

Interprofessional Academic Enrichment Programs and Dental Admissions Success

Lindsay Smith, Susie Goolsby, DDS, MSHA, Caroline Carrico, PhD, Riki Gottlieb, DMD, MS

Introduction

The VCU Summer Academic Enrichment Program assists college students from diverse backgrounds in their preparation and application for professional school. This program simulates the rigor, time commitment, and structure of professional school. All participants complete:

- Three core courses taught at a professional level
- Learning skills workshops
- Mock interview sessions
- Community service activities
- Healthcare seminars
- Discipline-specific lab activities

Upon completion, students receive a performance evaluation based on grades, performance in their discipline-specific instruction, and observation of non-cognitive factors.

Results

Of the 150 students enrolled in VCU SAEP Dental Track from 2008 to 2016:

- 68% were admitted into a professional program
 - 38% of those attended the VCU School of Dentistry

The following factors were significantly associated with a program participants eventual acceptance into professional school:

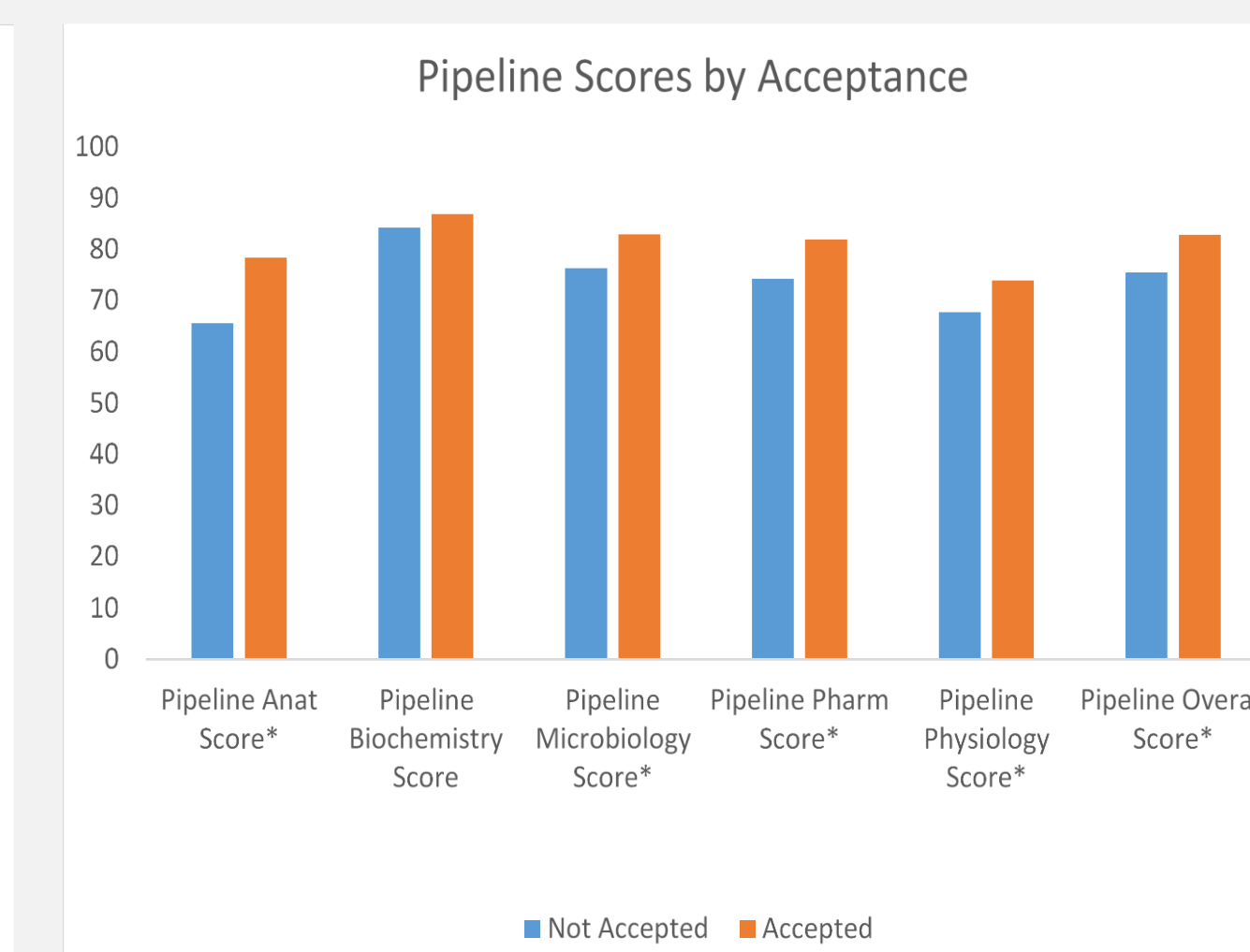
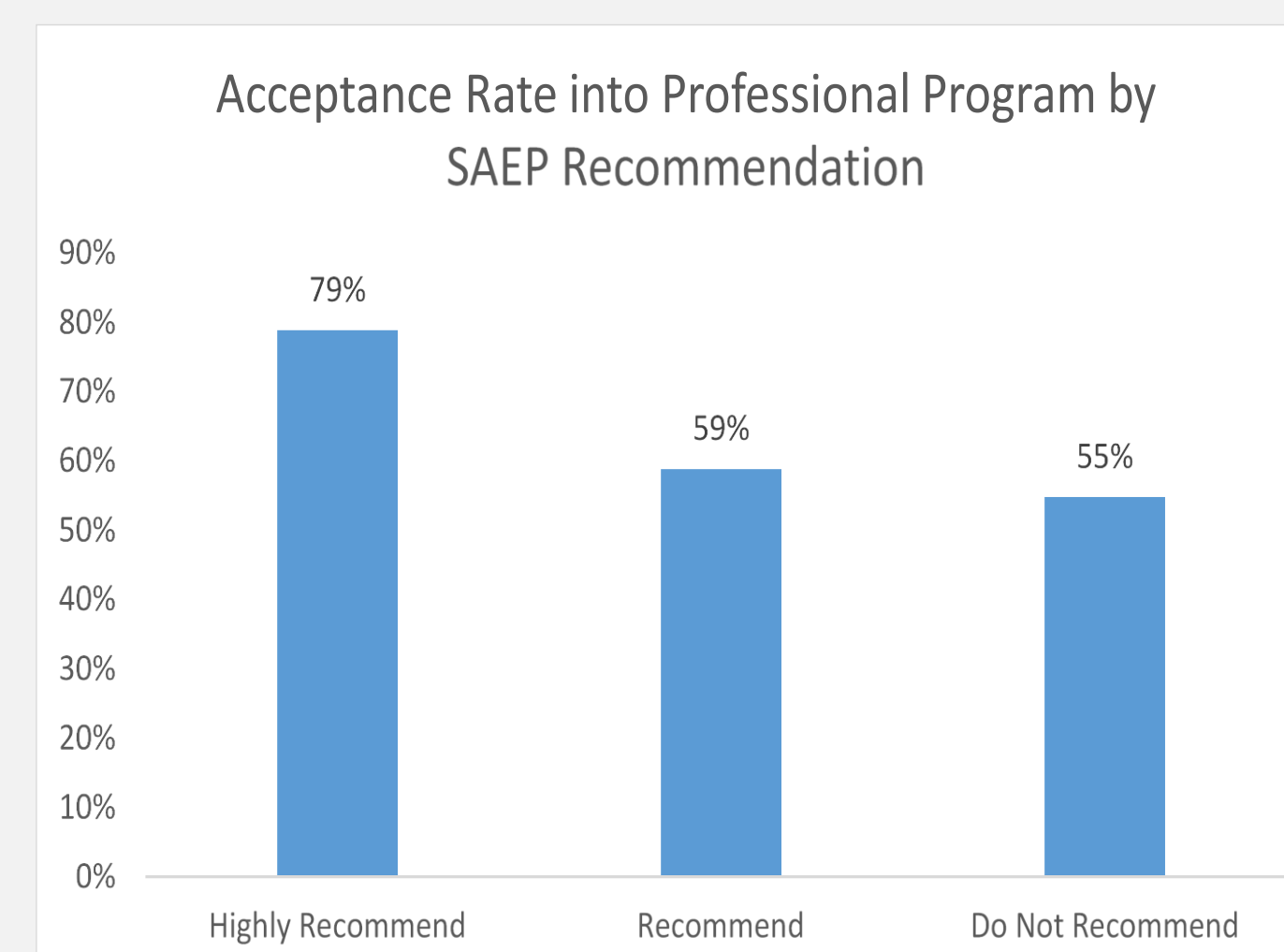
- SAEP faculty recommendation letter
- Scores in SAEP courses
- DAT scores



