CEE

UC Davis Center for Educational Effectiveness

Washington Program

2006-2017 Quantitative Landscape Analysis

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Introduction

The Washington Program (WP) is an internship program run out of the Office of Undergraduate Education at UC Davis. The WP provides undergraduate students the opportunity to have a professional internship in the Washington D.C. Metro area. During the 15-16 academic year the Washington Program approached CEE with a request for a landscape analysis of their program, the following report presents the findings of that analysis.

Sample

CEE was provided with the data of 2,078 students who had either applied to be in WP or were accepted and completed the program. Data was included for students going back to 2006, a few students appear in the upcoming 16-17 academic year because of the recruitment and placement strategy of WP.

Research Questions

The following research questions were established after CEE team members and the Director of the Washington Program met to discuss the objectives of the analysis.

1. Who is being recruited and applying to the Washington Program?
2. Who is being accepted into the Washington Program?
3. Does the Washington Program have an effect on students' graduation?

Analysis

In order to analyze the previous questions a landscape analysis was undertaken by the CEE team. This included appending relevant demographic information about students to the original dataset, running descriptive statistics, and statistical modeling. All the analysis was conducted using the R statistical program.

Who is being recruited and applying to the Washington Program?

Between 2006 and 2016 a total of 2,708 students applied to be a part of the WP. Once a student applied one of seven determinations was granted to a student; Approved, Deferred, Denied, Dropped, Pending, Submitted, and Waitlisted. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of determination by year.
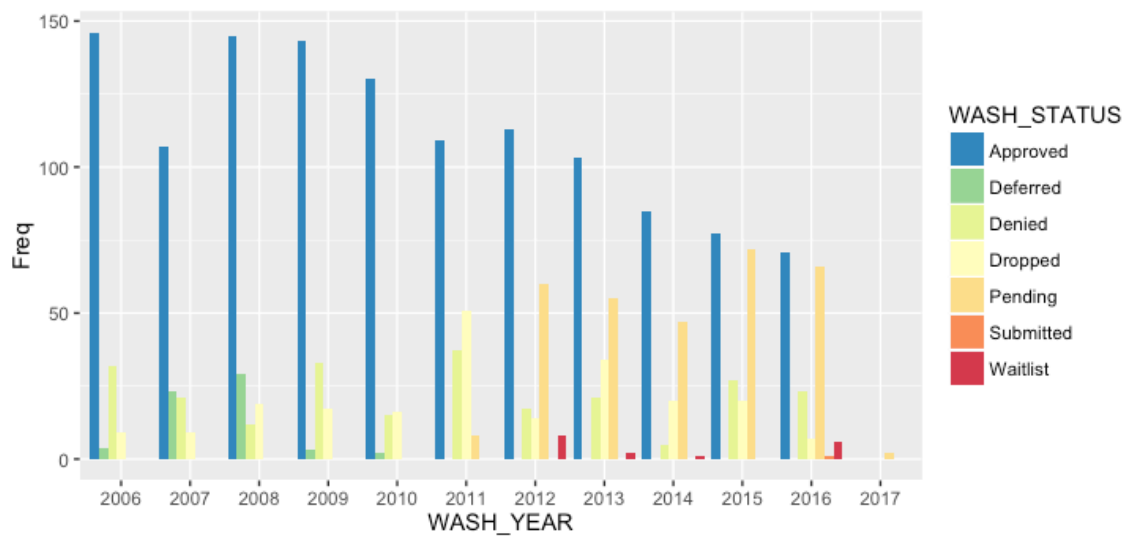
Figure 1. Washington Status by Academic Year

