

Predictors of Student Attrition at CHHS

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Research Questions

1. What are the predictors for CHHS students dropping out of the university?
2. What are the predictors for migration out of CHHS to another college?

Introduction

There is a concern about attrition and migration to other majors in CHHS, which varies in different departments.

To better support students, it is necessary to explore if there are CHHS students' characteristics that make them more likely to drop out of the university or move to another college.

Methods

Participants

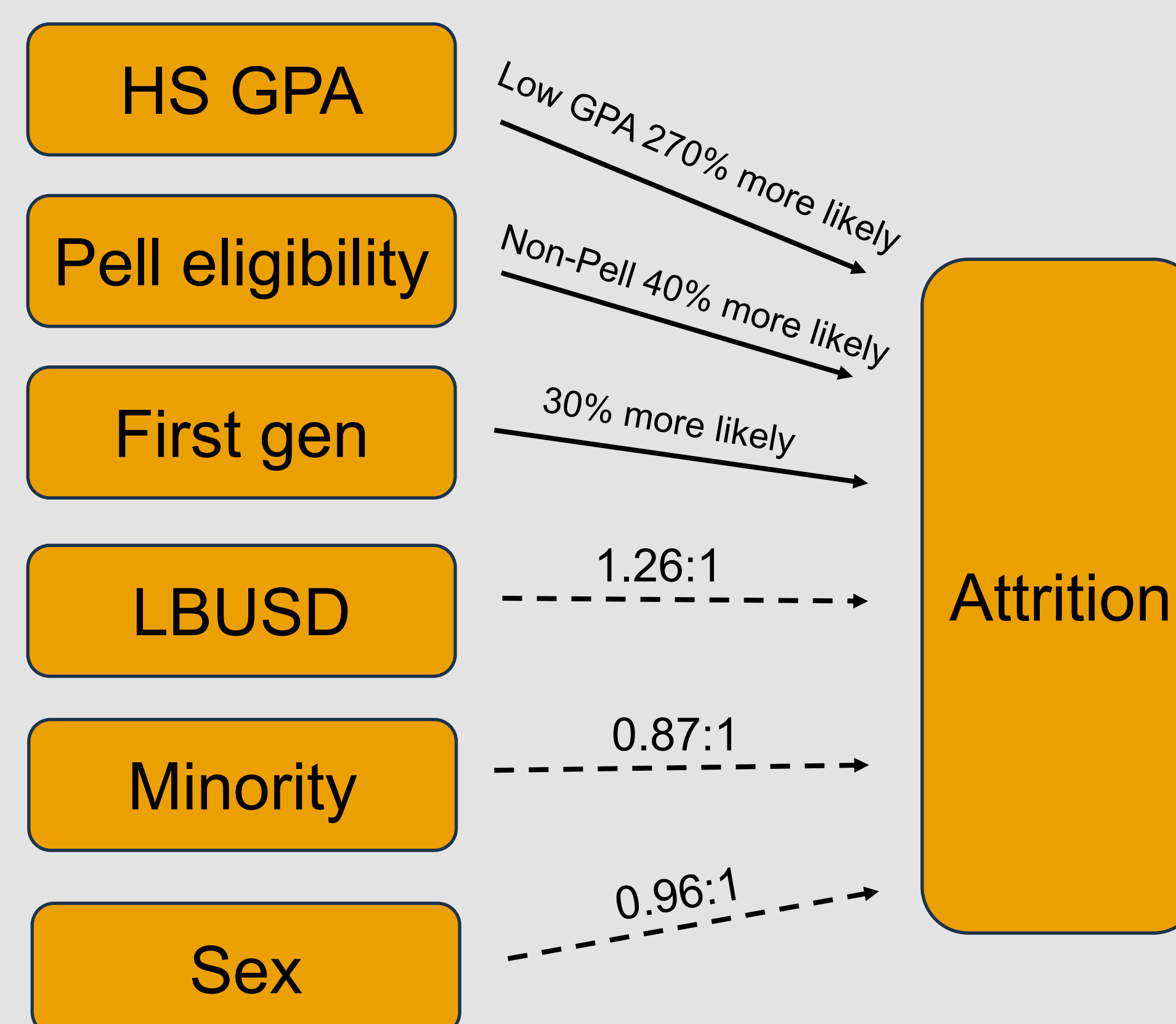
2,410 first time, first year undergraduate students who started at CSULB between Fall 2016 and Spring 2019. 75.3% identified as female, 56.5% were Pell eligible (combined traditional and non-traditional), 31.2% were first-generation students (parents never attended any college), 50.9% were underrepresented minorities, and 18.3% were from the LBUSD.

Data Analysis

Binary logistic regressions predicting attrition by the third semester and migration by the fifth semester, which were the peak semester for each. Predictors included sex, Pell eligibility, first-generation status, URM, and attending LBUSD.