Results

Enrollment and Acceptance

Cohort	n	Accepted	Accepted VCU	Accepted VCU % of All
2008	12	10	4	33%
2009	23	16	9	39%
2010	15	13	5	33%
2011	16	9	5	31%
2012	19	16	4	21%
2013	19	17	5	26%
2014	18	11	2	11%
2015	15	7	4	27%
2016	13	3	1	8%



p-value=0.00355

Pipeline Course Scores

	Not Accepted	Accepted	P-value
Anatomy Score	65.58	78.38	0.006
Biochemistry Score	84.23	86.88	0.392
Microbiology Score	76.32	82.89	0.0057
Pharmacology Score	74.19	81.89	0.0054
Physiology Score	67.75	73.89	0.0124
Pipeline Overall Score	75.48	82.83	<0.0001

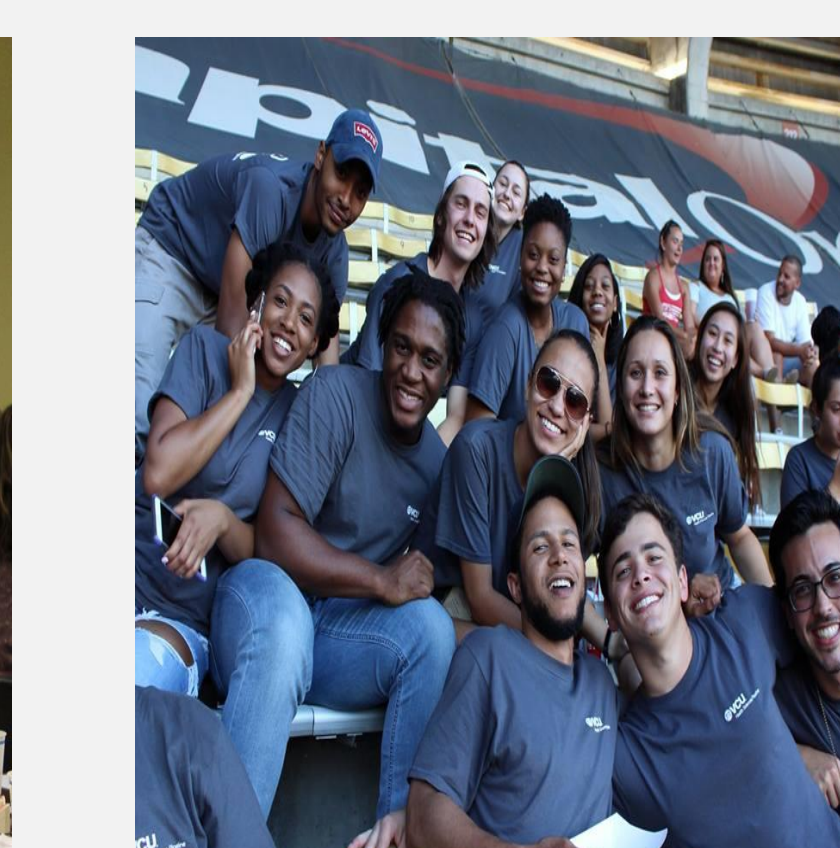


Discussion

In effort to tackle application preparedness, VCU SAEP takes an interprofessional approach to teaching and evaluating program participants from diverse backgrounds. This method is likely a reliable predictor for eventual acceptance into a professional program. Further research is needed to understand the barriers that prevent program participants from continuing through the training pipeline after completing SAEP. According to Freeman, Landry, Trevino, Grande, and Shea (2016), minority students may question their chosen career path because of:

