

Backtracking CTE Students in Two-Year Programs



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Introduction

In this study, we explore the pathways of the 18-19 cohort of Information Technology students who graduated from 2-year Associates of Arts (AA) and/or Associates of Science (AS) degree programs to determine their employment and educational outcomes. We use the Backtracking Technique to follow 3,109 alumni who graduated from Tallahassee Community College, of which 1,016 received an AA and 40 an AS degree.

Research Question

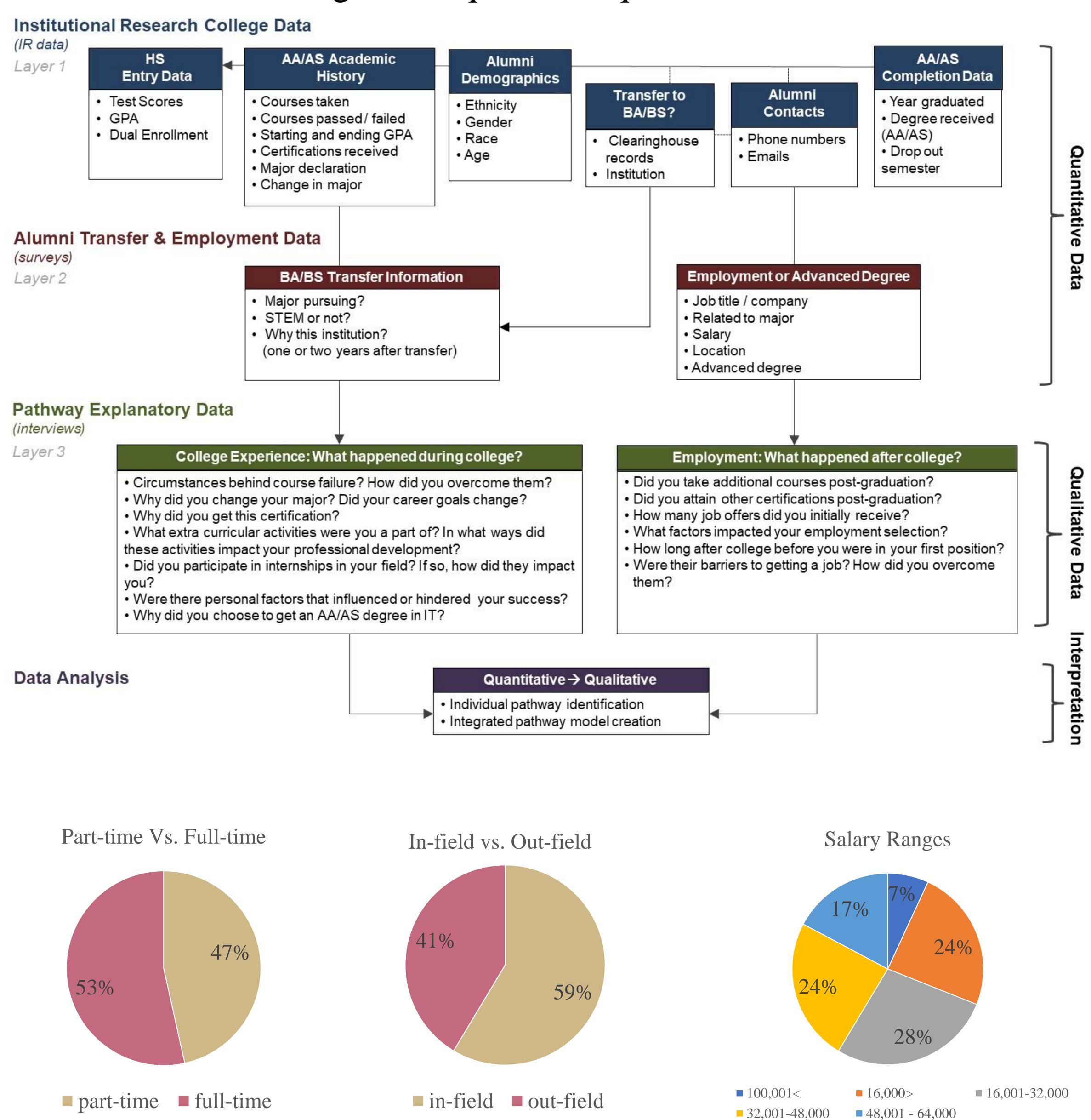
What are the employment outcomes of AA and AS degree-completers at TCC pursuing an IT career?

Conclusions and Future Work

The findings are preliminary and represent a response rate of 7% (n = 73) of completers with the data collection ongoing. This information can be used to improve the community college experience for future students who are considering a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program and/or bachelor's degree in computing or technology, as well as to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses in academic and support services. The study also has implications for studying underserved groups in STEM.

