

# Final Project Submission: Student Academic Success Classification Model Analysis

## (Phase 3)

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- Program Pace: self paced
- Scheduled Project Review Time:
- Instructor name: Morgan Jones
- Blog post Url: <https://medium.com/@tenicka.norwood/the-meaning-of-life-the-universe-and-everything-9423dcb79c06>



## Business Understanding

- **Stakeholder:** Instituto Politecnico de Portalegre
- **Business Case:** I am a new data scientist and have joined the challenge the Instituto Politecnico de Portalegre created to classify students' academic success. Researchers at the Instituto Politecnico de Portalegre want to reduce the rate of student academic failure in higher education.

In this case, the goal is to craft and refine a reliable model by using machine learning techniques to identify which students are at risk at earlier stages of their academic path to put strategies to support students in place to mitigate their likelihood of dropping out of higher education. While the model was trained and tested with data from higher education students in Portugal, the lag in academic success within higher education is also a challenge within the United States. Colleges and Universities face the ever-pressing challenge of identifying students who are at risk of not graduating on time and providing effective interventions to move those students back onto a positive pathway to graduation.

The completion rates of (US) undergraduates within six years of enrollment stand at only **62.3%** as of 2022.

-- Hanneh Bareham and Chelsea Wing (bankrate.com)

Carnevale et al. (2021) Georgetown University in their study highlighted the substantial disparity in lifetime earnings based on educational attainment. In particular, the gist of this study showed that an average person with only a high school diploma or GED would earn an estimated **1.6 million dollars in their lifetime**, compared to a person with a bachelor's degree who potentially can make **~2.8 million dollars**. This profound disparity in earning potential underscores the transformative power of higher education and highlights the significance of timely graduation in enhancing students' long-term financial security.

## Objectives

In this project, I will use the **OSEMiN pipeline** to:

- Obtain → Import the data.
- Scrub → Manage the datatypes, and resolve missing data or duplicates.
- Explore → Identify patterns within the relationships between variables in the data.
- Model → Create a set of predictive models.
- iNterpret → Identify insights and create visualizations of findings.

We will prioritize recall in this project over precision. By prioritizing recall, we aim to reduce the number of false negatives and increase the model's ability to correctly identify and intervene with students at risk of academic failure. Minimizing the number of false

negatives will help to ensure that fewer students who need educational assistance slip through the cracks and are not appropriately identified and supported.

$$Recall = \frac{True\ Positive}{True\ Positive + False\ Negative}$$

Recall is called sensitivity or true positive rate and measures the model's ability to identify students at risk of academic failure correctly. Concerning educational intervention, a high recall means that the model can effectively detect a significant portion of students likely to fail academically. Crucially, determining which students are more likely to fail enables us to provide the necessary support and intervention programs to those students who need them the most.

$$Precision = \frac{True\ Positive}{True\ Positive + False\ Positive}$$

As a positive predictive value, precision measures the model's accuracy in predicting academic fail rates for the identified at-risk students. A high precision value indicates that when the model predicts a student is at risk, the student will likely experience academic failure. This feature is crucial as it helps prevent unnecessary intervention for students who may not need it, ensuring efficient allocation of resources.

## Data Understanding

The University of California (Irvine) maintains a machine learning repository featuring datasets suitable for evaluating machine learning techniques. The dataset used in this study can be accessed from this repository. This dataset was developed as part of a project aimed at mitigating academic dropout and failure rates in higher education. Leveraging machine learning, the project aims to identify at-risk students early in their academic journey and offer them support to enhance their chances of timely graduation.

The dataset used in this exploration can be found [here](#).

The data includes essential information available from when a student enrolls, such as their:

- academic path
- demographics
- social-economic factors

There are three classifications of students within this dataset:

- dropout
- enrolled
- graduate

The data was preprocessed to address missing values and anomalies. The dataset has **37** columns with **4424** rows of data. I am going to use a minimum of 4 machine learning algorithms to classify this data and will also use exploration to determine:

- How does the number of credits students enrolled in each semester influence the likelihood of students graduating on time?
- Does the timely payment of tuition fees have any impact on the graduation status of students?
- Is there a relationship between the age a student is at enrollment and the graduation status of students?

## Features

Name	Role	Type	Data Type	Description
Marital status	Feature	Discrete	int	1 — single 2 — married 3 — widowed 4 — divorced 5 — facto union 6 — legally separated 1 – 1st phase – general contingent 2 – Ordinance No. 612/93 5 – 1st phase – special contingent (Azores Island) 7 – Holders of other higher courses 10 – Ordinance No. 854-B/99 15 – International student (bachelor) 16 – 1st phase – special contingent (Madeira Island) 17 – 2nd phase – general contingent 18 – 3rd phase – general contingent 26 – Ordinance No. 533-A/99, item b2) (Different Plan) 27 – Ordinance No. 533-A/99, item b3 (Other Institution) 39 – Over 23 years old 42 – Transfer 43 – Change of course 44 – Technological specialization diploma holders 51 – Change of institution/course 53 – Short cycle diploma holders 57 – Change of institution/course (International)
Application mode	Feature	Discrete	int	Application order between 0 - first choice; and 9 last choice
Course	Feature	Discrete	int	33 – Biofuel Production Technologies 171 – Animation and Multimedia Design 8014 – Social Service (evening attendance) 9003 – Agronomy 9070 – Communication Design 9085 – Veterinary Nursing 9119 – Informatics Engineering 9130 – Equiculture 9147 – Management 9238 – Social Service 9254 – Tourism 9500 – Nursing 9556 – Oral Hygiene 9670 – Advertising and Marketing Management 9773 – Journalism and Communication 9853 – Basic Education 9991 – Management (evening attendance)
Daytime/evening attendance	Feature	Discrete	int	1 — daytime 0 — evening
Previous qualification	Feature	Discrete	int	1 – Secondary education 2 – Higher education - bachelor's degree 3 – Higher education - degree 4 – Higher education - master's 5 – Higher education - doctorate 6 – Frequency of higher education 9 – 12th year of schooling - not completed 10 – 11th year of schooling - not completed 12 – Other – 11th year of schooling 14 – 10th

Name	Role	Type	Data Type	Description
				year of schooling 15 – 10th year of schooling - not completed 19 - Basic education 3rd cycle (9th/10th/11th year) or equiv. 38 – Basic education 2nd cycle (6th/7th/8th year) or equiv. 39 – Technological specialization course 40 – Higher education - degree (1st cycle) 42 – Professional higher technical course 43 – Higher education - master (2nd cycle)
Previous qualification (grade)	Feature	Continuous	float	Grade of previous qualification between 0 and 200
Nacionality	Feature	Discrete		1 — Portuguese; 2 — German; 6 — Spanish; 11 — Italian; 13 — Dutch; 14 — English; 17 — Lithuanian; 21 — Angolan; 22 — Cape Verdean; 24 — Guinean; 25 — Mozambican; 26 — Santomean; 32 — Turkish; 41 — Brazilian; 62 — Romanian; 100 — Moldova (Republic of); 101 — Mexican; 103 — Ukrainian; 105 — Russian; 108 — Cuban; 109 — Colombian
Mother's qualification	Feature	Discrete	int	1 - Secondary Education - 12th Year of Schooling or Eq. 2 - Higher Education - Bachelor's Degree 3 - Higher Education - Degree 4 - Higher Education - Master's 5 - Higher Education - Doctorate 6 - Frequency of Higher Education 9 - 12th Year of Schooling - Not Completed 10 - 11th Year of Schooling - Not Completed 11 - 7th Year (Old) 12 - Other - 11th Year of Schooling 14 - 10th Year of Schooling 18 - General commerce course 19 - Basic Education 3rd Cycle (9th/10th/11th Year) or Equiv. 22 - Technical-professional course 26 - 7th year of schooling 27 - 2nd cycle of the general high school course 29 - 9th Year of Schooling - Not Completed 30 - 8th year of schooling 34 - Unknown 35 - Can't read or write 36 - Can read without having a 4th year of schooling 37 - Basic education 1st cycle (4th/5th year) or equiv. 38 - Basic Education 2nd Cycle (6th/7th/8th Year) or Equiv. 39 - Technological specialization course 40 - Higher education - degree (1st cycle) 41 - Specialized higher studies course 42 - Professional higher technical course 43 - Higher Education - Master (2nd cycle) 44 - Higher Education - Doctorate (3rd cycle)
Father's qualification	Feature	Discrete	int	1 - Secondary Education - 12th Year of Schooling or Eq. 2 - Higher Education - Bachelor's Degree 3 - Higher Education - Degree 4 - Higher Education - Master's 5 - Higher Education - Doctorate 6 - Frequency of Higher Education 9 - 12th Year of Schooling - Not Completed 10 - 11th Year of Schooling - Not Completed 11 - 7th Year (Old) 12 - Other - 11th Year of Schooling 13 - 2nd year complementary high school course 14 - 10th Year of Schooling 18 - General commerce course 19 - Basic Education 3rd Cycle (9th/10th/11th Year) or Equiv. 20 - Complementary High School Course 22 - Technical-professional course 25 - Complementary High School Course - not concluded 26 - 7th year of schooling 27 - 2nd cycle of the general high school course 29 - 9th Year of Schooling - Not Completed 30 - 8th year of schooling 31 - General Course of Administration and Commerce 33 - Supplementary Accounting and Administration 34 - Unknown 35 - Can't read or write 36 - Can read without having a 4th year of schooling 37 - Basic education 1st cycle (4th/5th year) or equiv. 38 - Basic Education 2nd Cycle (6th/7th/8th Year) or Equiv. 39 - Technological specialization course 40 - Higher education - degree (1st cycle) 41 - Specialized higher studies course 42 - Professional higher technical course 43 - Higher Education - Master (2nd cycle) 44 - Higher Education - Doctorate (3rd cycle)

Name	Role	Type	Data Type	Description
Mother's occupation	Feature	Discrete	int	<p>0 – Student 1 – Representatives of the Legislative Power and Executive Bodies, Directors, Directors and Executive Managers 2 – Specialists in Intellectual and Scientific Activities 3 – Intermediate Level Technicians and Professions 4 – Administrative staff 5 – Personal Services, Security and Safety Workers and Sellers 6 – Farmers and Skilled Workers in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry 7 – Skilled Workers in Industry, Construction and Craftsmen 8 – Installation and Machine Operators and Assembly Workers 9 – Unskilled Workers 10 – Armed Forces Professions 90 – Other Situation 99 – (blank) 122 – Health professionals 123 - teachers 125 - Specialists in information and communication technologies (ICT) 131 - Intermediate level science and engineering technicians and professions 132 - Technicians and professionals, of intermediate level of health 134 - Intermediate level technicians from legal, social, sports, cultural and similar services 141 - Office workers, secretaries in general and data processing operators 143 - Data, accounting, statistical, financial services and registry-related operators 144 - Other administrative support staff 151 - personal service workers 152 - sellers 153 - Personal care workers and the like 171 - Skilled construction workers and the like, except electricians 173 - Skilled workers in printing, precision instrument manufacturing, jewelers, artisans and the like 175 - Workers in food processing, woodworking, clothing and other industries and crafts 191 - cleaning workers 192 - Unskilled workers in agriculture, animal production, fisheries and forestry 193 - Unskilled workers in extractive industry, construction, manufacturing and transport 194 - Meal preparation assistants</p>
Father's occupation	Feature	Discrete	int	<p>0 – Student 1 – Representatives of the Legislative Power and Executive Bodies, Directors, Directors and Executive Managers 2 – Specialists in Intellectual and Scientific Activities 3 – Intermediate Level Technicians and Professions 4 – Administrative staff 5 – Personal Services, Security and Safety Workers and Sellers 6 – Farmers and Skilled Workers in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry 7 – Skilled Workers in Industry, Construction and Craftsmen 8 – Installation and Machine Operators and Assembly Workers 9 – Unskilled Workers 10 – Armed Forces Professions 90 – Other Situation 99 – (blank) 101 – Armed Forces Officers 102 – Armed Forces Sergeants 103 – Other Armed Forces personnel 112 – Directors of administrative and commercial services 114 – Hotel, catering, trade and other services directors 121 - Specialists in the physical sciences, mathematics, engineering and related techniques 122 - Health professionals 123 - teachers 124 - Specialists in finance, accounting, administrative organization, public and commercial relations 131 - Intermediate level science and engineering technicians and professions 132 - Technicians and professionals, of intermediate level of health 134 - Intermediate level technicians from legal, social, sports, cultural and similar services 135 - Information and communication technology technicians 141 - Office workers, secretaries in general and data processing operators 143 - Data, accounting, statistical, financial services and registry-related operators 144 - Other administrative support staff 151 - personal service workers 152 - sellers 153 - Personal care workers and the like 154 - Protection and security services personnel 161 - Market-oriented farmers and skilled agricultural and animal production workers 163 - Farmers, livestock keepers, fishermen, hunters and gatherers, subsistence 171 - Skilled construction workers and the like, except electricians 172 - Skilled workers in metallurgy, metalworking and similar 174 - Skilled workers in electricity and electronics 175 - Workers in food processing, woodworking, clothing and other industries and crafts 181 - Fixed plant and machine operators 182 - assembly workers 183 - Vehicle drivers and mobile equipment operators 192</p>

Name	Role	Type	Data Type	Description
				- Unskilled workers in agriculture, animal production, fisheries and forestry 193 - Unskilled workers in extractive industry, construction, manufacturing and transport 194 - Meal preparation assistants 195 - Street vendors (except food) and street service providers
Admission grade	Feature	Continuous	float	Admission grade (between 0 and 200)
Displaced	Feature	Discrete	int	1 — yes 0 — no
Educational special needs	Feature	Discrete	int	1 — yes 0 — no
Debtor	Feature	Discrete	int	1 — yes 0 — no
Tuition fees up to date	Feature	Discrete	int	1 — yes 0 — no
Gender	Feature	Discrete	int	1 — male 0 — female
Scholarship holder	Feature	Discrete	int	1 — yes 0 — no
Age at enrollment	Feature	Discrete	int	Age of student at enrollment
Scholarship holder	Feature	Discrete	int	1 — yes 0 — no
International	Feature	Discrete	int	1 — yes 0 — no
Curricular units 1st sem (credited)	Feature	Discrete	int	Number of curricular units credited in the 1st semester
Curricular units 1st sem (enrolled)	Feature	Discrete	int	Number of curricular units enrolled in the 1st semester
Curricular units 1st sem (evaluations)	Feature	Discrete	int	Number of evaluations to curricular units in the 1st semester
Curricular units 1st sem (approved)	Feature	Discrete	int	Number of curricular units approved in the 1st semester
Curricular units 1st sem (grade)	Feature	Discrete	float	Grade average in the 1st semester (between 0 and 20)
Curricular units 1st sem (without	Feature	Discrete	int	Number of curricular units without evaluations in the 1st semester