The WP appears to have had a steady decline in the amount of students accepted into the program, as well as varied acceptance patterns. At the peak the WP was accepting close to 150 students but by 2016 that number has dropped to 77 students. It also appears that no one is getting deferred after 2010, perhaps admission practices have changed for the WP program since then.
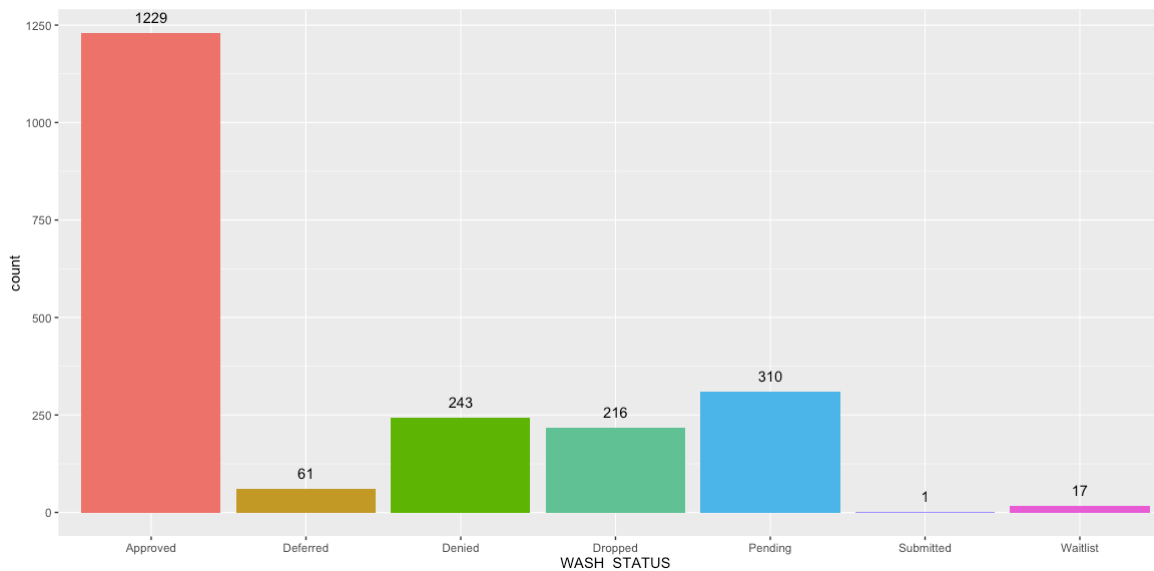

Figure 2. Washington Status Overall

Figure 2 above shows the Washington Program determination for the entire sample of students who applied. The WP has an overall acceptance rate of 59%, a small percentage of 11% are denied admission into the program. Very few students are deferred or put on a waitlist.
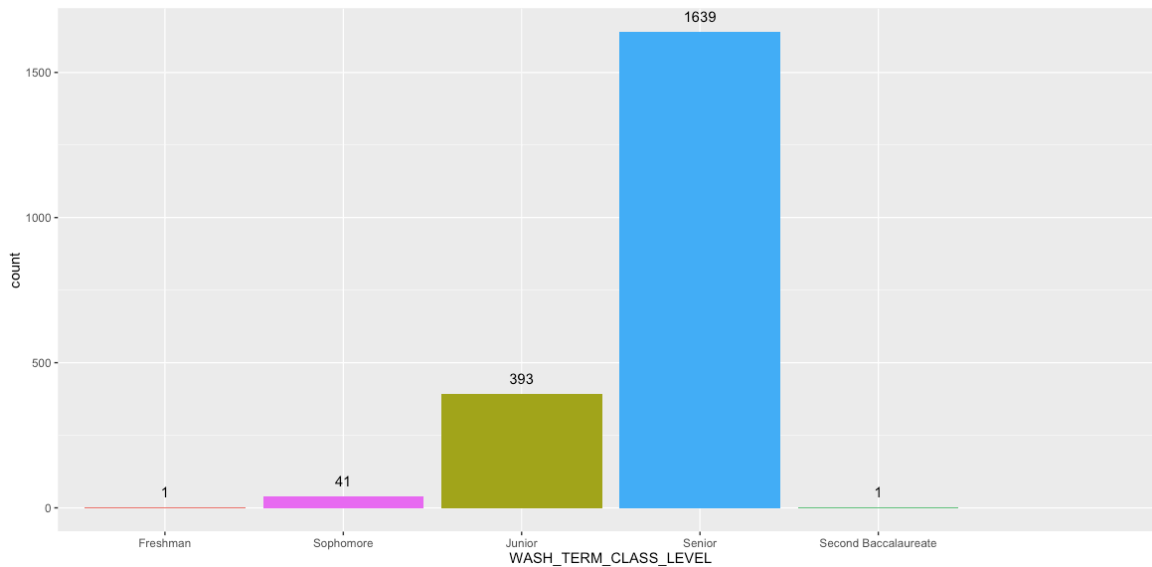
Figure 3. Washington Program Applicants by Class Standing

Students who applied for the WP are almost exclusively upper classmen, 98% of them are either Juniors or Seniors (Figure 3). The program does not seem to be attracting/recruiting freshman or sophomore students.

