed include:

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Better Planning, Better Choices, Better Alignment!

Handwritten signature in red ink.

GTF Scholars Entering Dual Enrollment Credit Hours and Alignment to Major



Note: Final data on average DE hours aligned towards major for cohort 4 is still under review.

Lessons Learned: UTB 2013 Analysis of Excessive Hours

All UTB students declare their major when they applied to the university.

But we learned that:

75% Students changed their major **more than once**

73% **Freshman** had already changed their major

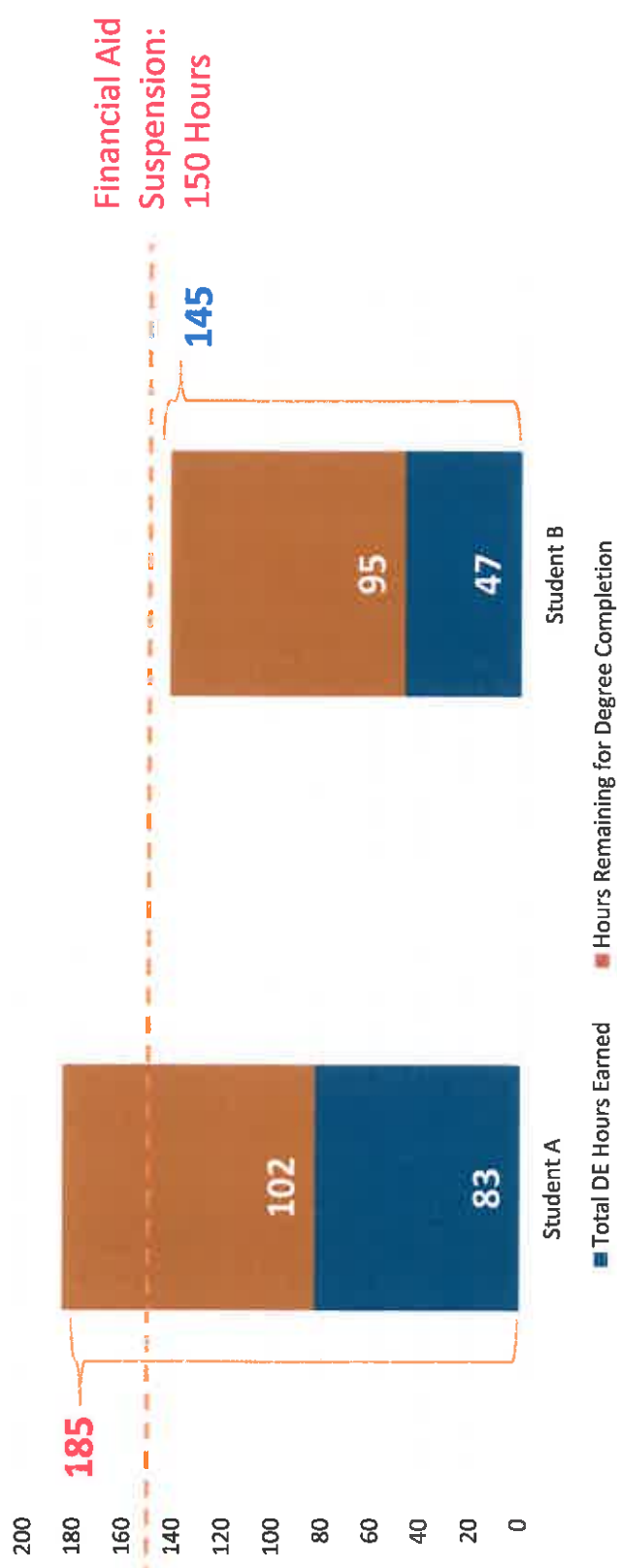
13% Students had changed their majors **more than 5 times**