Name	Role	Type	Data Type	Description
evaluations)				
Curricular units 2nd sem (credited)	Feature	Discrete	int	Number of curricular units credited in the 2nd semester
Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled)	Feature	Discrete	int	Number of curricular units enrolled in the 2nd semester
Curricular units 2nd sem (evaluations)	Feature	Discrete	int	Number of evaluations to curricular units in the 2nd semester
Curricular units 2nd sem (approved)	Feature	Discrete	int	Number of curricular units approved in the 2nd semester
Curricular units 2nd sem (grade)	Feature	Discrete	float	Grade average in the 2nd semester (between 0 and 20)
Curricular units 2nd sem (without evaluations)	Feature	Discrete	int	Number of curricular units without evalutions in the 1st semester
Unemployment rate	Feature	Continuous	float	Unemployment rate (%)
Inflation rate	Feature	Continuous	float	Inflation rate (%)
GDP	Feature	Continuous	float	GDP
Target	Target	Categorical	string	Target. The problem is formulated as a three category classification task (dropout, enrolled, and graduate) at the end of the normal duration of the course

## Obtain

### Import libraries and Visualization Packages

Importing libraries at the beginning allows access to modules and other tools throughout this project that help to make the tasks within this project manageable to implement. The main libraries that will be used within this project include:

- `pandas` : a data analysis and manipulation library which allows for flexible reading, writing, and reshaping of data
- `numpy` : a key library that brings the computationaly power of languages like C to Python
- `matplotlib` : a comprehensive visualization library
- `seaborn` : a data visualization library based on matplotlib
- `statsmodels` : a library used to understand statistical relationships between variables, often used in the field of economics.
- `sklearn` : a machine learning library for data processing and modeling.

```
In [1]: # Import Libraries and visualization packages
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import seaborn as sns
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.ticker as ticker
import statsmodels.api as sm
import sklearn
from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
from sklearn.tree import DecisionTreeClassifier
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
from sklearn.neighbors import KNeighborsClassifier
from sklearn.svm import SVC
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
from sklearn.metrics import accuracy_score, precision_score, recall_score, f1_score, confusion_matrix
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
from sklearn.preprocessing import LabelEncoder
from sklearn.model_selection import GridSearchCV
from sklearn.metrics import make_scorer, recall_score
from sklearn.feature_selection import SelectKBest, chi2
from sklearn.feature_selection import RFE
from sklearn.preprocessing import MinMaxScaler

import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")
warnings.simplefilter(action = 'ignore', category = DeprecationWarning)
warnings.simplefilter(action = 'ignore', category = FutureWarning)
warnings.filterwarnings("ignore", category=UserWarning, module="pandas")

# Allow plots to display and be stored inline within a notebook
%matplotlib inline

# Used for working with the z-score
from scipy import stats
```

```
# Used for working with long url
from urllib.parse import urlencode

# Set display option to readable format
pd.set_option('display.float_format', lambda x: '%.2f' % x)

# Filter warnings from pandas
pd.options.mode.chained_assignment = None
```

## Check library versions:

One of the essential aspects of modeling is the ability to reproduce results. Science is undoubtedly model-dependent, and these models improve as more information is gathered over time. Communicating the version of the tools used to generate a model is a crucial part of collaboration. Therefore, we take note of the version of key libraries so that other researchers have a starting point when attempting to reproduce this work.

```
In [2]: # Check Pandas version
print("Pandas version:")
pd.__version__
```

Pandas version:

```
Out[2]: '1.1.3'
```

```
In [3]: # Check Numpy version
print("Numpy version:")
np.__version__
```

Numpy version:

```
Out[3]: '1.24.4'
```

```
In [4]: # Check Seaborn version
print("Seaborn version:")
sns.__version__
```

Seaborn version:

```
Out[4]: '0.11.0'
```

```
In [5]: # Check Statsmodel version
print("Statsmodel version:")
sm.__version__
```

```
Statsmodel version:
```

```
Out[5]: '0.13.5'
```

```
In [6]: # Check sci-kit Learn version  
print("Sci-kit learn version:")  
sklearn.__version__
```

```
Sci-kit learn version:
```

```
Out[6]: '1.3.0'
```

```
In [7]: class ObtainData:  
    def __init__(self, data_path):  
        """  
        Constructor for the ObtainData class.  
  
        Parameters:  
        - data_path(string): Path to the dataset file.  
  
        Initializes the data_path attribute and sets data to None.  
        """  
  
        self.data_path = data_path  
        self.data = None  
  
    def load_data(self):  
        """  
        Loads the dataset from the specified data_path using pandas.  
        Assumes the dataset is in csv format with semicolons(;) as the separator.  
        Assigns the loaded data to the data attribute.  
        """  
        self.data = pd.read_csv(self.data_path, sep = ';')  
  
    def obtain_data(self):  
  
        self.load_data()  
        return self.data
```

```
In [8]: # Main excution
```

```
if __name__ == '__main__':  
    # Initialize the ObtainData object
```

```
data_obtained = ObtainData(data_path = 'data/data.csv')

# Obtain the data
data_obtained.obtain_data()
```

## Scrub

The `ScrubData` class is designed to explore and clean datasets efficiently. With the dataset passed as a parameter during initialization, the class provides essential functionalities for data analysis. It first checks and displays the presence of common placeholders like '?', '#', 'NaN', 'null', 'N/A', and '-'. If any placeholders are found, they are identified in the output. Next, the class performs data cleaning operations by removing rows with missing data using the "clean" method.

```
In [9]: class ScrubData:
    def __init__(self, data):
        """
        Constructor for the ScrubData class.

        Parameters:
        - data (pandas DataFrame): The dataset to be explored

        Initializes the data attribute.
        """

        self.data = data

    def check_placeholders(self):
        """
        Checks and displays the presence of placeholders throughout the entire dataframe.
        Placeholders checked: '?', '#', 'NaN', 'null', 'N/A', '-'.

        """

        placeholders = ['?', '#', 'NaN', 'null', 'N/A', '-']
        placeholder_mask = self.data.isin(placeholders)

        if placeholder_mask.any().any():
            print('\nPlaceholders Detected:')
            display(placeholder_mask)
        else:
            print('\nNo Placeholders Detected.')

    def clean(self):
        """
```

```
    Perform data cleaning operations.  
    """  
  
    cleaned_data = self.data.dropna() # Drop rows with missing data  
  
    return cleaned_data
```

After obtaining the dataset using the "ObtainData" class, the data is passed to the "ScrubData" class to perform data cleaning operations. The "clean" method of the "ScrubData" class is then applied to the dataset, resulting in the variable "cleaned\_data" holding the cleaned version of the dataset.

```
In [10]: # Create an instance of the Obtained Data Class  
data = data_obtained.obtain_data()  
  
# Create an instance of the "ScrubData" class and pass the obtained dataset as a parameter to initialize the class  
scrubbed_data = ScrubData(data = data)  
  
# Clean the dataset using the "clean" method of the "ScrubData" class and store the cleaned data in the variable "clean"  
cleaned_data = scrubbed_data.clean()
```

## Explore

After obtaining the dataset using the "ObtainData" class and cleaning it with the "ScrubData" class, the "ExploreData" class can be used to analyze and explore the cleaned dataset further. This allows for a comprehensive understanding of the data and helps to identify any patterns or insights that could be beneficial for the subsequent analysis or decision-making processes.

```
In [11]: class ExploreData:  
    def __init__(self,data):  
        """  
        Constructor for the ExploreData class.  
  
        Parameters:  
        - data (pandas DataFrame): The dataset to be explored.  
  
        Initializes the data attribute  
        """  
        self.data = data  
  
    def examine_structure(self):  
        """  
        Prints the shape of the dataset and displays the first few rows.
```

```
Also displays the data information including the number of rows and columns in the dataset.  
"""  
print('Data Shape:')display(self.data.shape)  
  
print('Data Structure:')display(self.data.head())  
  
print('\nData Information:')display(self.data.info())  
  
def check_duplicates(self):  
  
    """  
    Checks and displays the number of duplicate rows in the dataset.  
    """  
    num_duplicates = self.data_duplicated().sum()  
    print(f'\nNumber of Duplicate Rows: {num_duplicates}')  
  
def drop_duplicates(self):  
    """  
    Drops the duplicate rows from the dataset.  
    """  
    self.data.drop_duplicates(inplace = True)  
    print("Duplicate rows dropped.")  
  
def generate_correlation_map(self, title):  
    """  
    Generates and displays a correlation matrix heatmap for the dataset.  
  
    Parameters:  
    -title(str): The title of the correlation map  
    """  
  
    correlation_matrix = self.data.corr()  
  
    # Create a figure and set the title  
    plt.figure(figsize = (30,25))  
    plt.suptitle(title)  
  
    # Generate the correlation heatmap  
    sns.heatmap(correlation_matrix, annot = True, cmap = 'Blues')  
  
    # Show the correlation map  
    plt.show()
```

```

def plot_pairplot(self, correlation_table):
    # Get the columns from the correlation table
    columns = list(correlation_table.index.levels[0])

    # Filter the data based on the columns
    data_filtered = self.data[columns]

    # Create a pairplot using the filtered data
    pairplot = sns.pairplot(data_filtered, diag_kind="kde", markers=". ", height=2)

    # Customize the scatter matrix plot
    for ax in pairplot.axes.flat:
        ax.xaxis.label.set_rotation(90)
        ax.yaxis.label.set_rotation(0)
        ax.yaxis.label.set_ha('center')
        ax.get_yaxis().set_label_coords(-0.5, 0.5)
        ax.set_xticklabels(ax.get_xticklabels(), rotation=45, ha='right', fontsize=18)
        ax.set_yticklabels(ax.get_yticklabels(), rotation=90, ha='center', fontsize=18)

    # Show the plot
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()

def generate_correlation_table(self, threshold_min = 0.6, threshold_max = 1.0):
    """
    Generates a correlation table with filtered correlation pairs within specified thresholds.

    Parameters:
    - threshold_min (float): The minimum threshold for correlation values (inclusive). Default is 0.6.
    - threshold_max (float): The maximum threshold for correlation values (exclusive). Default is 1.0.

    Returns:
    - filtered_df (pandas DataFrame): The filtered correlation table.
    """

    correlation_matrix = self.data.corr().abs()

    correlation_df = correlation_matrix.stack().reset_index()
    correlation_df.columns = ['feature1', 'feature2', 'correlation']

    filtered_df = correlation_df[
        (correlation_df['correlation'] > threshold_min) & (correlation_df['correlation'] < threshold_max)
    ]

```

```
filtered_df.drop_duplicates(inplace = True)
filtered_df.set_index(['feature1', 'feature2'], inplace = True)
filtered_df.columns = ['correlation']

return filtered_df

def plot_gender_distribution(self):
    """
    Plots the gender distribution from the dataset.
    """
    plt.style.use('fivethirtyeight')
    gender_counts = self.data['Gender'].value_counts()
    gender_labels = ['Female', 'Male']
    gender_values = [gender_counts[0], gender_counts[1]]

    plt.figure(figsize = (8,6))
    ax = sns.barplot(x = gender_labels, y = gender_values, color = 'blue')

    plt.xlabel('Gender', fontsize = 14, weight = 'bold')
    plt.ylabel('Number of Students', fontsize = 14, weight = 'bold')
    plt.title('Gender Distribution of College Students', fontsize = 18, weight = 'bold')

    plt.show()

def plot_dropout_by_gender(self):
    """
    Plots the gender distribution of students who dropout from the dataset.
    """
    plt.style.use('fivethirtyeight')
    dropout_data = self.data[self.data['Target']=='Dropout']
    dropout_data['Gender']= dropout_data['Gender'].map({1:'Male', 0:'Female'})

    plt.figure(figsize = (8,6))
    ax = sns.countplot(x = 'Gender', data = dropout_data, color = 'blue')

    plt.xlabel('Gender', fontsize = 14, weight = 'bold')
    plt.ylabel('Number of Students', fontsize = 14, weight = 'bold')
    plt.title('Distribution of Dropouts by Gender', fontsize = 18, weight = 'bold')

    plt.show()

def plot_target_distribution(self):
```

```
"""
Plots the gender distribute of the target variable from the dataset.
"""

target_data = self.data['Target']
target_labels = ['Dropout', 'Enrolled', 'Graduate']

plt.figure(figsize = (8,6))
ax = sns.countplot(x = target_labels, data = target_data, color = 'blue')

plt.xlabel('Status', fontsize = 14, weight = 'bold')
plt.ylabel('Percentage of Students', fontsize = 14, weight = 'bold')
plt.title('Progress to Graduation Distribution of College Students',fontsize = 18, weight = 'bold')

plt.show()
```

Next, we create an instance of the `ExploreData` class and pass the cleaned dataset as a parameter to initialize the class, stored in the variable `data_exploration`. We then call the `examine_structure()` method of the `ExploreData` class to examine the structure of the dataset, including its size, data types, and presence of missing values. Finally, we use the `generate_correlation_map()` method of the `ExploreData` class to generate a correlation map, which visualizes the correlations between features related to student academic success.

```
In [12]: # Create an instance of the ExploreData class and pass the cleaned dataset as a parameter to initialize the class
data_exploration = ExploreData(data=cleaned_data)

# Examine the structure of the dataset, such as the number of rows, columns, data types, and missing values
data_exploration.examine_structure()
```

Data Shape:

(4424, 37)

Data Structure:

Marital status	Application mode	Application order	Course	Daytime/evening attendance\l\t	Previous qualification	Previous qualification (grade)	Nacionality	Mother's qualification	Father's qualification	Curricu... units & s (credit)
0	1	17	5	171	1	1	122.00	1	19	12 ...
1	1	15	1	9254	1	1	160.00	1	1	3 ...
2	1	1	5	9070	1	1	122.00	1	37	37 ...
3	1	17	2	9773	1	1	122.00	1	38	37 ...
4	2	39	1	8014	0	1	100.00	1	37	38 ...