Demographic descriptives for entire WP sample:

Variable	Percent
Low Income	31.2%
International	2.5%
Transfers	24.5%
Female	68.8%
URM	26.0%
First Generation	31.2%
STEM Major	24.7%

A demographic view of the WP applicants shows that they are attracting women (69%) and students who come into UCD as freshman (76%). Applicants are more likely to be Non-URM, Non-First Generation, and be Non-STEM. This is likely due to a mix of smaller samples of URM and FG in the overall UCD population and that people belonging to traditionally low-SES groups perhaps might not have the means to pay for the WP cost on top of normal tuition.
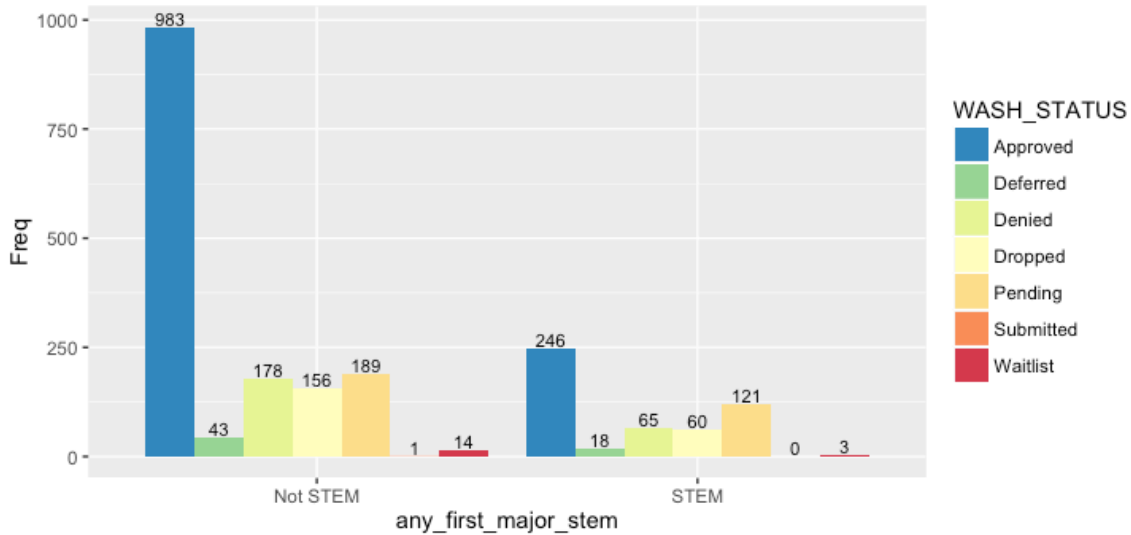
Figure 4. Washington Program STEM vs. Non-STEM Major

One of the variables of interest for the WP was a students major and discipline. The WP program attracts a large proportion of Non-STEM majors. This is not surprising given the fact that the WP by design would attract students who are in non-stem fields given DC's focus on government, political science, and social sciences.

In order to provide more detail students actual major was analyzed. Since there are hundreds of majors a student can have, the analysis focused on majors with more than 1%, listed below.

Major titles with over 1% acceptance (decreasing order):

Major	Percent
Political Science	14.8%
International Relations	9.6%
Economics	4.0%
Communications	3.2%
History	3.1%
Psychology	2.8%
Agricultural Management	2.7%
Sociology	2.3%
Public Service	1.5%
Community and Regional Development	1.4%
English	1.4%
Environmental Policy Analysis	1.2%

Not surprising the majority of students who applied to the WP were political science majors, followed by International Relations, and Economics. The majority of students

come from the College of Letters and Science, followed by the College of Agriculture. Most of the majors that apply are humanities majors but there are some that are more Economics/Business related.

Discipline titles with over 1% acceptance (decreasing order):

UCD Discipline	Percent
Social Sciences (GRSOC)	50.6%
AES - Human Sciences (HUMSC)	9.0%
Humanities, Arts (GRHMN)	4.2%
Biological Sciences (GRBIO)	4.1%
AES - Environmental Sciences (ENVSC)	3.0%
Engineering (ENGIN)	1.1%

The table above breaks down a student's academic discipline. The WP seems to be attracting a large proportion of Social Sciences students, followed by Human Sciences, and Humanities and Arts. As mentioned above this is not surprising given the focus of the WP.

Who is being accepted in to the Washington Program?