- Inadequate undergraduate institution resources
- Strained personal resources
- Lack of mentoring
- Societal barriers

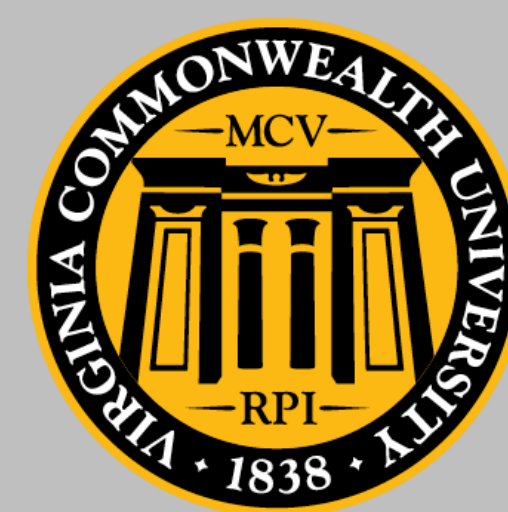
Addressing these issues through more wide-reaching program recruitment and long-term mentorship may help decrease the leaky pipeline.



Program History & Acknowledgements

The VCU Reaching Academic Milestones through Participation and Service (RAMpS) accepted its first cohort in 2008 with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The six-week summer program expanded in 2011 to include other health professions. VCU SAEP is now financially supported through the VCU Division for Health Sciences Diversity.

Sincere thanks to the VCU Division for Health Sciences Diversity, the VCU School's of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Department of Physical Therapy.