5 rows × 37 columns

Data Information:

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>

Int64Index: 4424 entries, 0 to 4423

Data columns (total 37 columns):

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	Marital status	4424 non-null	int64
1	Application mode	4424 non-null	int64
2	Application order	4424 non-null	int64
3	Course	4424 non-null	int64
4	Daytime/evening attendance	4424 non-null	int64
5	Previous qualification	4424 non-null	int64
6	Previous qualification (grade)	4424 non-null	float64
7	Nacionality	4424 non-null	int64
8	Mother's qualification	4424 non-null	int64
9	Father's qualification	4424 non-null	int64
10	Mother's occupation	4424 non-null	int64
11	Father's occupation	4424 non-null	int64
12	Admission grade	4424 non-null	float64
13	Displaced	4424 non-null	int64
14	Educational special needs	4424 non-null	int64
15	Debtors	4424 non-null	int64
16	Tuition fees up to date	4424 non-null	int64
17	Gender	4424 non-null	int64
18	Scholarship holder	4424 non-null	int64
19	Age at enrollment	4424 non-null	int64
20	International	4424 non-null	int64
21	Curricular units 1st sem (credited)	4424 non-null	int64
22	Curricular units 1st sem (enrolled)	4424 non-null	int64
23	Curricular units 1st sem (evaluations)	4424 non-null	int64
24	Curricular units 1st sem (approved)	4424 non-null	int64
25	Curricular units 1st sem (grade)	4424 non-null	float64
26	Curricular units 1st sem (without evaluations)	4424 non-null	int64
27	Curricular units 2nd sem (credited)	4424 non-null	int64
28	Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled)	4424 non-null	int64
29	Curricular units 2nd sem (evaluations)	4424 non-null	int64
30	Curricular units 2nd sem (approved)	4424 non-null	int64
31	Curricular units 2nd sem (grade)	4424 non-null	float64
32	Curricular units 2nd sem (without evaluations)	4424 non-null	int64
33	Unemployment rate	4424 non-null	float64
34	Inflation rate	4424 non-null	float64
35	GDP	4424 non-null	float64
36	Target	4424 non-null	object

dtypes: float64(7), int64(29), object(1)

memory usage: 1.3+ MB

The data contains **4424 entries and 37 columns**. It includes various features related to student academic success, such as economic stability (debt, timely tuition payments), demographics, and curricular units. The data is stored in a DataFrame format with information on data types and non-null counts for each column. The data appears to be well-structured and does not contain any missing values.

The correlation shown is called a Pearson correlation and is given by the ratio below:

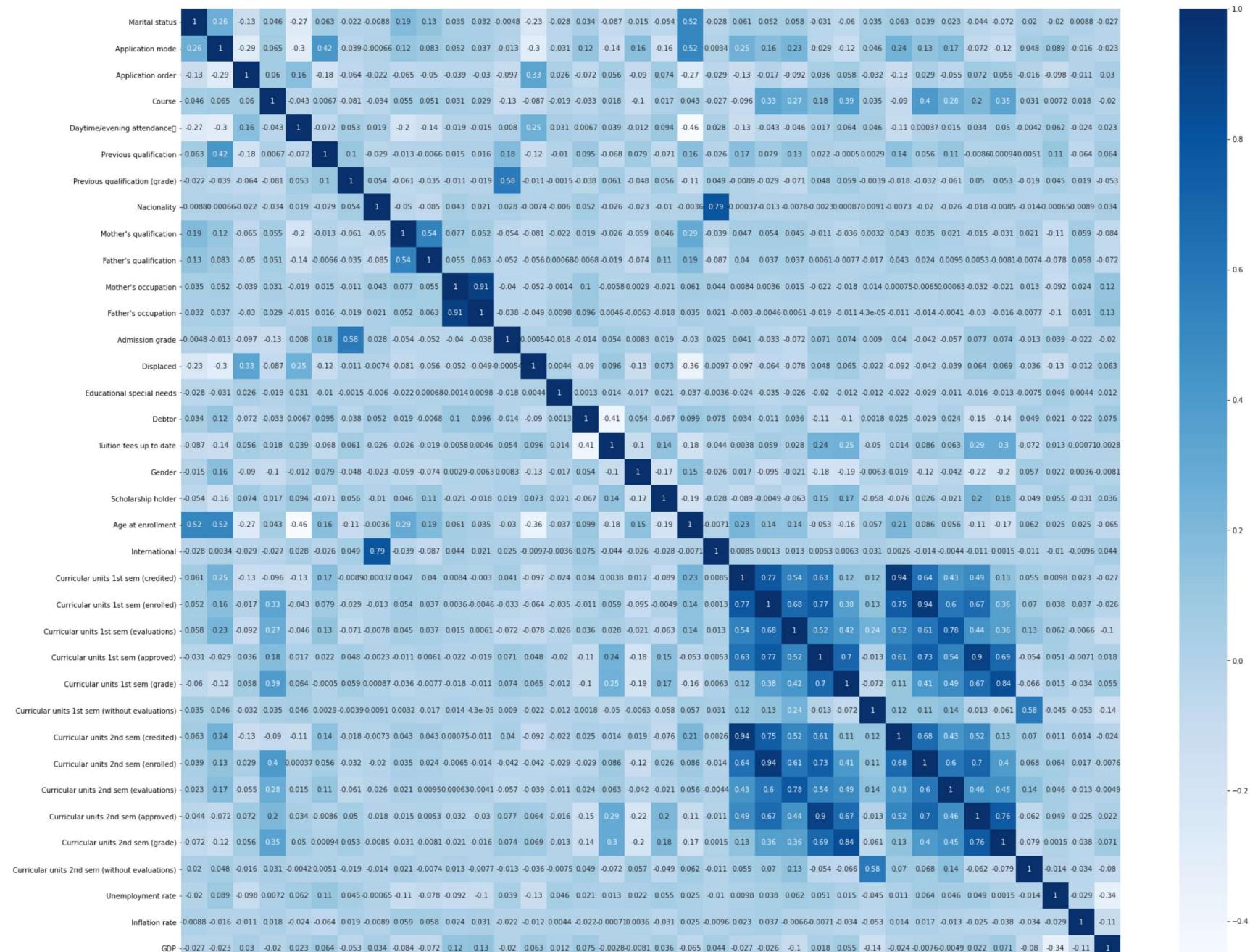
$$r = \frac{\sum(X_i - \bar{X})(Y_i - \bar{Y})}{\sqrt{\sum(X_i - \bar{X})^2} \sqrt{\sum(Y_i - \bar{Y})^2}}$$

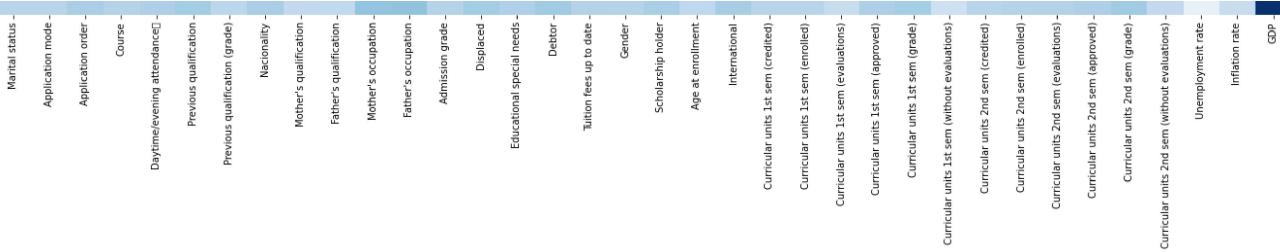
A commonly held rule for interpreting the Pearson correlation is that:

- Very Strong Correlation → 0.8 to 1
- Strong Correlation → 0.6 to 0.799
- Moderate Correlation → 0.4 to 0.599
- Weak Correlation → 0.2 to 0.399
- Very Weak Correlation → 0 to 0.199

```
In [13]: # Generate a correlation map for the dataset to visualize the correlations between features related to student academic  
data_exploration.generate_correlation_map("Correlation Between Student Academic Success Features")
```

Correlation Between Student Academic Success Features





This correlation heat map seems a bit complicated to analyze, so let's simplify it to something that is a bit more useful.

```
In [14]: # Generate a correlation table for the cleaned dataset using the "generate_correlation_table" method of the ExploreData
# The correlation table will include only correlations between 0.6 and 1.0.
correlation_table = data_exploration.generate_correlation_table(0.6, 1.0)

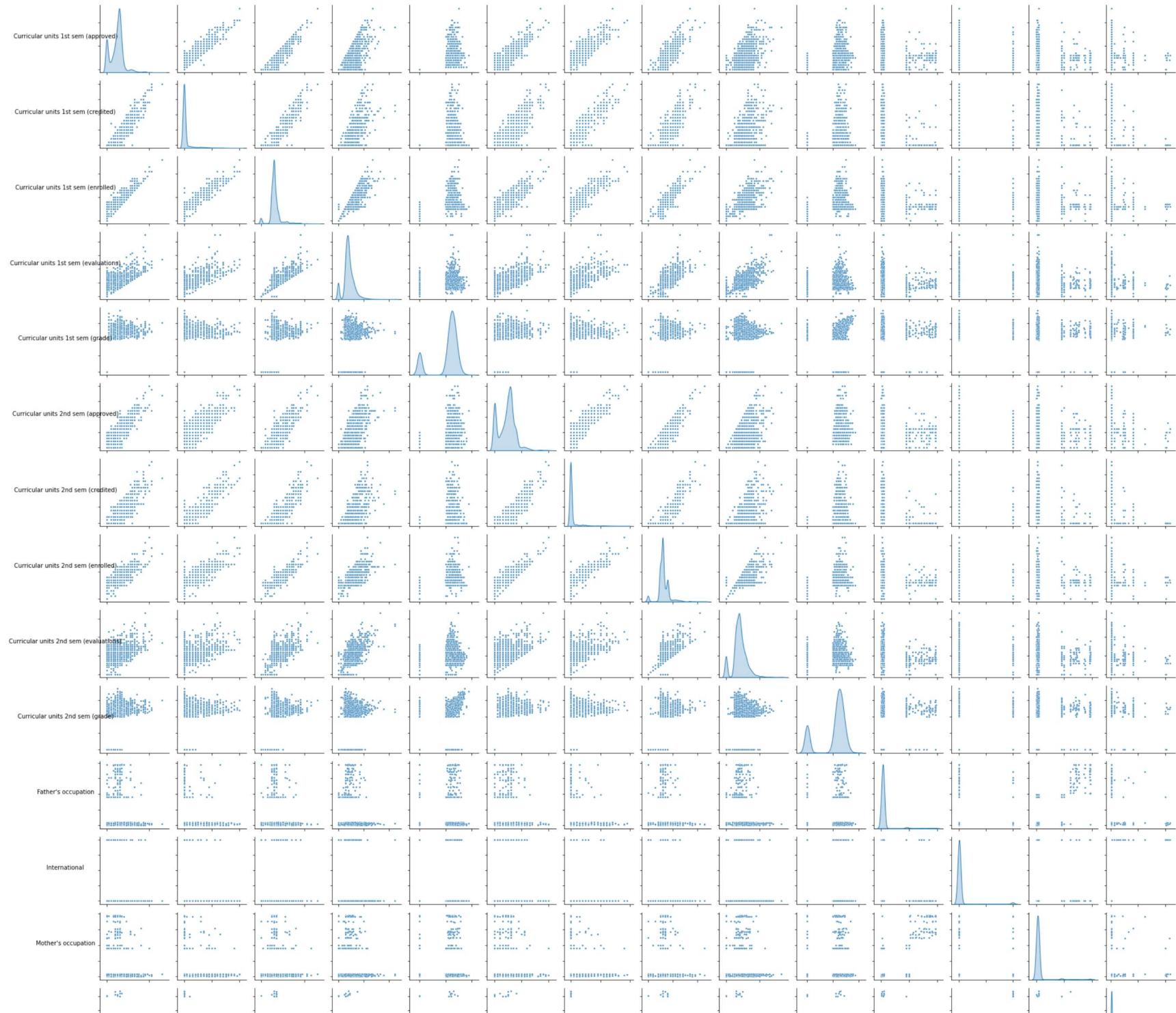
# Display the correlation table using the "display" function.
display(correlation_table)
```