Results

Predictors for attrition of CHHS by Sem 3:



Note: Continuous line indicates $p < .05$

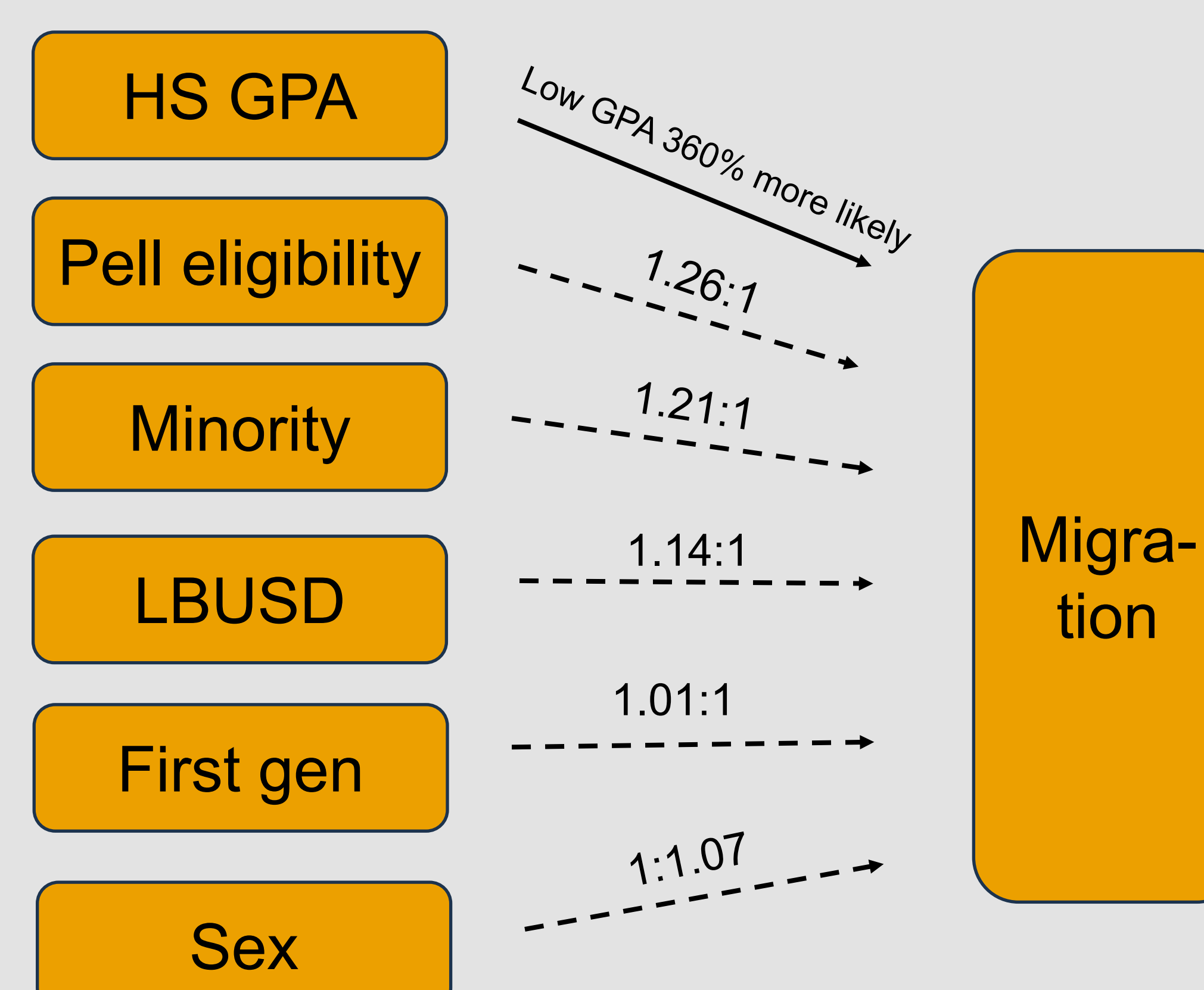
*Model was not strong – $R^2 = .04$

Attrition by Department:

While only 24.7% of CHHS students in these cohorts were Nursing majors, students in this major represented 35.9% of CHHS attrition from the university by semester 3.

- **High school GPA** predicted attrition in all departments across CHHS, except for Recreation and Health Sciences.
- **Minority students** were more likely to drop out of Kinesiology and less likely to drop out of Social Work.
- **LBUSD** students were more likely to drop out of Criminology, FCS, Health Care Admin, Health Sciences, and Kinesiology.
- There were no differences in **Pell eligibility** and **first-generation** students.

Predictors for migration out of CHHS by Sem 5:



*Model was not strong – $R^2 = .07$

Where do they go?

College	N (%)
Liberal Arts	293 (18.5%)
Business	67 (4.2%)
Education	34 (2.1%)
Natural Sciences & Mathematics	22 (1.4%)
The Arts	14 (0.9%)
Engineering	8 (0.5%)
University Programs	5 (0.3%)

Note: 1,364 (75.4%) of the students stayed in CHHS.

Migration by Department:

Department with the highest migration percentage within CHHS:

- Criminal justice: 24.5% of cohort → 34.2% of migration to another college.

Conclusion / Discussion

- High school GPA was the only variable that was a significant predictor of both attrition and migration. CSULB should consider providing more support to students admitted with lower GPAs.
- CHHS students who were not eligible for Pell Grants were more likely to drop out of CSULB by semester 3. Policies and financial aid may include increased support to students who are close to eligibility.
- Despite CSULB's efforts to support first-generation students, they are still more likely to drop out of the university. More effective programs should be considered.
- Nursing and criminal justice departments may consider their alignment to other majors to facilitate migration for further education.

Implications for Action

- Offering additional support for students who need remediation courses for their lower HS GPA and may need extra time to graduate.
- Offering more financial support to students who are not Pell eligible.
- Exploring other high impact practices to support first-generation students.

Next Steps / Future Directions

- Deeper analysis of the effectiveness of support provided to first-generation students.
- There is a need for more information about transition of high school students into CHHS, including high school career pathways. This information would have the potential to help support their transition and their likelihood of persistence and retention.