Of the 2,078 students that applied to the WP, 59% of them were accepted (n = 1,229). As previously mentioned the WP has had a steady decline in the number of students that were accepted (Figure 5). This may be due to budgetary reasons of the WP as discussed with the WP program director.
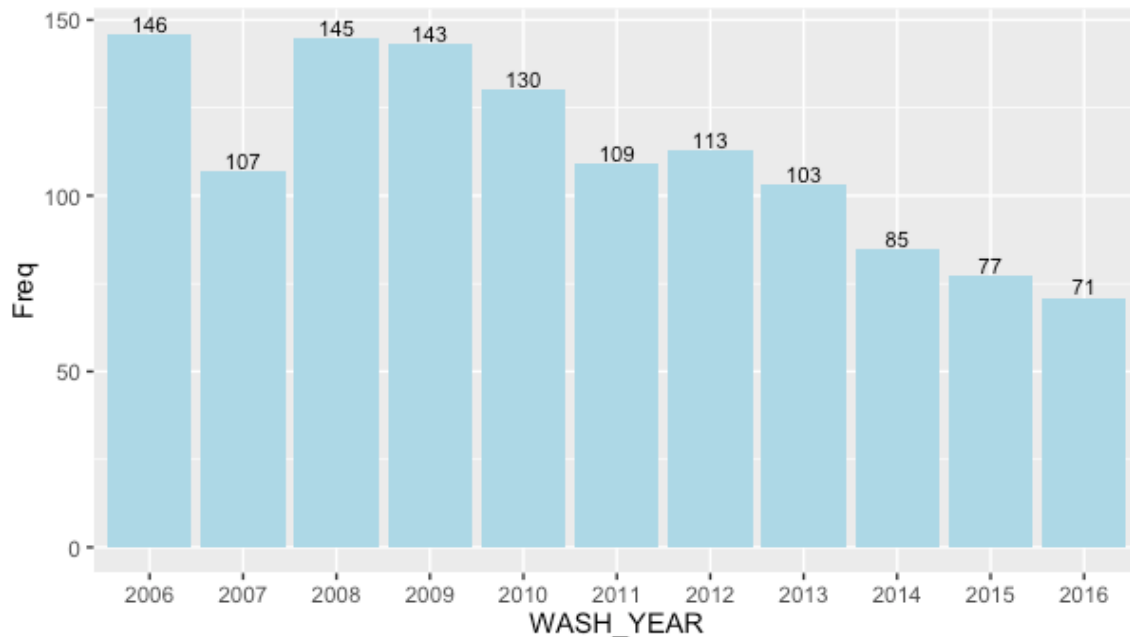

Figure 5. Washington Program Accepted Students

Figure 6 shows the class standing of students who were accepted into the WP. Students who were accepted for the WP are almost exclusively upper classmen, 98% of them are either Juniors or Seniors, there was one student who was receiving their second bachelor's degree.
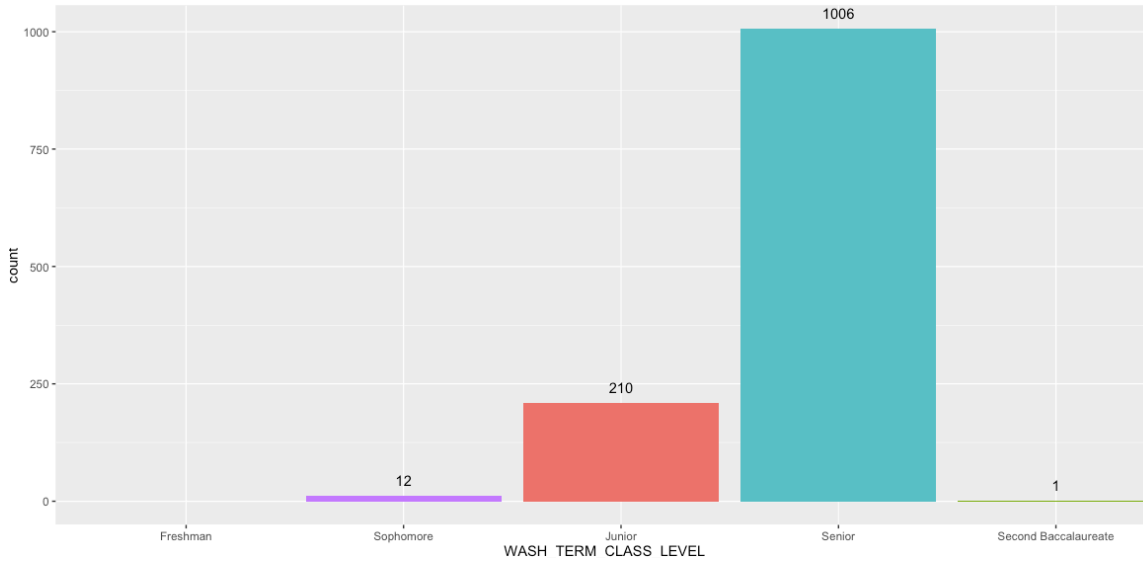

Figure 6. Washington Status Accepted Students Only

Demographic descriptives for accepted WP sample:

Variable	Percent
Low Income	30.9%
International	1.5%
Freshman Starts	79.8%
Female	69.1%
URM	25.3%
First Generation	30.9%
STEM Major	20.0%

Students who are accepted into the WP are more likely to be women (69%), Non-URM (75%), Non-FG (69%), and not considered low-income (69%). Accepted students predominantly come from non-STEM majors. The following figures summarize the demographic findings.