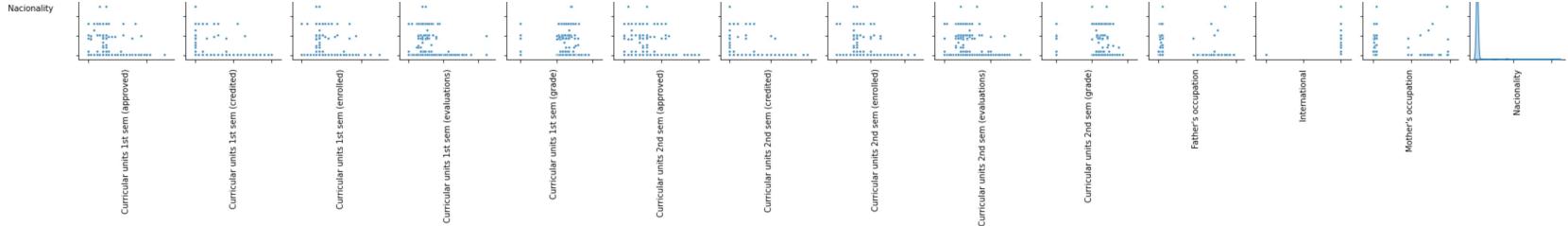
		correlation
feature1	feature2	
Nacionality	International	0.79
Mother's occupation	Father's occupation	0.91
Father's occupation	Mother's occupation	0.91
International	Nacionality	0.79
Curricular units 1st sem (credited)	Curricular units 1st sem (enrolled)	0.77
	Curricular units 1st sem (approved)	0.63
	Curricular units 2nd sem (credited)	0.94
	Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled)	0.64
Curricular units 1st sem (enrolled)	Curricular units 1st sem (credited)	0.77
	Curricular units 1st sem (evaluations)	0.68
	Curricular units 1st sem (approved)	0.77
	Curricular units 2nd sem (credited)	0.75
	Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled)	0.94
	Curricular units 2nd sem (approved)	0.67
Curricular units 1st sem (evaluations)	Curricular units 1st sem (enrolled)	0.68
	Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled)	0.61
	Curricular units 2nd sem (evaluations)	0.78
Curricular units 1st sem (approved)	Curricular units 1st sem (credited)	0.63
	Curricular units 1st sem (enrolled)	0.77
	Curricular units 1st sem (grade)	0.70
	Curricular units 2nd sem (credited)	0.61
	Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled)	0.73
	Curricular units 2nd sem (approved)	0.90
	Curricular units 2nd sem (grade)	0.69

		correlation
feature1	feature2	
<b>Curricular units 1st sem (grade)</b>	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (approved)</b>	0.70
	<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (approved)</b>	0.67
	<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (grade)</b>	0.84
<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (credited)</b>	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (credited)</b>	0.94
	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (enrolled)</b>	0.75
	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (approved)</b>	0.61
	<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled)</b>	0.68
<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled)</b>	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (credited)</b>	0.64
	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (enrolled)</b>	0.94
	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (evaluations)</b>	0.61
	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (approved)</b>	0.73
	<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (credited)</b>	0.68
	<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (evaluations)</b>	0.60
	<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (approved)</b>	0.70
<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (evaluations)</b>	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (evaluations)</b>	0.78
	<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled)</b>	0.60
<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (approved)</b>	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (enrolled)</b>	0.67
	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (approved)</b>	0.90
	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (grade)</b>	0.67
	<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled)</b>	0.70
	<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (grade)</b>	0.76
<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (grade)</b>	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (approved)</b>	0.69
	<b>Curricular units 1st sem (grade)</b>	0.84
	<b>Curricular units 2nd sem (approved)</b>	0.76

In [15]:

```
%time  
# Plot pairplot using the correlation table  
data_exploration.plot_pairplot(correlation_table)
```



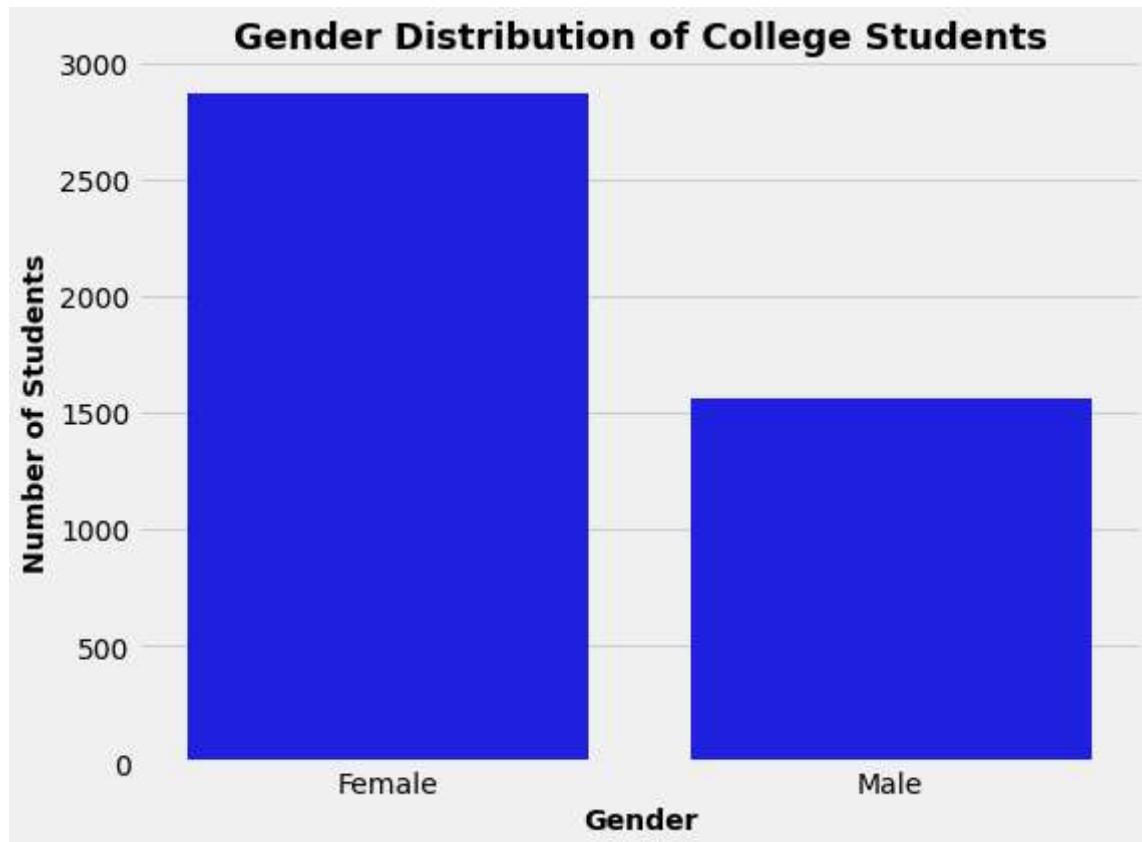


Wall time: 58 s

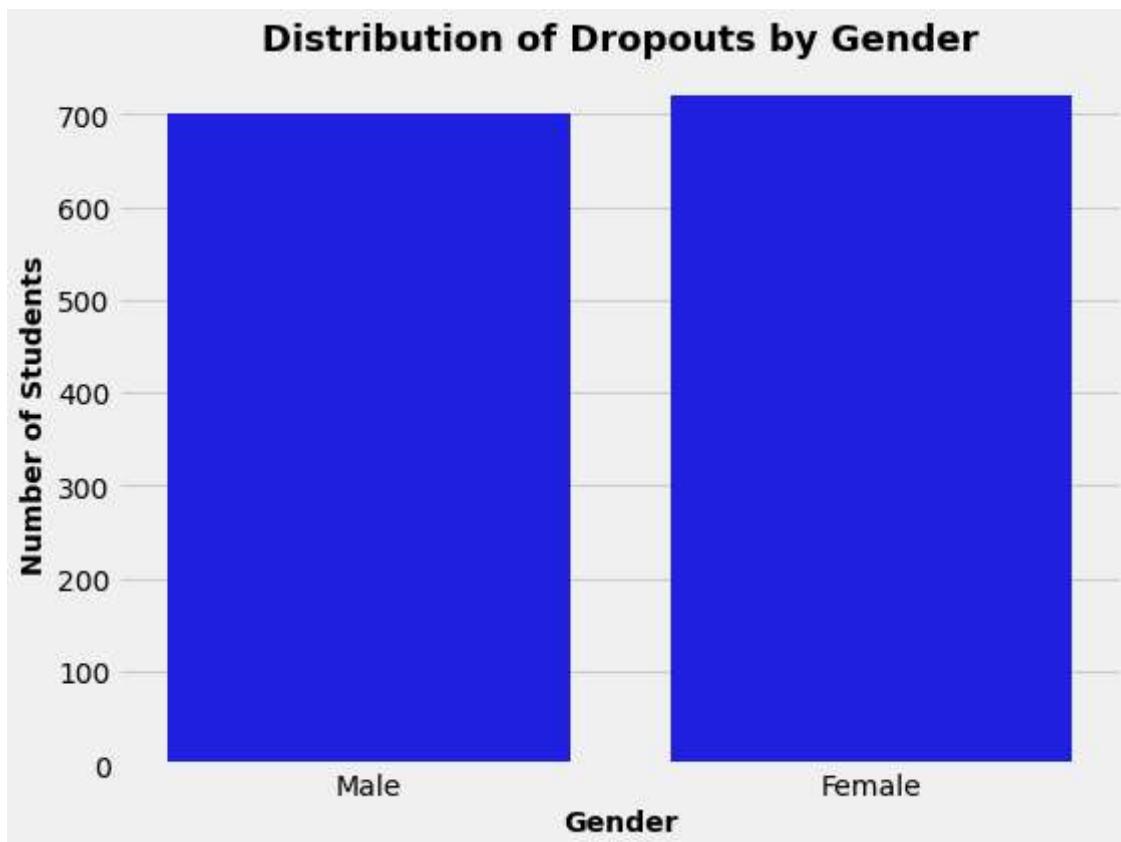
```
In [16]: if __name__ == '__main__':
    # Plot the gender distribution of the data
    data_exploration.plot_gender_distribution()

    # Plot the dropout distribution by gender
    data_exploration.plot_dropout_by_gender()

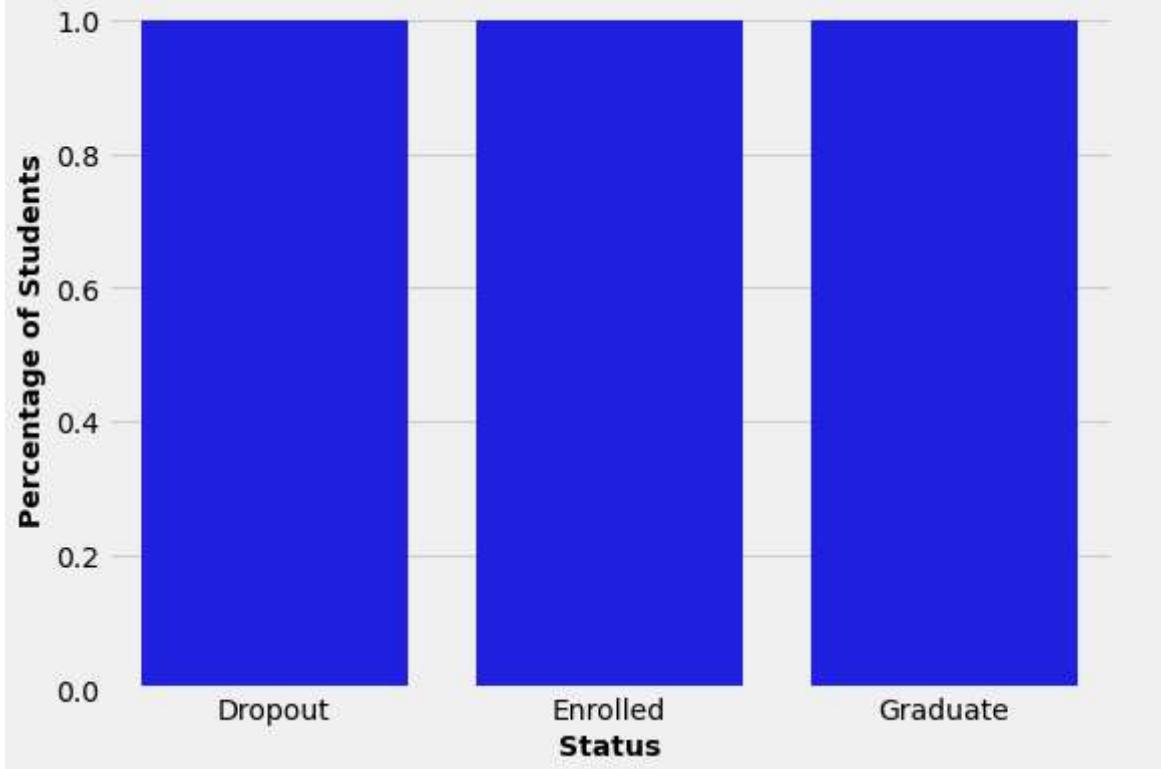
    # Plot the Progress to graduation distribution by gender
    data_exploration.plot_target_distribution()
```



## Distribution of Dropouts by Gender



## Progress to Graduation Distribution of College Students



While there are ~1500 more female students than male students in the dataset, there are equal numbers of each gender (approx 700 students) who dropped out of college. The data has equal numbers of students in each class.

The AnalyzeData class has the following functions:

- `analyze` : Maps relevant variables to their corresponding labels and performs data analysis to explore factors influencing student graduation status.
- `plot_bar_chart` : Plots bar charts to visualize the impact of categorical variables on graduation status.
- `plot_boxplot` : Plots box plots to visualize the relationship between target variables and numerical features.
- `plot_horizontal_bar_chart` : Plots horizontal bar charts to explore the influence of 'Previous qualification' on graduation status.

By using these functions, we can begin to explore the factors affecting graduation outcomes.

