Ontario's Transfer System

Examining PSE Students' Trajectories

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Outline

Context
Concepts and realities

Research Design
A multi-level approach

Research Findings
Unexpected trajectories

Discussion and Implications
Towards a decision-making framework

Context

Concepts and realities

Concepts and Realities

The role and purpose of qualifications

Structural and political confines

Complex system design issues

Administrative realities

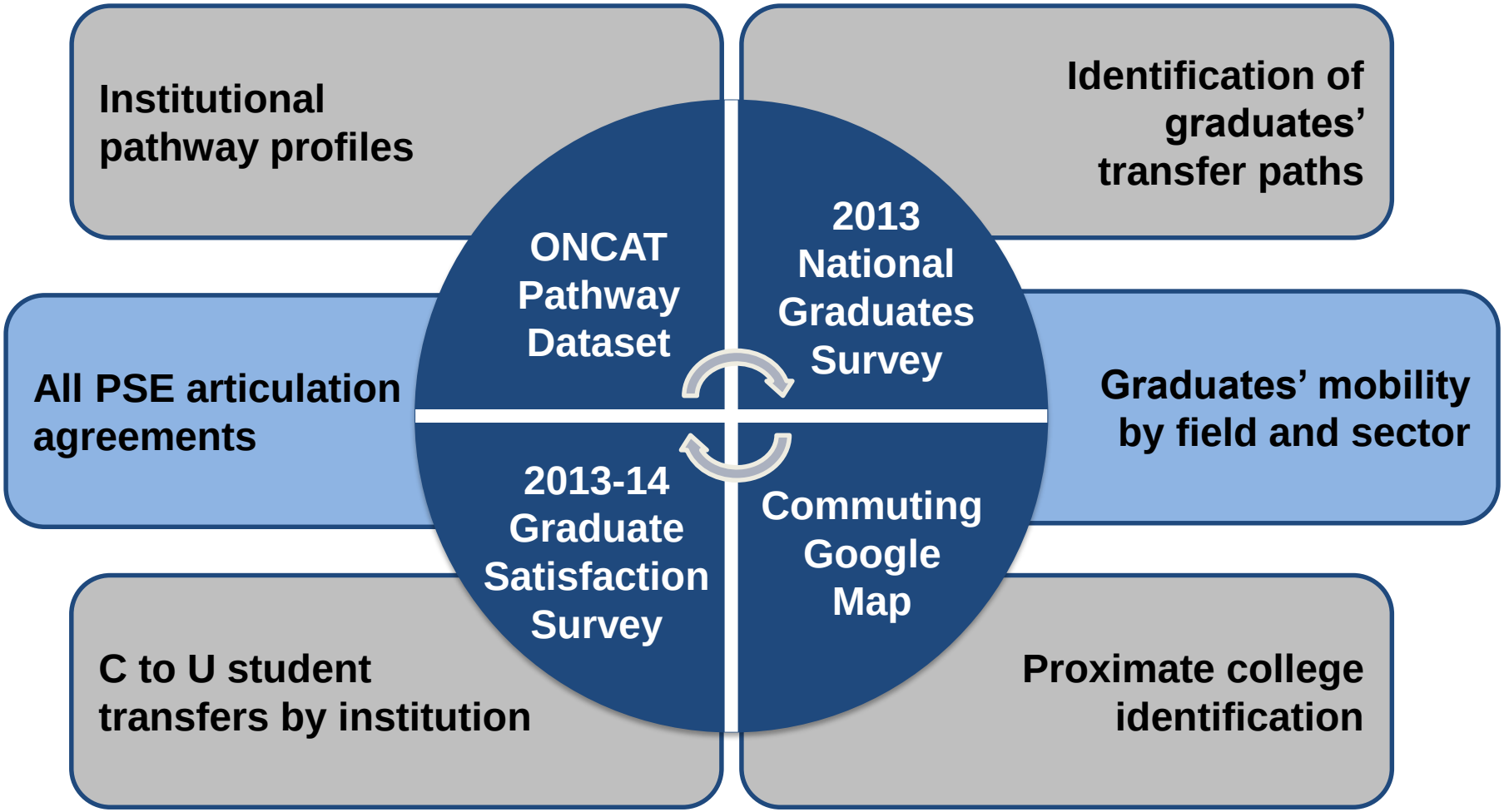
Research Design

A multi-level approach

Research Goals

- **To better understand trends in student use of current transfer pathways across Ontario PSE.**
- **To see how commuting distances affect rates of transfer-student use.**
- **to inform a Decision-making tool for Ontario PSE aimed at supporting responsive pathway development.**