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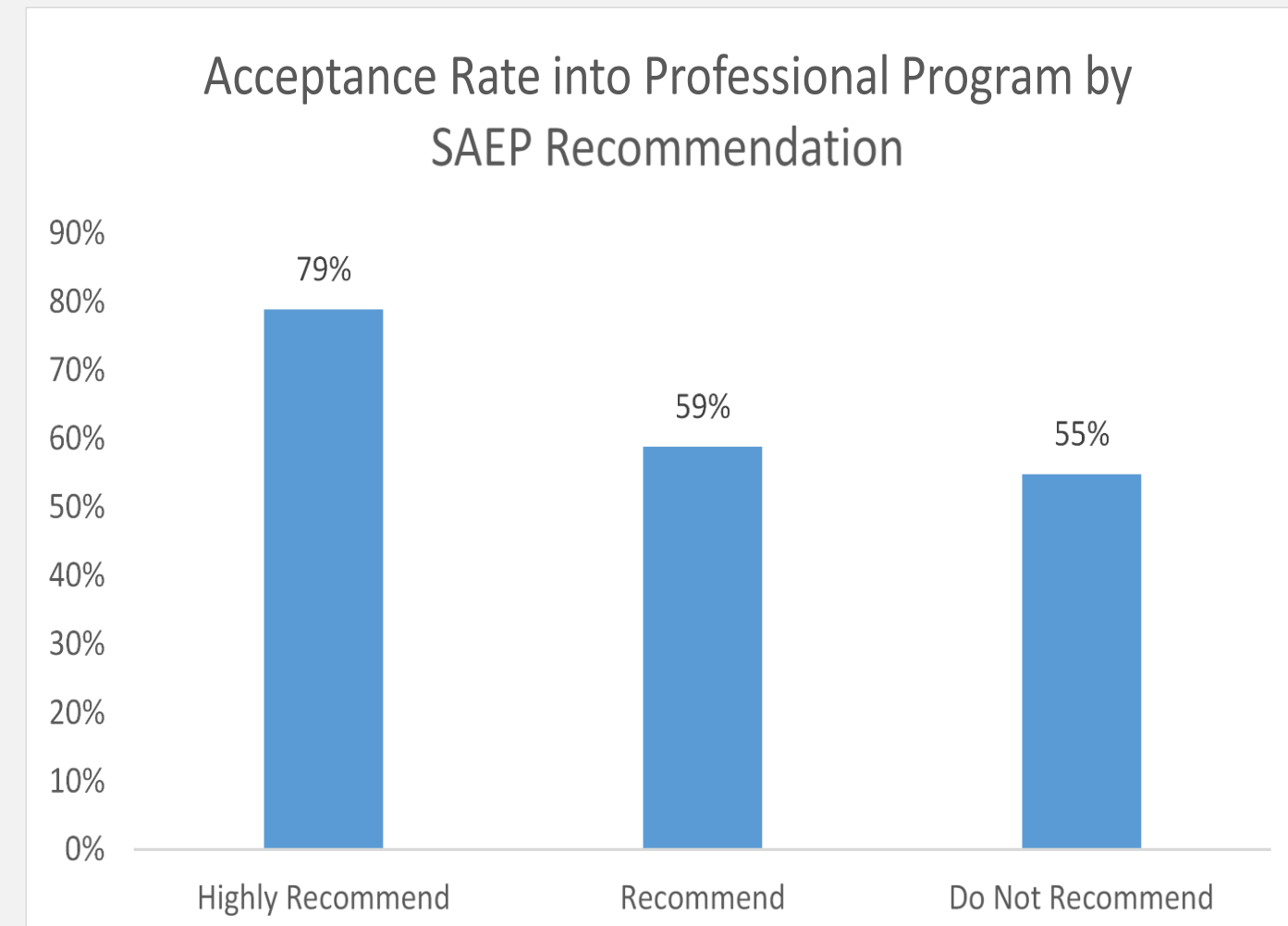
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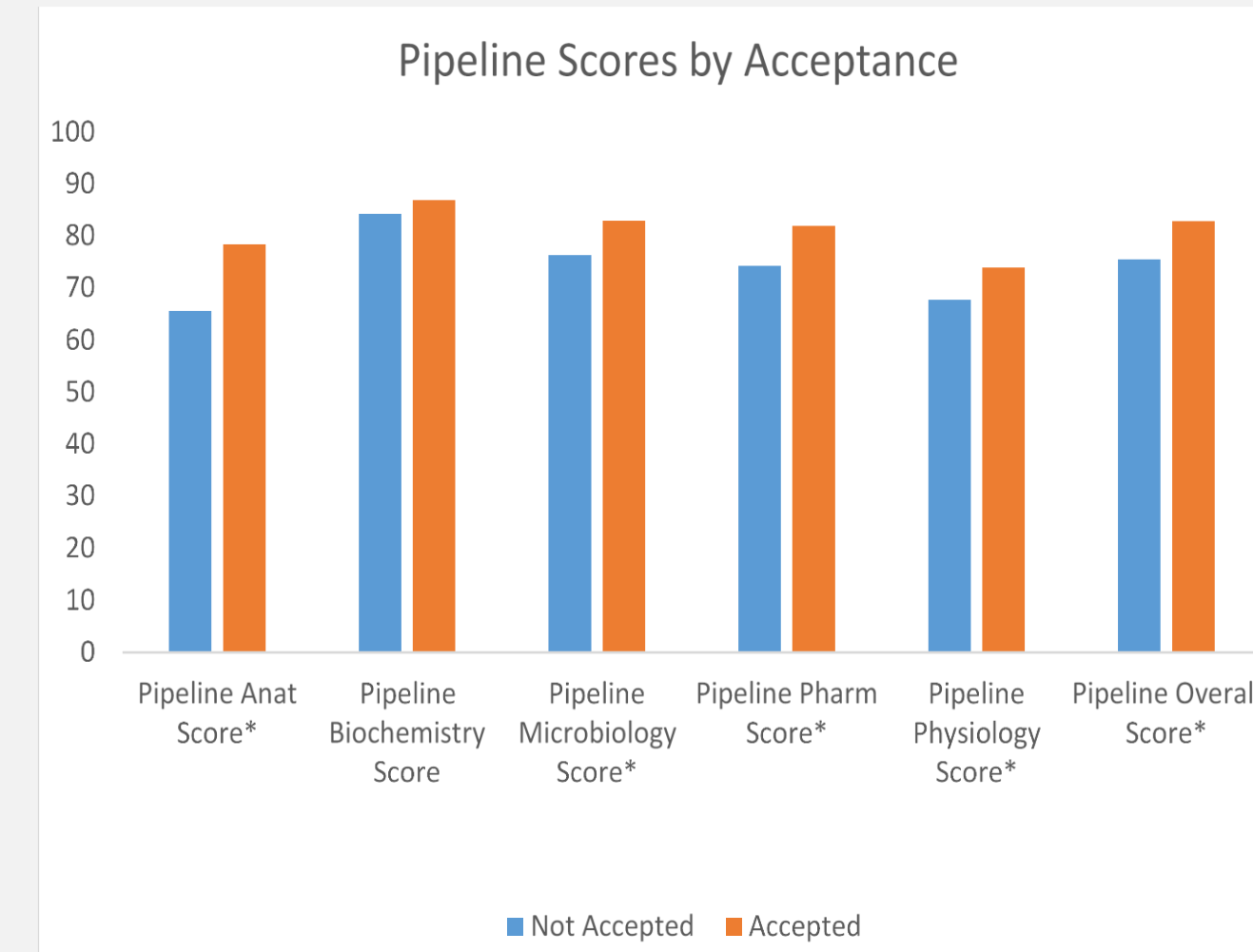