In [17]:

```
class AnalyzeData:
    def __init__(self, data):
        self.data = data

    def analyze(self):
        # Map the revised target variable values to their corresponding Labels
        target_labels = {
            "Enrolled": "Enrolled",
            "Graduate": "Graduated",
            "Dropout": "Dropout"
        }

        # Map the revised "Tuition fees up to date" variable values to their corresponding Labels
        tuition_fees_labels = {
            1: "Yes",
            0: "No"
        }

        # Map the revised "Marital status" variable values to their corresponding Labels
        marital_status_labels = {
            1: "Single",
            2: "Married",
            3: "Widower",
            4: "Divorced",
            5: "Facto Union",
            6: "Legally Separated"
        }

        # Map the revised "Marital status" variable values to their corresponding Labels
        attendance_labels = {
            1: "daytime",
            0: "evening",
        }

        # Map the revised "Debtor" variable values to their corresponding Labels
        debtor_labels = {
            1: "Yes",
            0: "No"
        }

        # Map the revised "Scholarship holder" variable values to their corresponding Labels
        scholarship_labels = {
            1: "Yes",
            0: "No"
        }
```

```

    }

# Map the revised "Previous qualification" variable values to their corresponding Labels
previous_qualification_labels = {
    1: "Secondary education",
    2: "Higher education - bachelor's degree",
    3: "Higher education - degree",
    4: "Higher education - master's",
    5: "Higher education - doctorate",
    6: "Frequency of higher education",
    9: "12th year of schooling - not completed",
    10: "11th year of schooling - not completed",
    12: "Other - 11th year of schooling",
    14: "10th year of schooling",
    15: "10th year of schooling - not completed",
    19: "Basic education 3rd cycle (9th/10th/11th year) or equiv.",
    38: "Basic education 2nd cycle (6th/7th/8th year) or equiv.",
    39: "Technological specialization course",
    40: "Higher education - degree (1st cycle)",
    42: "Professional higher technical course",
    43: "Higher education - master (2nd cycle)"
}

# Filter the data for relevant columns
relevant_columns = ['Marital status',
                    'Curricular units 1st sem (credited)',
                    'Curricular units 2nd sem (approved)',
                    'Tuition fees up to date',
                    'Curricular units 2nd sem (grade)',
                    "Debtor",
                    "Age at enrollment",
                    'Target',
                    'Scholarship holder',
                    'Displaced',
                    'Unemployment rate',
                    'Previous qualification']

data_subset = self.data[relevant_columns]

data_subset['Target'] = data_subset['Target'].map(target_labels)
data_subset['Marital status'] = data_subset['Marital status'].map(marital_status_labels)
data_subset['Tuition fees up to date'] = data_subset['Tuition fees up to date'].map(tuition_fees_labels)
data_subset['Debtor'] = data_subset['Debtor'].map(debtor_labels)
data_subset['Previous qualification'] = data_subset['Previous qualification'].map(previous_qualification_labels)
data_subset['Scholarship holder'] = data_subset['Scholarship holder'].map(scholarship_labels)

```

```
age_ranges = [16, 25, 36, 50, 100]
data_subset['Age Range'] = pd.cut(data_subset['Age at enrollment'], bins=age_ranges, labels=["16-24",
                                         "25-35",
                                         "36-49",
                                         "50 or older"])

approved_units_bins = [-1, 3, 6, float('inf')]
approved_units_labels = ["0-3", "4-6", "7 or greater"]
data_subset['Approved Units Range'] = pd.cut(data_subset['Curricular units 2nd sem (approved)'],
                                              bins = approved_units_bins,
                                              labels = approved_units_labels)
data_subset['Credited Units'] = pd.cut(data_subset['Curricular units 1st sem (credited)'],
                                         bins = approved_units_bins,
                                         labels = approved_units_labels)

# Plot the results
self.plot_bar_chart(data_subset,
                     'Age Range',
                     'Influence of Age Range on Graduation Status',
                     'Number of Students',
                     'Age Range')
self.plot_boxplot(data_subset,
                   'Curricular units 2nd sem (grade)',
                   'Influence of Curricular units 2nd sem (grade) on Graduation Status',
                   'Curricular units 2nd sem (grade)',
                   'Graduation Status')
self.plot_bar_chart(data_subset,
                     'Approved Units Range',
                     'Influence of Curricular units 2nd sem (approved) on Graduation Status',
                     'Number of Students',
                     'Curricular Units Range')

self.plot_bar_chart(data_subset,
                     'Credited Units',
                     'Influence of Curricular units 1st sem (credited) on Graduation Status',
                     'Number of Students',
                     'Curricular Units')

self.plot_bar_chart(data_subset,
                     'Scholarship holder',
                     'Influence of Scholarship Status on Graduation Status',
                     'Number of Students',
                     'Scholarship holder')
self.plot_bar_chart(data_subset,
                     'Tuition fees up to date',
                     'Influence of Tuition Fees on Graduation Status',
```

```

        'Tuition Fees Up to Date',
        'Number of Students')
self.plot_horizontal_bar_chart(data_subset,
                               'Previous qualification',
                               'Influence of Previous qualification on Graduation Status',
                               'Number of Students',
                               'Graduation Status')

def plot_bar_chart(self, data, x, title, xlabel, ylabel):
    plt.figure(figsize=(15, 10))
    sns.countplot(data=data, x=x, hue='Target', palette='cool')
    plt.legend(title="Graduation Status")
    plt.xlabel(xlabel)
    plt.ylabel(ylabel)
    plt.title(title, fontsize=18)
    plt.show()

def plot_boxplot(self, data, x, title, xlabel, ylabel):
    plt.figure(figsize=(15, 10))
    sns.boxplot(data=data, x='Target', y=x, palette='cool')
    custom_legend = [plt.Line2D([], [], color=sns.color_palette('cool')[1], marker='s', markersize=10, label='Enrol'),
                     plt.Line2D([], [], color=sns.color_palette('cool')[3], marker='s', markersize=10, label='Gradu'),
                     plt.Line2D([], [], color=sns.color_palette('cool')[5], marker='s', markersize=10, label='Dropo
    plt.legend(handles=custom_legend, title="Graduation Status")
    plt.xlabel(xlabel)
    plt.ylabel(ylabel)
    plt.title(title, fontsize=18)
    plt.show()

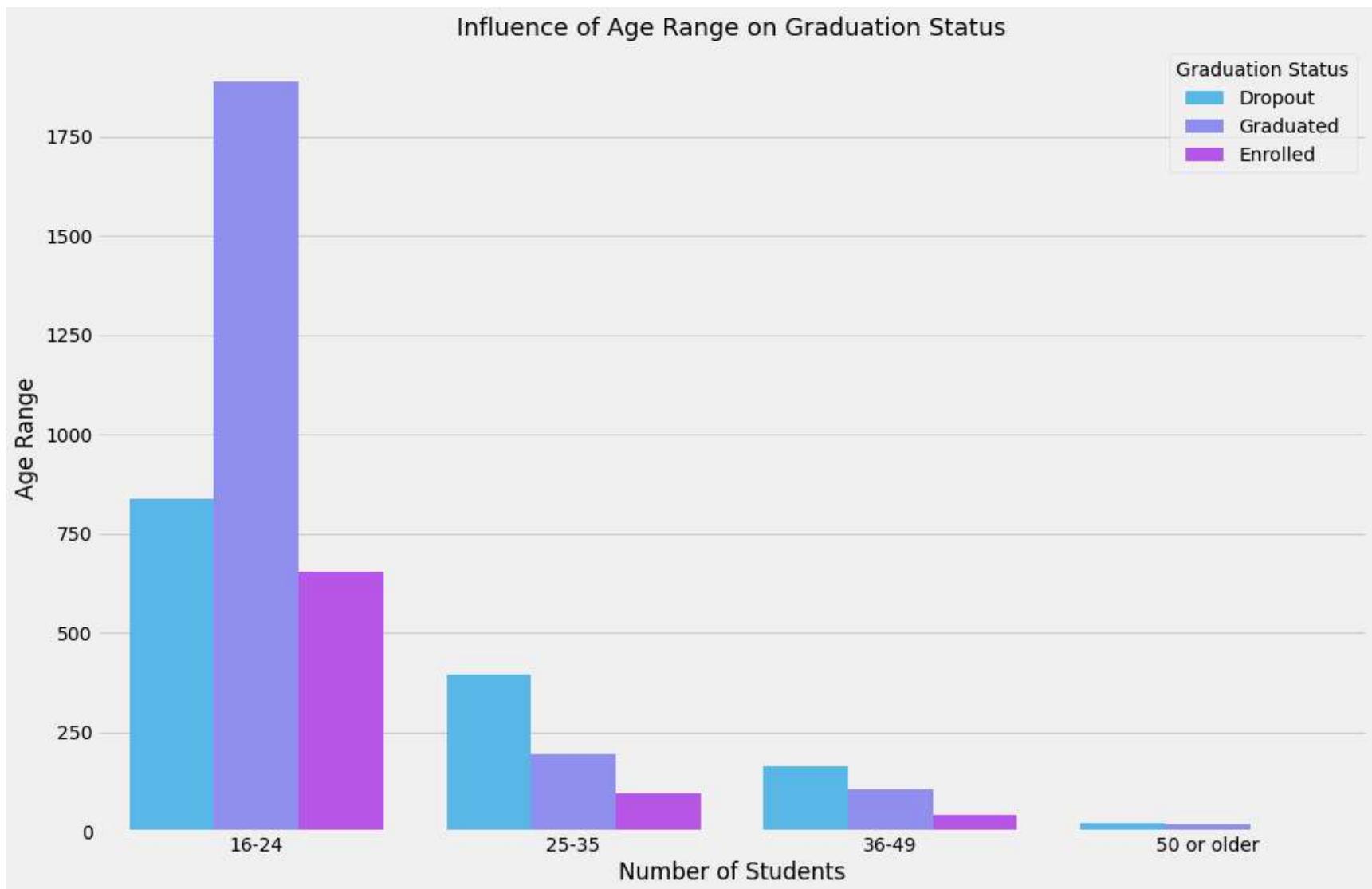
def plot_horizontal_bar_chart(self, data, x, title, xlabel, ylabel):
    plt.figure(figsize=(15, 10))
    sns.countplot(data=data, y=x, hue='Target', palette='cool')
    plt.legend(title="Graduation Status")
    plt.xlabel(xlabel)
    plt.ylabel(ylabel)
    plt.title(title, fontsize=18)
    plt.show()

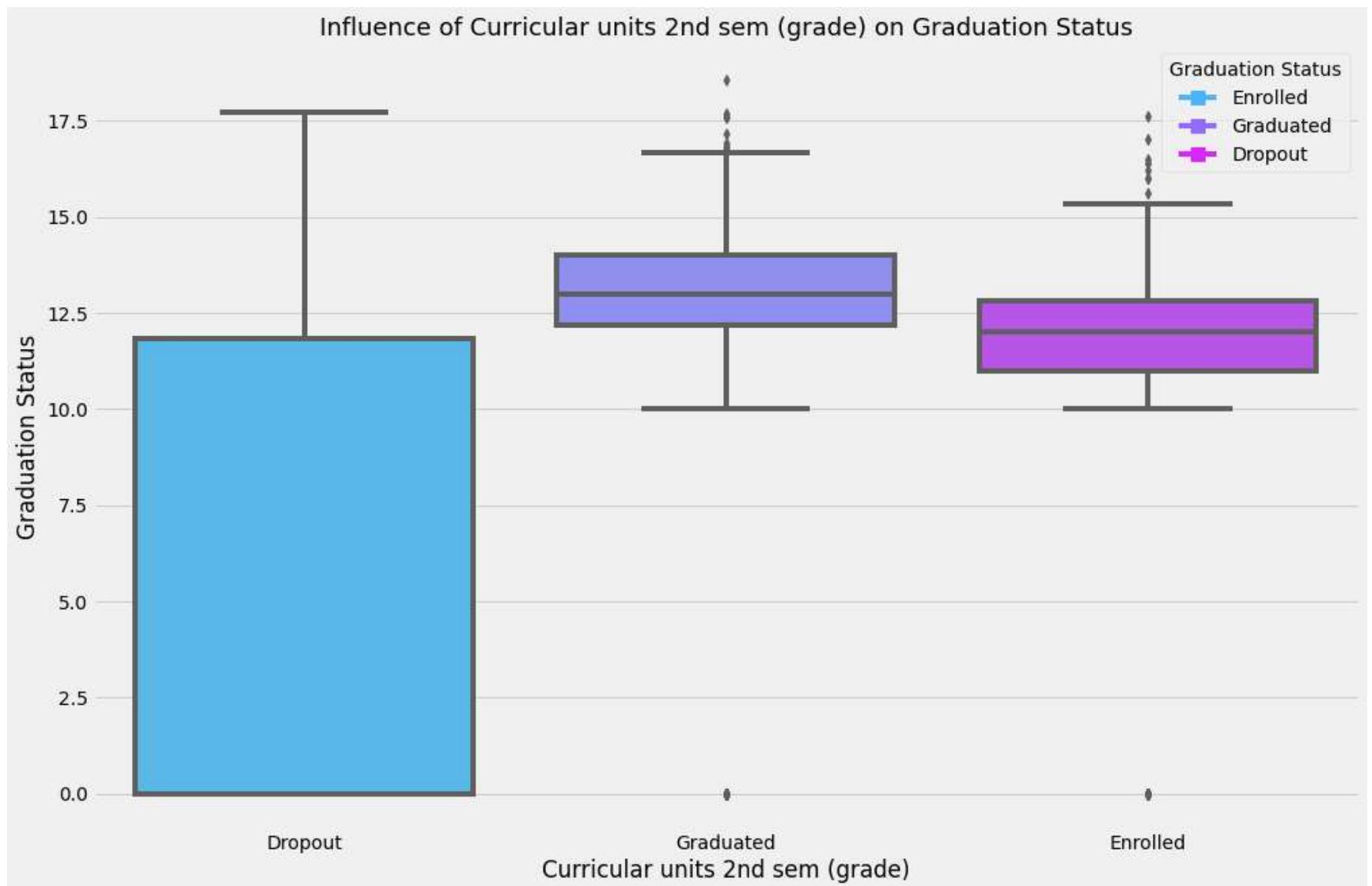
# Instantiate the AnalyzeData class with the data
analysis = AnalyzeData(data)

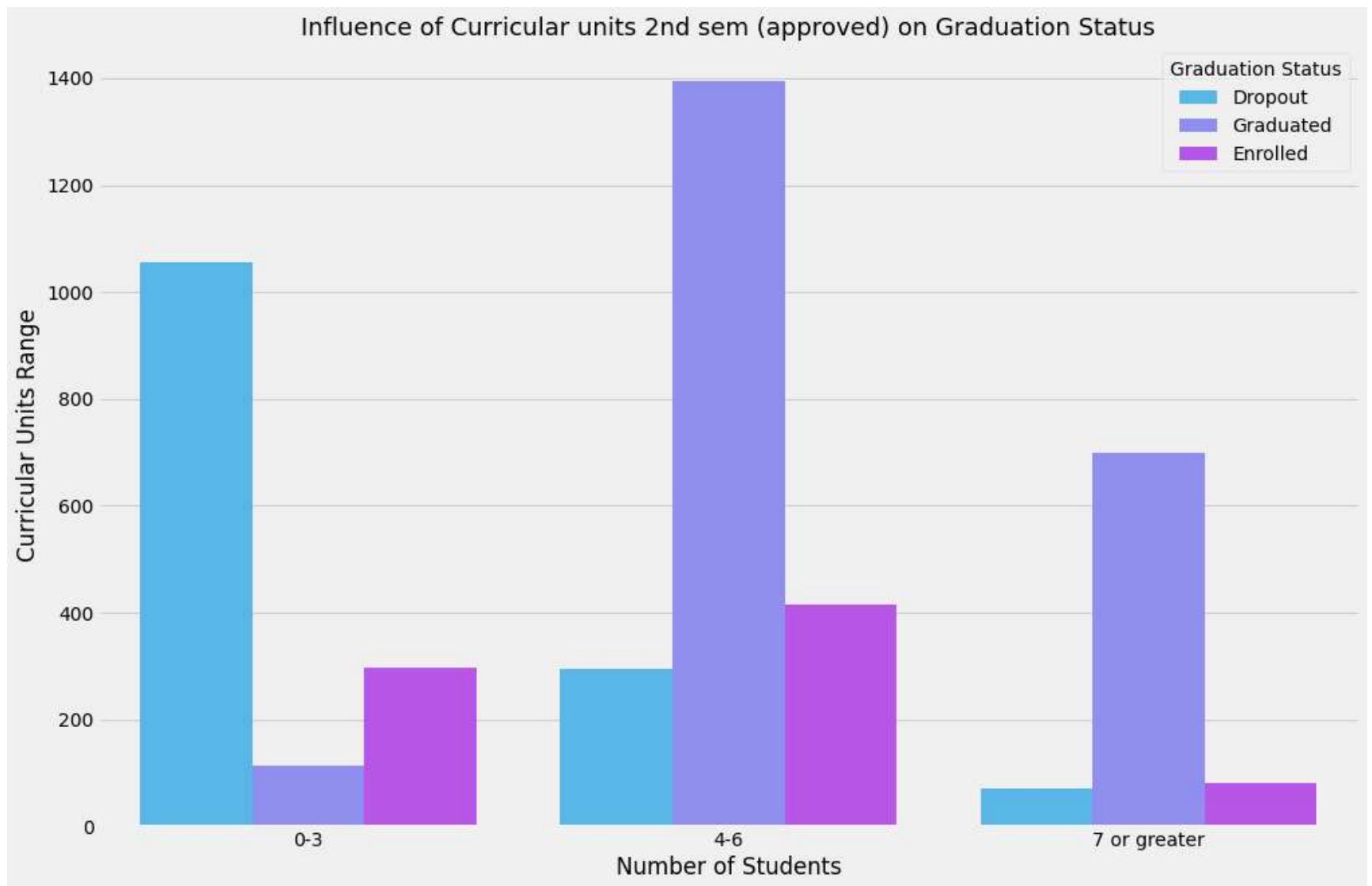
# Perform the analysis
analysis.analyze()

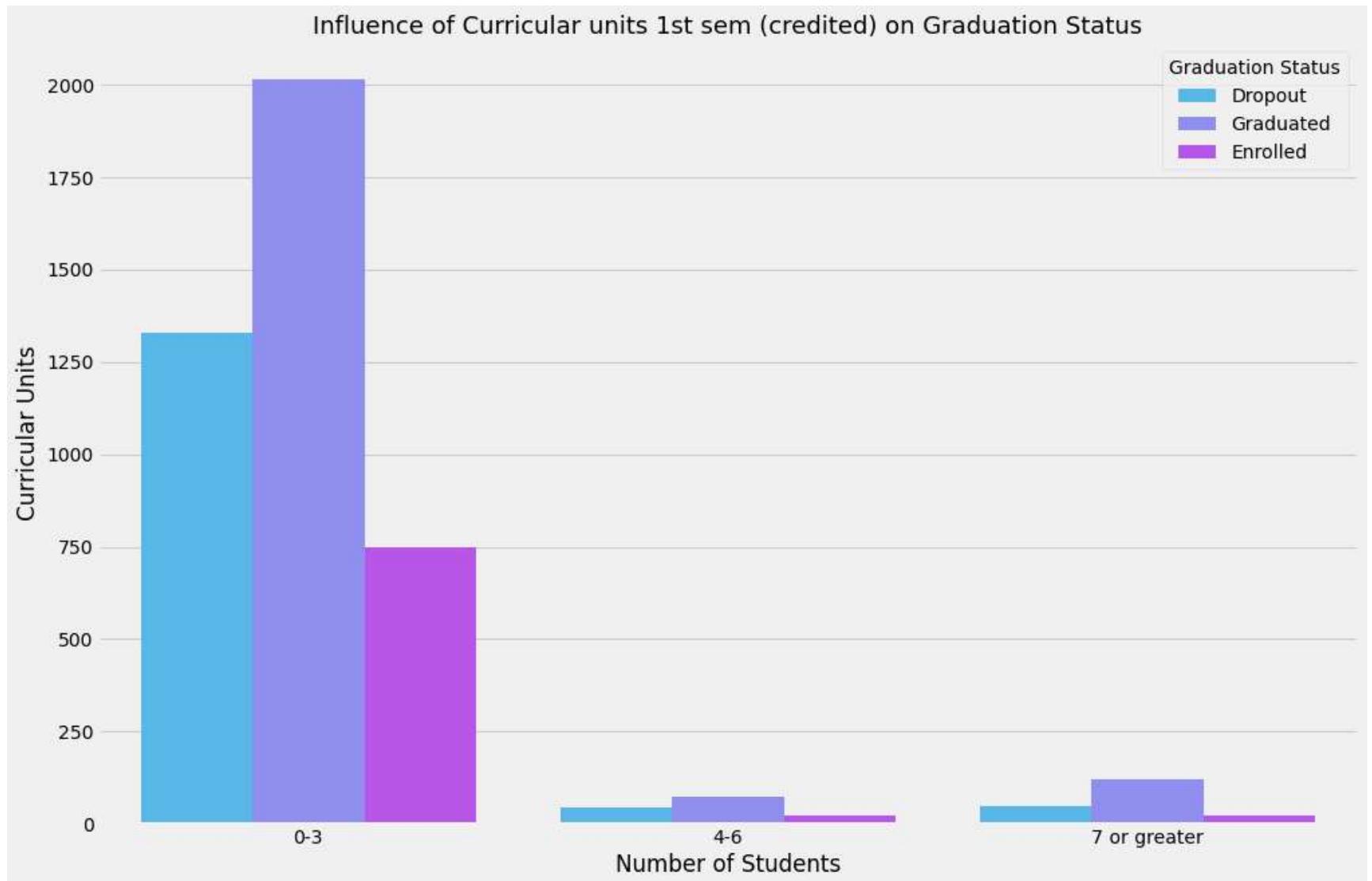
```