80% Students making major changes were in **good academic standing**



Implications of Excessive Credit Hours: An ECHS Financial Aid Case Study

Running the Risk of Excessive Credit Hours



Possible Meta Major Course Mapping

	10	20	30	50	60	70	80	90
	COMM	MATH	NAT SCI	V & PA	HIST	GOVT	SOE/BEH	IDO
	ENGL 1301 ENGL 1302	MATH 1314 Any	Any	Any	HIST 1301 HIST 1302	GOVT 2301 GOVT 2302	Any	Any
Education	✓	✓	✓ KINE* = BIOL 2301/02	✓ EC-S* = MUSI 1304	✓	✓	✓	✓
Business	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	BUSI 1301 ECON 2301	✓
Health Professions	✓	BIOMED = MATH 2415	BIOMED = CHEM 1411 + PHYS 1401 NURS = BIOL 2301/02	✓	✓	✓	PSYC 2301	✓
Performing Arts	✓	✓	✓	ARTS* 1303 MUSI* 1308	✓	✓	✓	✓
Liberal Arts	✓	✓	HIST.SS = GEOL 1401/03 CI-FRIN = BIOL 1306 + CHEM 1411	✓	✓	✓	PSYC, SOCI, CRU = PSYC 2301, SOCI 1301 HIST.SS* = GEOG 1303	✓
Life & Physical Sciences	✓	✓	BIOL*, ENVR* = BIOL 1306/07 + CHEM 1411/12 CHEM = CHEM 1411/12	✓	✓	✓	ENVR* = GEOG 1303	✓
T, E, M	✓	✓	ENGR, COSC, CSMC = PHYS 2325/26 ENGT = PHYS 1401/02	✓	✓	✓	✓	COSC, CSMC = SPCH 1315

- 1.) Students take common courses within the meta major;
- 2.) Declare specific major after 30 hours;
- 3.) Continue specific degree plan for chosen major.

How we responded: Meta Majors

Allowing students to enroll in a meta-major allowed them to explore without accumulating excessive credit hours that do not apply to the major.

Meta Major Group	Possible Majors in that Group
Health Professions	Biomedical Programs, Health Services Technology, Nursing BSN, Health and Human Performance, HHP Exercise Science, HHP EC-12
Business	Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Finance, International Business, Management, Management Information Systems, Marketing
Education	Early Childhood, EC-6 ESL, EC-6 Bilingual, EC-6 Generalist, Special Education
Performing Arts	Art, Music, Art & Music EC-12 Programs
Liberal Arts	Communication, Criminal Justice, Criminology, English, History, Government, Law and Justice Studies, Psychology, Public Service, Sociology, Spanish, Spanish Translation
Life and Physical Sciences	Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, (includes U-Teach)
Tech, Engineering, Math	Computer Science, Computer Information Systems, Computational Science, Engineering Physics, Mathematics, and Math 4-8.

Students take common 30 hours credits in the Meta Group before declaring specific major within that group.

Consider: Meta Major Concept for ECHS Dual Enrollment

Could we align High School Endorsements to
Meta Majors ?

High School Endorsements	Meta Major Group	Possible Majors in that Group
STEM	Health Professions	Biomedical Programs, Health Services Technology, Nursing BSN, Health and Human Performance, HHP Exercise Science, HHP EC-12
Business and Industry	Business	Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Finance, International Business, Management, Management Information Systems, Marketing
Art and Humanities	Education	Early Childhood, EC-6 ESL, EC-6 Bilingual, EC-6 Generalist, Special Education
Public Service	Performing Arts	Art, Music, Art & Music EC-12 Programs
Multidisciplinary	Liberal Arts	Communication, Criminal Justice, Criminology, English, History, Government, Law and Justice Studies, Psychology, Public Service, Sociology, Spanish, Spanish Translation
	Life and Physical Sciences	Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, (includes U-Teach)
	Tech, Engineering, Math	Computer Science, Computer Information Systems, Computational Science, Engineering Physics, Mathematics, and Math 4-8