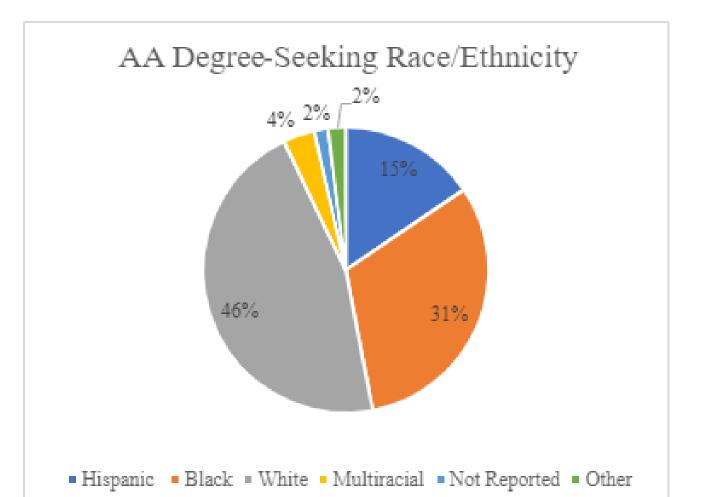
Method

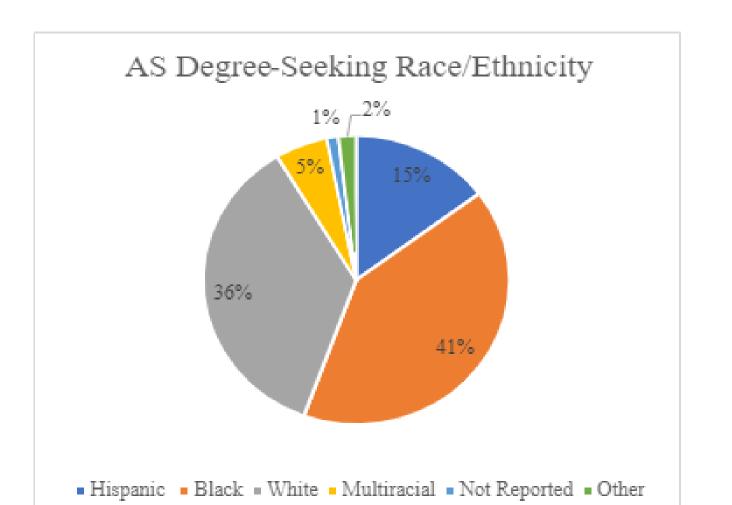
Backtracking Technique - A Sequential Mixed Method

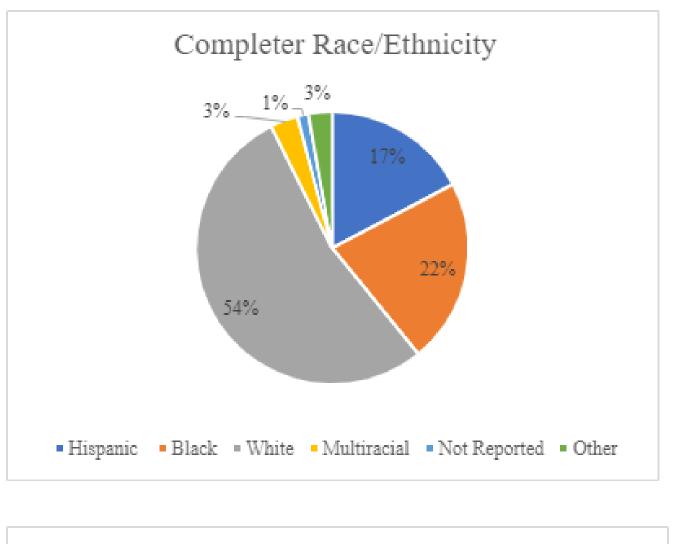


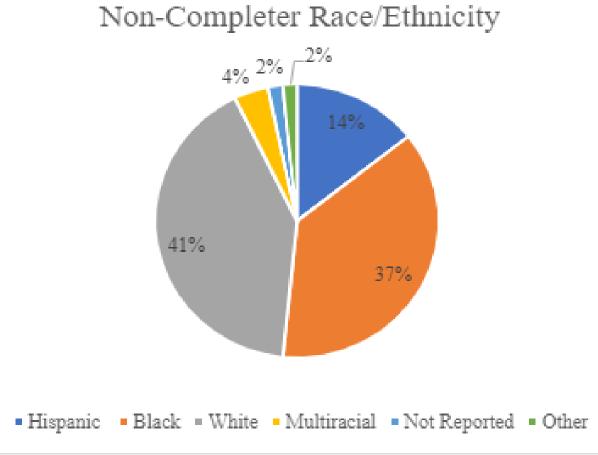
Demographics

(18-19 cohort)









References

Nerio R, Webber A, MacLachlan E, Lopatto D, Caplan AJ. *One-Year Research Experience for Associate's Degree Students Impacts Graduation, STEM Retention, and Transfer Patterns*. CBE Life Sci Educ. 2019 Jun;18(2):ar25. doi: 10.1187/cbe.19-02-0042. PMID: 31150320; PMCID: PMC6755225.

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