A Multi-level Approach



Pathway Agreements vs. Paths Available to Students

Institutions

- Multilateral/Systems Pathway Agreements
- Bilateral/Direct entry Programme

Study

- Generic Pathways
- Specific Pathways

Research Findings

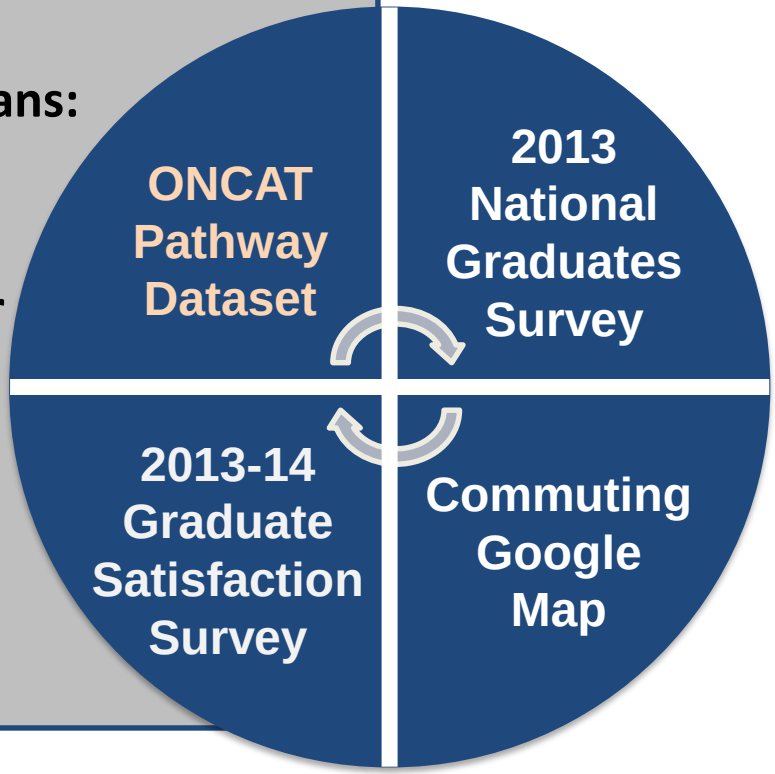
Unexpected trajectories

Pathways Developed

9,000 pathways link colleges to universities.

Universities' medians: 6 generic and 134 specific.

Universities favour one type: generic (9), specific (8), both (2), or neither (1).



Pathways Used (GSS)

5,000 transfer students and 9,000 pathways.

The median ratio is 1.3 transfer students per pathway.

More pathways do not lead to more transfer students, except for blanket generic agreements.

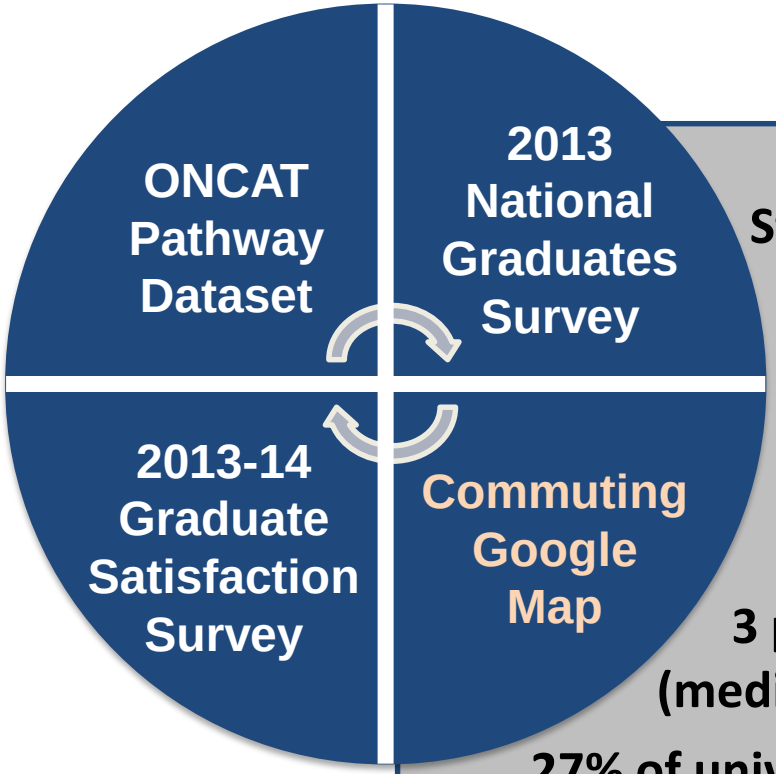
Pathways Used (NGS)

College to university transfer is not the most used path of graduates.