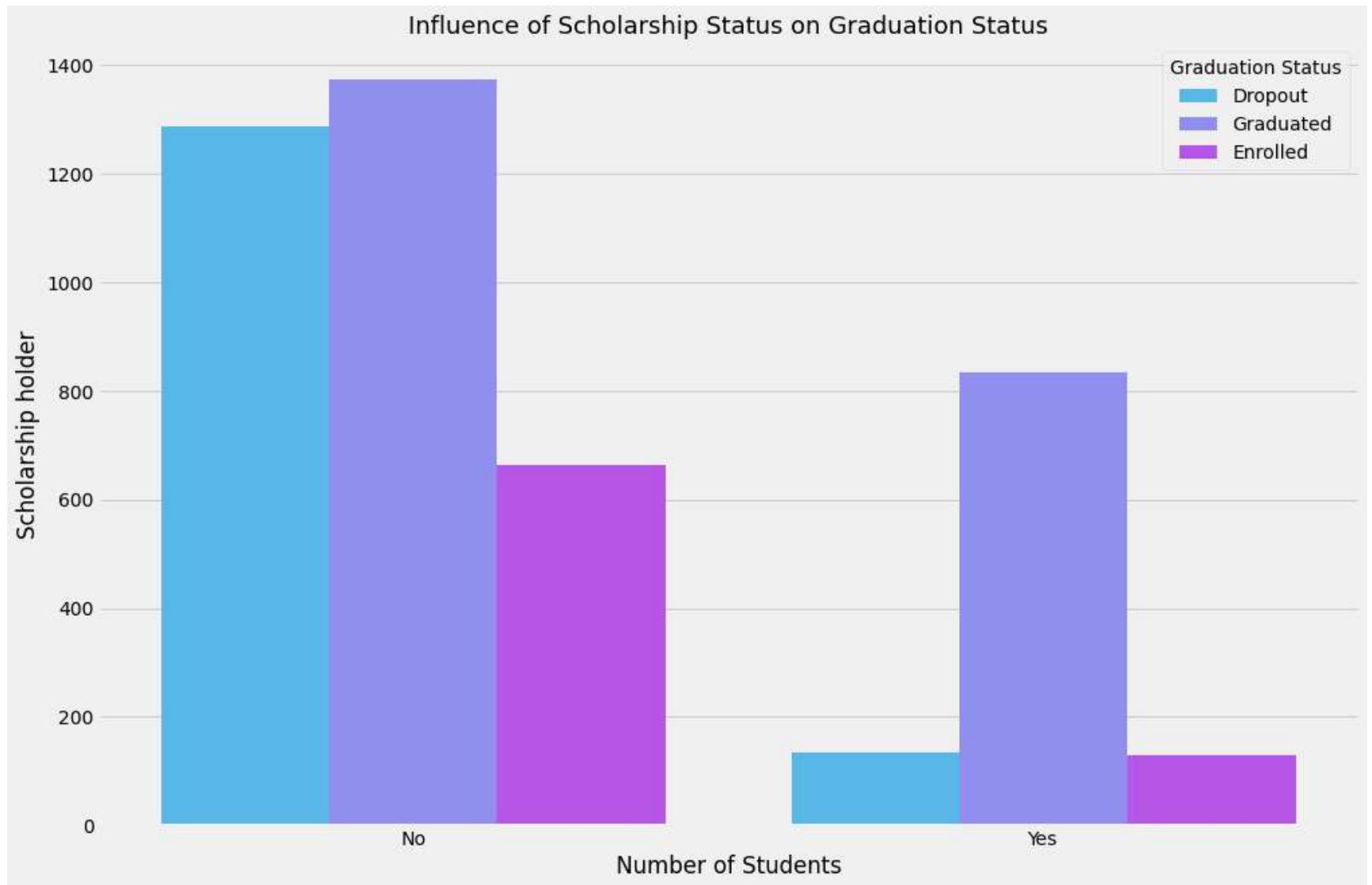
### Influence of Age Range on Graduation Status