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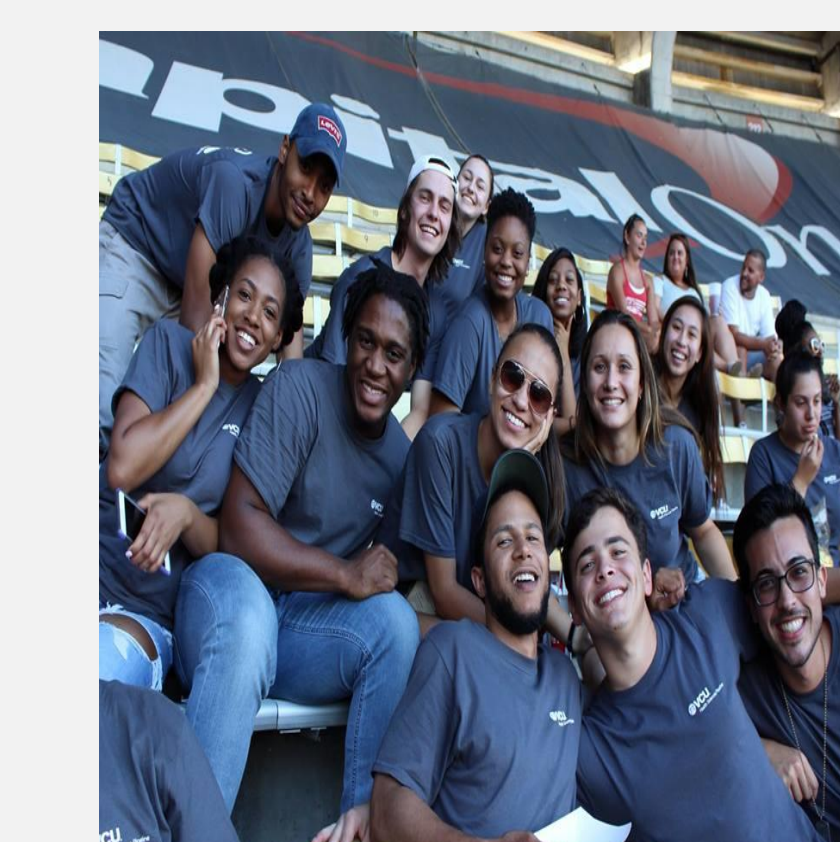


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