Only 37% of C to U transfer graduates stay in the same broad field.

Others choose complementary broad fields.

Proximate Pathways

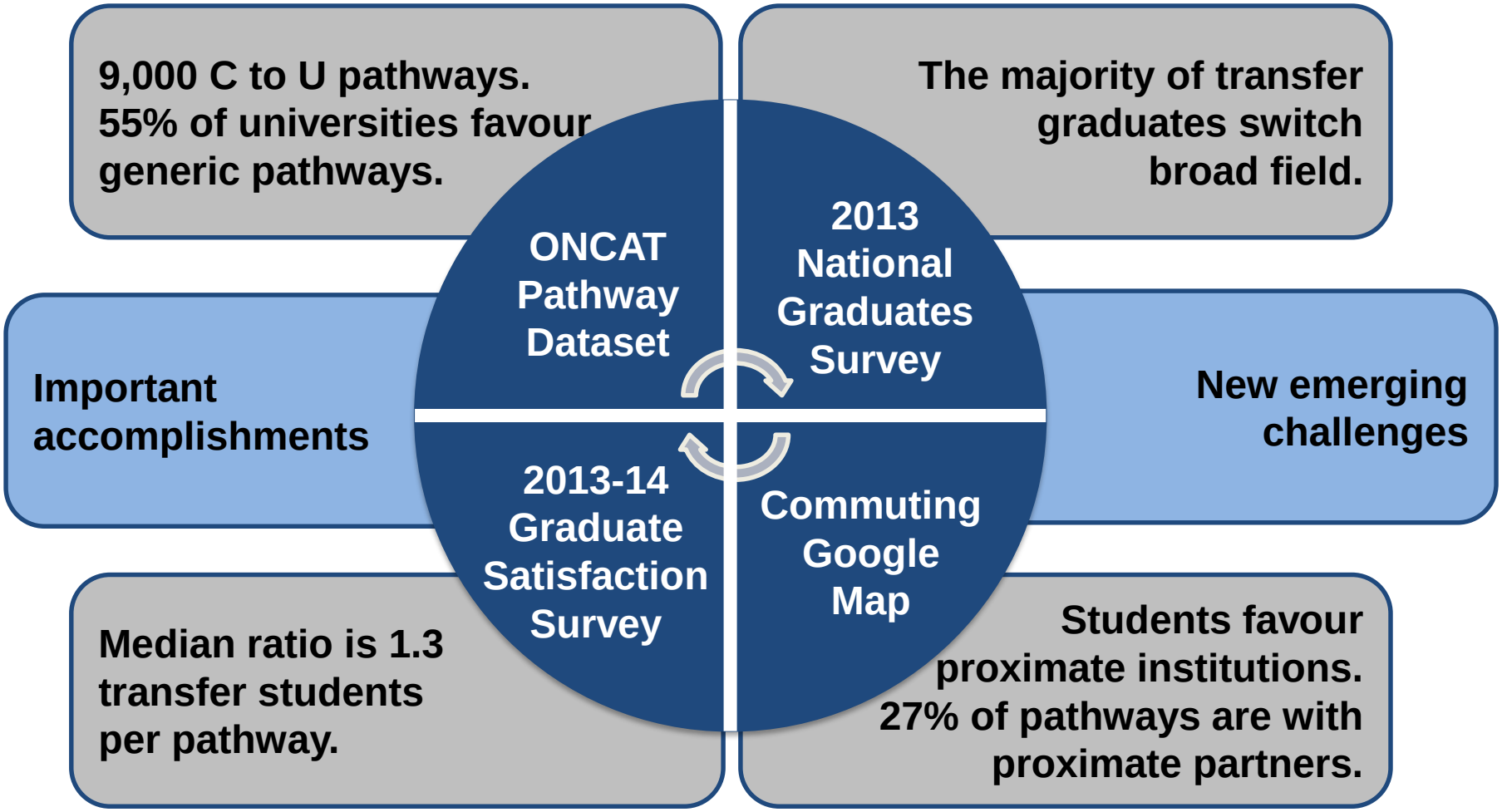


Students transfer in greater numbers to institutions within 80 km.

Universities typically have 3 proximate colleges (median, range 1 to 10).

27% of universities' pathways are with proximate colleges (median).

Findings Summary



Discussion and Implications

Towards a decision-making framework

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Thank you!

The OISE Pathways to Education and Work Research Group

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