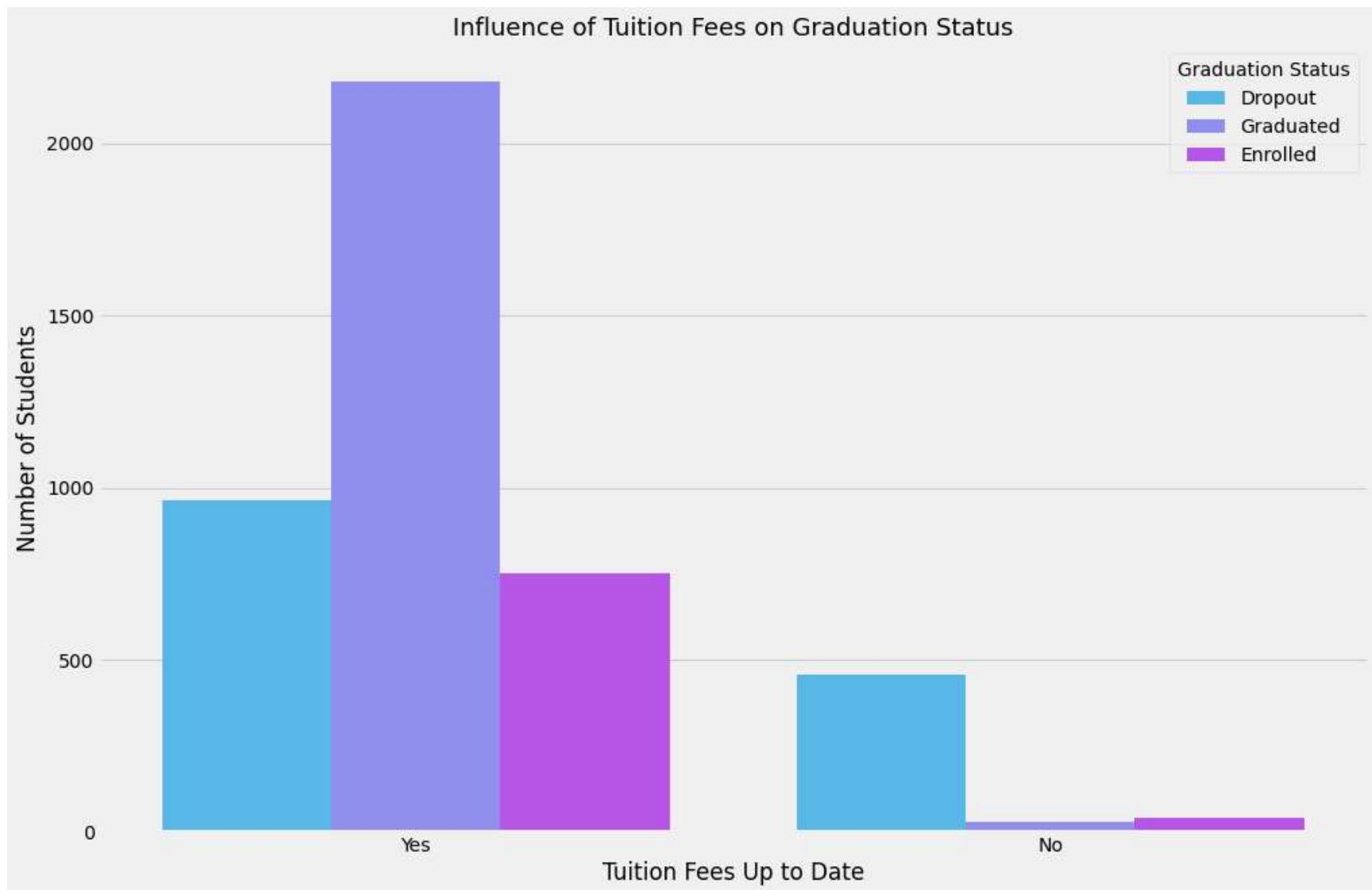


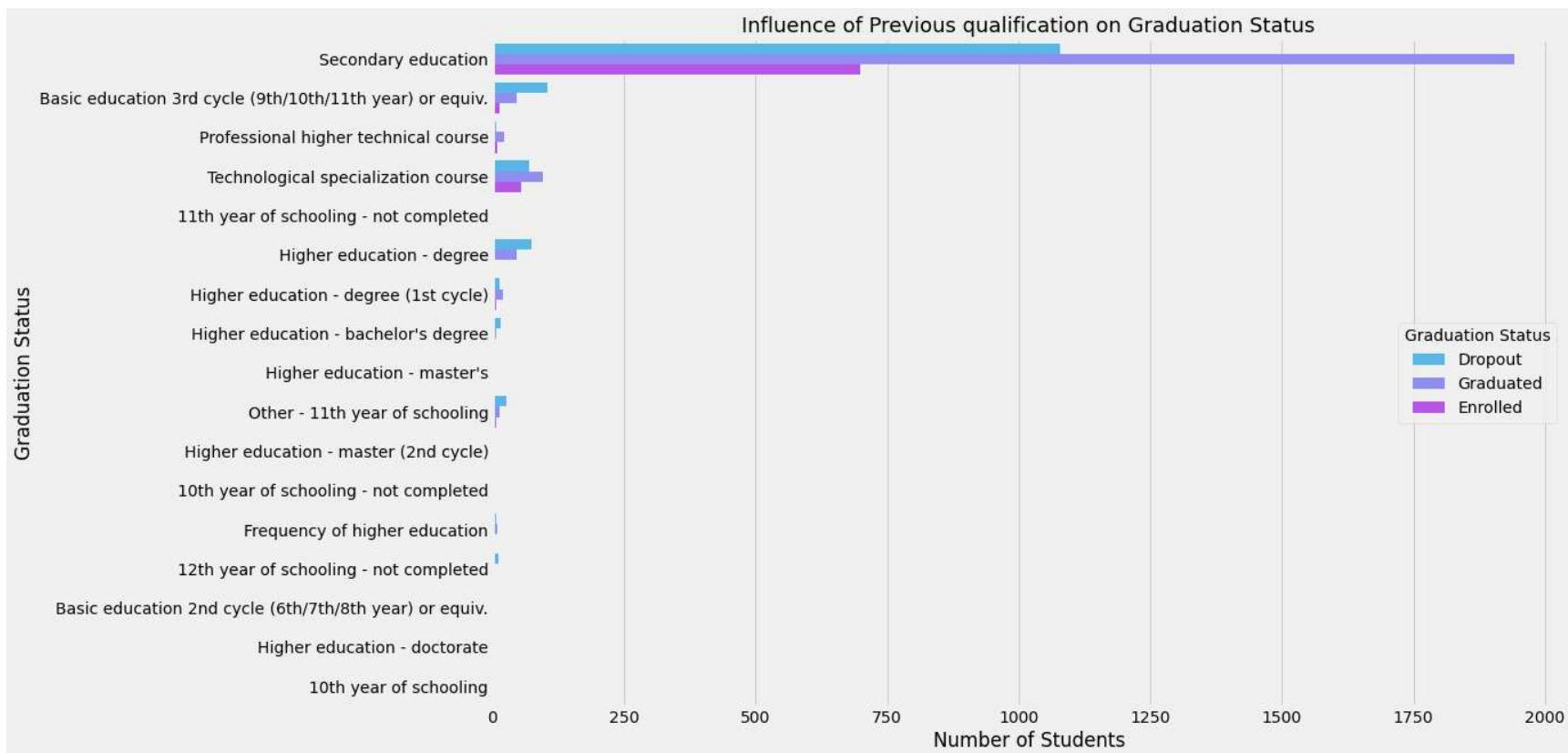






### Influence of Tuition Fees on Graduation Status





During exploration, the following trends were identified:

- Age Range and Graduation Status: The visualization shows that students in the age range of 25-35 tend to have higher enrollment and graduation rates compared to other age groups. On the other hand, students aged 50 or older have a higher dropout rate.
- Curricular Units and Graduation Status: Students who have completed 4-6 curricular units in the second semester have the highest graduation rate, while those with 7 or more units have a slightly lower graduation rate. Students with 0-3 curricular units tend to have a lower graduation rate.
- Tuition Fees and Graduation Status: Students who have their tuition fees up to date have a significantly higher graduation rate compared to those with pending fees. Paying tuition fees on time seems to positively influence graduation outcomes.
- Marital Status and Graduation Status: The analysis shows that students who are married or in a facto union have a higher graduation rate compared to other marital statuses.

- Influence of International, Displaced, and Unemployment Rate: The analysis indicates that the variables "International," "Displaced," and "Unemployment Rate" do not seem to have a significant influence on graduation status, as the graduation rates remain consistent across these categories.
- Influence of Previous Qualification: The horizontal bar chart shows the distribution of graduation status among different levels of previous qualification. Students with "Higher education - bachelor's degree," "Higher education - degree," and "Higher education - master's" tend to have higher graduation rates compared to others. Conversely, students with "Basic education 2nd cycle" and "Basic education 3rd cycle" have lower graduation rates.

I will combine this information with the results of a ternary classifier that is trained on 80% of the dataset to identify insights that will make an impact on decreasing failure rates for students in higher education.

## Model

The TernaryClassifier is a class designed to perform classification tasks on datasets with a ternary (three-class) target variable. It provides methods for data preprocessing, training multiple classification models, making predictions, and tuning hyperparameters to optimize model performance.

The name "TernaryClassifier" is derived from the term "ternary," which refers to systems or situations that involve three elements or options. In the context of classification, a ternary classification problem involves predicting one of three possible classes or categories for each data instance. For this project the models are scored using recall since we are trying to minimize academic failure rate. In particular because missing students who need academic support can have serious consequences for their educational outcomes and future prospects. A high recall ensures that a large portion of at-risk students is correctly identified, increasing the chances of providing timely and appropriate interventions to prevent academic failure.

Overview of the TernaryClassifier class:

- Constructor: The class constructor takes a pandas DataFrame (data) as input and initializes the object. The input DataFrame should contain the features (X) and the ternary target variable (y) that the classifier will predict.
- Preprocessing: The `preprocess_data()` method separates the features (X) and the target variable (y) from the input DataFrame. It then scales the feature data using StandardScaler and encodes the target variable using LabelEncoder. The scaled feature data is converted back to a DataFrame with appropriate column names and returned.

- Model Library: The class defines a library of classification models that can be used for training. The library includes models like {Logistic Regression, K-Nearest Neighbors, Support Vector Machine, Decision Trees, and Random Forests}.
- Training: The `train_model()` method trains each model in the library on the preprocessed data (X and y). It fits the models to the training data, making them ready for prediction.
- Prediction: The `predict()` method takes testing feature data (X\_test) and predicts the target variable values using all the trained models. The method returns a dictionary containing the predictions of each model.
- Hyperparameter Tuning: The class includes a `tune_parameters()` method, which can be used to tune hyperparameters for a specific classifier using GridSearchCV. This method helps optimize model performance by finding the best hyperparameters for each model.
- Training with Parameter Tuning: The `train_model_with_parameter_tuning()` method trains the classification models with their hyperparameters tuned using GridSearchCV. This method iterates through each model, performs hyperparameter tuning, and returns a dictionary of the best models with their tuned hyperparameters. Additionally, it identifies the most performative model based on the recall score.

Each of the models was trained using an 80/20 split and then evaluated using recall:

```
In [18]: class TernaryClassifier:
    def __init__(self, data):
        """
        Constructor for the TernaryClassifier class.

        Parameters:
        - data (pandas DataFrame): The dataset for the classifier.
        """

        self.data = data
        self.scaler = StandardScaler()
        # Define a Library of models
        self.models = {
            'Logistic Regression': LogisticRegression(max_iter=1000),
            'K-Nearest Neighbors': KNeighborsClassifier(),
            'Support Vector Machine': SVC(),
            'Decision Trees': DecisionTreeClassifier(),
            'Random Forest': RandomForestClassifier()
        }
```

```

def preprocess_data(self):
    # Separate features (X) and target variable (y)
    X = self.data.drop('Target', axis=1)
    y = self.data['Target']

    # Scale the input features
    scaler = StandardScaler()
    X_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X)

    # Encode the target variable
    label_encoder = LabelEncoder()
    y_encoded = label_encoder.fit_transform(y)

    # Convert X_scaled to DataFrame and set column names
    X_scaled_df = pd.DataFrame(X_scaled, columns=X.columns)

    return X_scaled_df, y_encoded

def train_model(self, X, y):
    """
    Trains the ternary classifier model on the preprocessed data.

    Parameters:
    - X (pandas DataFrame): The preprocessed feature data.
    - y (pandas DataFrame): The preprocessed target variable.

    Returns:
    - model: The trained ternary classifier model.
    """
    # Train each model in the library
    for model_name, model in self.models.items():
        model.fit(X, y)

    # Return the trained models dictionary
    return self.models

def predict(self, X_test):
    """
    Predicts the target variable values using all the trained models.

    Parameters:
    - X_test (pandas DataFrame): Testing feature data.

    Returns:
    - predictions (dict): Dictionary containing the predictions of each model.
    """

```

```

"""
predictions = {}

for model_name, model in self.models.items():
    model_predictions = model.predict(X_test)
    predictions[model_name] = model_predictions

return predictions

def tune_parameters(self, classifier, param_grid, X, y, scorer):
    """
    Tune hyperparameters of the given classifier using GridSearchCV.

    Parameters:
    - classifier: The classifier to be tuned.
    - param_grid: The dictionary containing hyperparameter grids for the classifier.
    - X (pandas DataFrame): The preprocessed feature data.
    - y (pandas DataFrame): The preprocessed target variable.
    - scorer: Scorer function to evaluate the models.

    Returns:
    - best_params: The best hyperparameters found by GridSearchCV.
    - best_score: The best recall score achieved by the classifier.
    """
    grid_search = GridSearchCV(estimator=classifier, param_grid=param_grid, scoring=scorer, cv=5)
    grid_search.fit(X, y)
    best_params = grid_search.best_params_
    best_score = grid_search.best_score_

    return best_params, best_score

def train_model_with_parameter_tuning(self, X, y):
    """
    Trains the ternary classifier model with parameter tuning on the preprocessed data.

    Parameters:
    - X (pandas DataFrame): The preprocessed feature data.
    - y (pandas DataFrame): The preprocessed target variable.

    Returns:
    - model: The trained ternary classifier model with tuned hyperparameters.
    """
    # Define a Library of models with default parameters
    models = {

```

```

'Logistic Regression': LogisticRegression(),
'K-Nearest Neighbors': KNeighborsClassifier(),
'Support Vector Machine': SVC(),
'Decision Trees': DecisionTreeClassifier(),
'Random Forest': RandomForestClassifier()
}

# Create an empty dictionary to store the best models with tuned parameters
best_models = {}
best_recall_scores = {}

# Iterate through each model in the library and perform grid search for parameter tuning
for model_name, model in models.items():
    # Get the corresponding parameter grid for the model
    model_param_grid = param_grid[model_name]

    # Perform parameter tuning using the tune_parameters function
    best_params, best_score = self.tune_parameters(model, model_param_grid, X, y, scorer=make_scorer(recall_sco

    # Set the best hyperparameters to the model
    model.set_params(**best_params)

    # Train the model with the best hyperparameters
    model.fit(X, y)

    # Store the best model in the dictionary
    best_models[model_name] = model
    best_recall_scores[model_name] = best_score

# Store the trained models with tuned parameters
self.models = best_models

# Identify the most performative model
most_performative_model = max(best_recall_scores, key=best_recall_scores.get)

# Return the dictionary of best models and the most performative model
return best_models, most_performative_model

```

## Evaluation

I created a `ModelEvaluation` class, to evaluate different classifier models for a ternary classification problem. The class contains methods to calculate evaluation metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score for each trained model. It also includes

functions to analyze feature importances for the RandomForestClassifier and identify the best hyperparameters that yield the best recall score for each model using cross-validation.

The evaluate\_models method takes a trained TernaryClassifier instance, performs predictions on the test data, and calculates various evaluation metrics for each model. The analyze\_feature\_importances function analyzes feature importances for the RandomForestClassifier and stores them in a dataframe. The calculate\_best\_scores method uses GridSearchCV to find the best hyperparameters for each model based on a specified scoring metric. Finally, the identify\_best\_parameters function identifies the best hyperparameters and their corresponding recall scores for each model.

Additionally, the class includes a plot\_feature\_importances method that can be used to visualize the feature importances of the trained models using bar plots.

Overall, the ModelEvaluation class is a versatile tool for evaluating and analyzing the performance of different classifier models on ternary classification tasks, providing valuable insights into model performance and feature importances.

```
In [19]: class ModelEvaluation:
    def __init__(self, X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test):
        """
        Constructor for the ModelEvaluation class.

        Parameters:
        - X_train (pandas DataFrame): Training feature data.
        - y_train (pandas Series or numpy array): Training target variable.
        - X_test (pandas DataFrame): Testing feature data.
        - y_test (pandas Series or numpy array): Testing target variable.
        """
        self.X_train = X_train
        self.y_train = y_train
        self.X_test = X_test
        self.y_test = y_test
        self.models = None
        self.evaluation_df = None
        self.feature_importance_df = None

    def evaluate_models(self, classifier):
        """
        Evaluates different classifier models and stores the evaluation results in a dataframe.

        Parameters:
        - classifier (TernaryClassifier): The TernaryClassifier instance.
        """

```

```

    Returns:
    - evaluation_df (pandas DataFrame): The evaluation results dataframe.
    """
    models = classifier.train_model(self.X_train, self.y_train)
    self.models = models

    evaluation_results = []
    for model_name, model in models.items():
        y_pred = model.predict(self.X_test)

        accuracy = accuracy_score(self.y_test, y_pred)
        precision = precision_score(self.y_test, y_pred, average='weighted')
        recall = recall_score(self.y_test, y_pred, average='weighted')
        f1 = f1_score(self.y_test, y_pred, average='weighted')

        evaluation_results.append({
            'Model': model_name,
            'Accuracy': accuracy,
            'Precision': precision,
            'Recall': recall,
            'F1 Score': f1
        })

    evaluation_df = pd.DataFrame(evaluation_results)
    self.evaluation_df = evaluation_df

    return evaluation_df

def analyze_feature_importances(self):
    """
    Analyzes and stores feature importances for the RandomForestClassifier.

    Returns:
    - feature_importance_df (pandas DataFrame): The feature importances dataframe.
    """
    if 'Random Forest' in self.models:
        random_forest_model = self.models['Random Forest']
        if hasattr(random_forest_model, 'feature_importances_'):
            feature_importances = random_forest_model.feature_importances_
            feature_importance_df = pd.DataFrame({'Feature': self.X_train.columns, 'Importance': feature_importance})
            self.feature_importance_df = feature_importance_df
            return feature_importance_df.info()
    else:
        print("Random Forest model does not have feature importances.")

```

```

    else:
        print("Random Forest model not found in trained models.")

    return None

def calculate_best_scores(self, param_grids, scoring):
    """
    Calculate the best scores using cross-validation with recall scoring for all specified models.

    Parameters:
    - param_grids (dict): Dictionary containing the parameter grids for each model.
    - scoring (str or callable): The scoring metric to use for evaluation.

    Returns:
    - best_scores (dict): Dictionary containing the best recall scores for each model.
    """

    best_scores = {}

    for model_name, model in self.models.items():
        param_grid = param_grids.get(model_name)

        if param_grid is not None:
            grid_search = GridSearchCV(estimator=model, param_grid=param_grid, scoring=scoring, cv=5)
            grid_search.fit(self.X_train, self.y_train)

            best_scores[model_name] = grid_search.best_score_

    return best_scores

def plot_feature_importances(self, trained_models, feature_names):
    # Create a DataFrame to store feature importances
    feature_importances_df = pd.DataFrame(index=feature_names)

    for model_name, model in trained_models.items():
        if hasattr(model, 'feature_importances_'):
            # Get the feature importances from the model
            feature_importances = model.feature_importances_

            # Store the feature importances in the DataFrame
            feature_importances_df[model_name] = feature_importances

    # Plot the feature importances
    plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8))
    sns.barplot(data=feature_importances_df.T, x=feature_importances_df.columns, y=feature_importances_df.T.mean(ax

```

```

plt.title('Feature Importances')
plt.xticks(rotation=45, ha='right')
plt.show()

def identify_best_parameters(self, param_grids, scoring):
    """
    Identify the best parameters that yield the best recall score for all specified models.

    Parameters:
    - param_grids (dict): Dictionary containing the parameter grids for each model.
    - scoring (str or callable): The scoring metric to use for evaluation.

    Returns:
    - best_parameters (dict): Dictionary containing the best parameters for each model.
    - best_recall_scores (dict): Dictionary containing the best recall scores for each model.
    """
    best_parameters = {}
    best_recall_scores = {}

    for model_name, model in self.models.items():
        param_grid = param_grids.get(model_name)

        if param_grid is not None:
            grid_search = GridSearchCV(estimator=model, param_grid=param_grid, scoring=scoring, cv=5)
            grid_search.fit(self.X_train, self.y_train)

            best_parameters[model_name] = grid_search.best_params_
            best_recall_scores[model_name] = grid_search.best_score_

    return best_parameters, best_recall_scores

```

In [20]:

```

# Instantiate the TernaryClassifier class with your data
ternary_classifier = TernaryClassifier(data)
#print('trace1')
# Preprocess the data using the TernaryClassifier class
X_scaled, y_encoded = ternary_classifier.preprocess_data()
#print('trace2')
# Split the data into training and testing sets
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X_scaled, y_encoded, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
#print('trace3')
# Define parameter grids for each model

```

```

param_grid = {
    'Logistic Regression': {'C': [0.1, 1.0, 10.0]},
    'K-Nearest Neighbors': {'n_neighbors': [3, 5, 7]},
    'Support Vector Machine': {'C': [0.1, 1.0, 10.0], 'kernel': ['linear', 'rbf']},
    'Decision Trees': {'max_depth': [None, 5, 10]},
    'Random Forest': {'n_estimators': [50, 100, 200], 'max_depth': [None, 5, 10]}
}
#print('trace4')
# Train models with parameter tuning
best_models, most_performative_model = ternary_classifier.train_model_with_parameter_tuning(X_train, y_train)
#print('trace5')
# Instantiate the ModelEvaluation class
model_evaluation = ModelEvaluation(X_train, y_train, X_test, y_test)
#print ('trace6')
# Evaluate models
evaluation_results = model_evaluation.evaluate_models(ternary_classifier)
#print('trace7')
# Display evaluation results
display(evaluation_results)
#print('trace8')
# Get the best model for each classifier
logistic_regression_model = best_models['Logistic Regression']
random_forest_model = best_models['Random Forest']
svm_model = best_models['Support Vector Machine']
decision_tree_model = best_models['Decision Trees']
knn_model = best_models['K-Nearest Neighbors']
#print('trace9')

```

	Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
<b>0</b>	Logistic Regression	0.75	0.73	0.75	0.74
<b>1</b>	K-Nearest Neighbors	0.70	0.69	0.70	0.68
<b>2</b>	Support Vector Machine	0.75	0.74	0.75	0.73
<b>3</b>	Decision Trees	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.72
<b>4</b>	Random Forest	0.76	0.75	0.76	0.75

## iNterpret

While the random forest is the most performative model with a recall score of **0.76**, we also need a way to retrieve and display the top coefficients or feature importances for each of the models if they are available. With this in mind, we calculated the absolute values of the coefficients for logistic regression and sorting them in descending order to show the most influential features in predicting the target variable. If the Logistic Regression model does not have coefficients, it notifies the user that they are unavailable. Afterward, we identify the top 5 feature importances for models such as Random Forest, Support Vector Machines, Decision Trees, and K-Nearest Neighbors. Our code displays the most important features and their corresponding importances for each model. In case a model does not have feature importances, the code alerts the user accordingly.

```
In [21]: # Get the top 10 coefficients for Logistic Regression
if hasattr(logistic_regression_model, 'coef_'):
    coef_abs = abs(logistic_regression_model.coef_[0])
    top_5_coefficients = sorted(list(zip(ternary_classifier.data.drop('Target', axis=1).columns, coef_abs)), key=lambda
        print("Top 5 Coefficients for Logistic Regression:")
        for feature, coef in top_5_coefficients:
            print(f"{feature}: {coef}")
        print("\n")
else:
    print("Logistic Regression model does not have coefficients.")
#print('trace10')
# Get the top 5 feature importances for Random Forest, Support Vector Machines, Decision Trees, and K-Nearest Neighbors
models_to_analyze = [random_forest_model, svm_model, decision_tree_model, knn_model]
model_names = ['Random Forest', 'Support Vector Machine', 'Decision Trees', 'K-Nearest Neighbors']
#print('trace11')
for model, model_name in zip(models_to_analyze, model_names):
    if hasattr(model, 'feature_importances_'):
        feature_importances = model.feature_importances_
        top_5_features = sorted(list(zip(ternary_classifier.data.drop('Target', axis=1).columns, feature_importances)), key=lambda
            print(f"Top 5 Feature Importances for {model_name}:")
            for feature, importance in top_5_features:
                print(f"{feature}: {importance}")
            print("\n")
    else:
        print(f"{model_name} model does not have feature importances.")
```

```
Top 5 Coefficients for Logistic Regression:  
Curricular units 2nd sem (approved): 1.4406130311414413  
Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled): 0.9379467613448992  
Curricular units 1st sem (approved): 0.9284216462299857  
Tuition fees up to date: 0.5393465430753019  
Curricular units 2nd sem (grade): 0.479125037413678
```

```
Top 5 Feature Importances for Random Forest:  
Curricular units 2nd sem (approved): 0.14406489952064935  
Curricular units 2nd sem (grade): 0.10700750571270168  
Curricular units 1st sem (approved): 0.08976883790921418  
Curricular units 1st sem (grade): 0.0708387823689776  
Admission grade: 0.042196997614266894
```

Support Vector Machine model does not have feature importances.

```
Top 5 Feature Importances for Decision Trees:  
Curricular units 2nd sem (approved): 0.7340676173420965  
Tuition fees up to date: 0.08683122950372858  
Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled): 0.06661136590598447  
Curricular units 1st sem (evaluations): 0.021620120640126576  
Age at enrollment: 0.015020568606347337
```

K-Nearest Neighbors model does not have feature importances.

```
In [22]: # Instantiate the TernaryClassifier class with your data  
ternary_classifier = TernaryClassifier(cleaned_data)  
  
# Preprocess the data using the TernaryClassifier class  
X_scaled, y_encoded = ternary_classifier.preprocess_data()  
  
# Split the data into training and testing sets  
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X_scaled, y_encoded, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)  
  
# Assuming you have already trained the KNN model in the TernaryClassifier class  
knn_model = ternary_classifier.models['K-Nearest Neighbors']  
  
# Perform feature scaling on the training data  
scaler = MinMaxScaler()  
X_train_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X_train)  
  
# Create a SelectKBest selector and fit it with the training data  
k_best_selector = SelectKBest(score_func=chi2, k=5)
```

```

X_train_k_best = k_best_selector.fit_transform(X_train_scaled, y_train)

# Get the support (selected) features from SelectKBest
selected_features_indices = k_best_selector.get_support(indices=True)
selected_features = X_train.columns[selected_features_indices]

# Print the top 3 selected features
print("Top 5 selected features by SelectKBest with KNN:")
for feature in selected_features:
    print(feature)

```

Top 5 selected features by SelectKBest with KNN:

Debt  
Scholarship holder  
Curricular units 1st sem (grade)  
Curricular units 2nd sem (approved)  
Curricular units 2nd sem (grade)

In [23]:

```

# Instantiate the TernaryClassifier class with your data
ternary_classifier = TernaryClassifier(cleaned_data)

# Preprocess the data using the TernaryClassifier class
X_scaled, y_encoded = ternary_classifier.preprocess_data()

# Split the data into training and testing sets
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X_scaled, y_encoded, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)

# Assuming you have already trained the SVM model in the TernaryClassifier class
svm_model = ternary_classifier.models['Support Vector Machine']

# Perform feature scaling on the training data
scaler = MinMaxScaler()
X_train_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X_train)

# Create an RFE selector and fit it with the trained SVM model
rfe_selector = RFE(estimator=SVC(kernel='linear'), n_features_to_select=5)
rfe_selector.fit(X_train_scaled, y_train)

# Get the support (selected) features from RFE
selected_features_indices = rfe_selector.get_support(indices=True)
selected_features = X_train.columns[selected_features_indices]

# Print the top 5 selected features
print("Top 5 selected features by RFE with SVM:")

```

```
for feature in selected_features:  
    print(feature)
```

Top 5 selected features by RFE with SVM:  
Curricular units 1st sem (enrolled)  
Curricular units 1st sem (approved)  
Curricular units 2nd sem (credited)  
Curricular units 2nd sem (enrolled)  
Curricular units 2nd sem (approved)

## Insights

The feature importances from the Random Forest model and the coefficients from the Logistic Regression model both highlight the significant role of curricular units in the 2nd semester in predicting academic failure. Students who have more approved units in the 2nd semester demonstrate a higher likelihood of academic success. To effectively reduce the rate of academic failure, the student success team from the Instituto Politécnico de Portalegre should focus on supporting and guiding students to pass more units in the 2nd semester.

The Logistic Regression model emphasizes the importance of being up-to-date with tuition fees as a crucial factor in predicting academic success. Although it may not be among the top 5 feature importances for Random Forest, timely tuition fee payments are still relevant. To mitigate academic failure, the student success team should implement strategies to ensure that students stay on top of their tuition fee payments, such as providing clear payment reminders and offering financial assistance when needed.

Both models underscore the significance of performance-related features, including grades and evaluations in the 1st and 2nd semesters. Students who excel in these evaluations demonstrate a higher likelihood of academic success. To reduce academic failure, the student success team should closely monitor early academic performance and provide additional support or interventions to students who may be struggling in their evaluations or obtaining low grades.

In light of these insights, I recommend the student success team from the Instituto Politécnico de Portalegre to adopt a multifaceted approach. By combining academic support, monitoring tuition fee payments, and providing early interventions based on performance, the team can effectively promote student success and improve overall student outcomes. Leveraging data-driven insights, the student success team can tailor their efforts and allocate resources strategically to better support students and foster a culture of academic achievement.

### Insight 1: Curricular Units in 2nd Semester Matter

- Students with more approved units in the 2nd semester have a higher chance of academic success.

- The number of enrolled units in the 2nd semester also positively impacts academic outcomes.
- Encouraging students to pass more units in the 2nd semester can lead to a reduced rate of academic failure.

**Focusing on students' progress and success in their 2nd-semester curricular units can significantly contribute to reducing the rate of academic failure.**

## **Insight 2: Monitoring Tuition Fee Payments is Pivotal**

Being up-to-date with tuition fees is crucial for predicting academic success. Timely tuition fee payments correlate with better student outcomes. Implementing strategies to ensure prompt tuition fee payments can positively impact academic performance and reduce failure rates.

**By closely monitoring and supporting students to stay on track with tuition fee payments, institutions can foster an environment that reduces the rate of academic failure.**

## **Insight 3: Evaluations and Grades are Crucial**

Academic performance in the 1st and 2nd semester evaluations significantly influences students' likelihood of success. Students who achieve higher grades tend to have better academic outcomes overall. Early identification and intervention for students struggling with evaluations or grades can lead to improved academic performance and decreased failure rates.

**Prioritizing academic support and intervention based on early evaluations and grades can effectively contribute to minimizing the rate of academic failure.**

## **Future Work**

I am interested in exploring how to apply XGBoost, a powerful gradient boosting algorithm to a ternary (3 class) classification model. XGBoost handles large datasets and captures complex interactions between features. This could enhance predictive modeling for academic success, improving accuracy and interpretability. Employing a robust hyperparameter tuning process, like grid search or Bayesian optimization, can fine-tune model parameters for better results.

Extending the analysis to include US universities may also provide valuable insights. Identifying common factors influencing student success across diverse contexts is possible. Understand how these factors vary between institutions. I would like to strengthen both the generalizability and the ability to tailor interventions that are research driven to address academic challenges.

By leveraging advanced techniques and cross-institutional analyses, educational research advances that leverage evidence-based practices, we can systematically improve student outcomes.

I want to craft a set of informed decisions and targeted interventions that reduce the rate of academic failure effectively.