Bar Charts

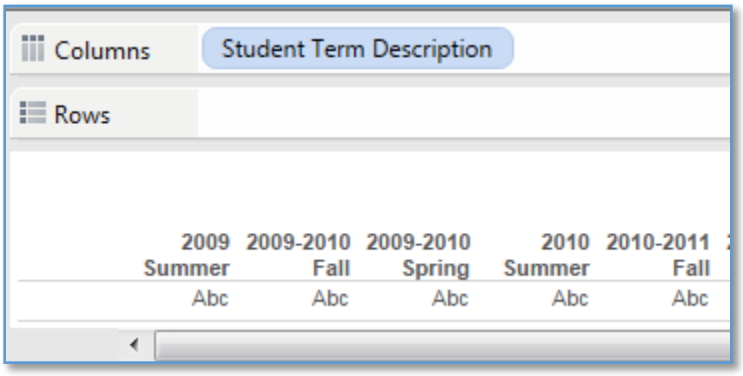
A bar chart is a good choice of visualization when you are comparing different groups or to track changes over time. It's good to note that when tracking changes over time, the bar chart is best when the change is large. If not another type of visualization might be better.

There are several simple steps that can be followed to create different types of bar charts in Tableau. We'll step through a few in our exercises.

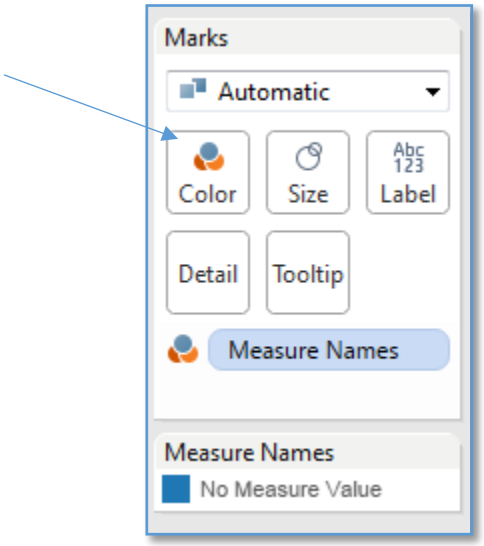
Exercise: Create a Stacked Bar Chart with a Separate Bar for Each Dimension

1. First connect to the server data source **Enrollment and Person Fact +**. Create a blank worksheet. To do this you can either create a new worksheet using the **New Worksheet** icon or by right-clicking on your current sheet and selecting **New Worksheet**.

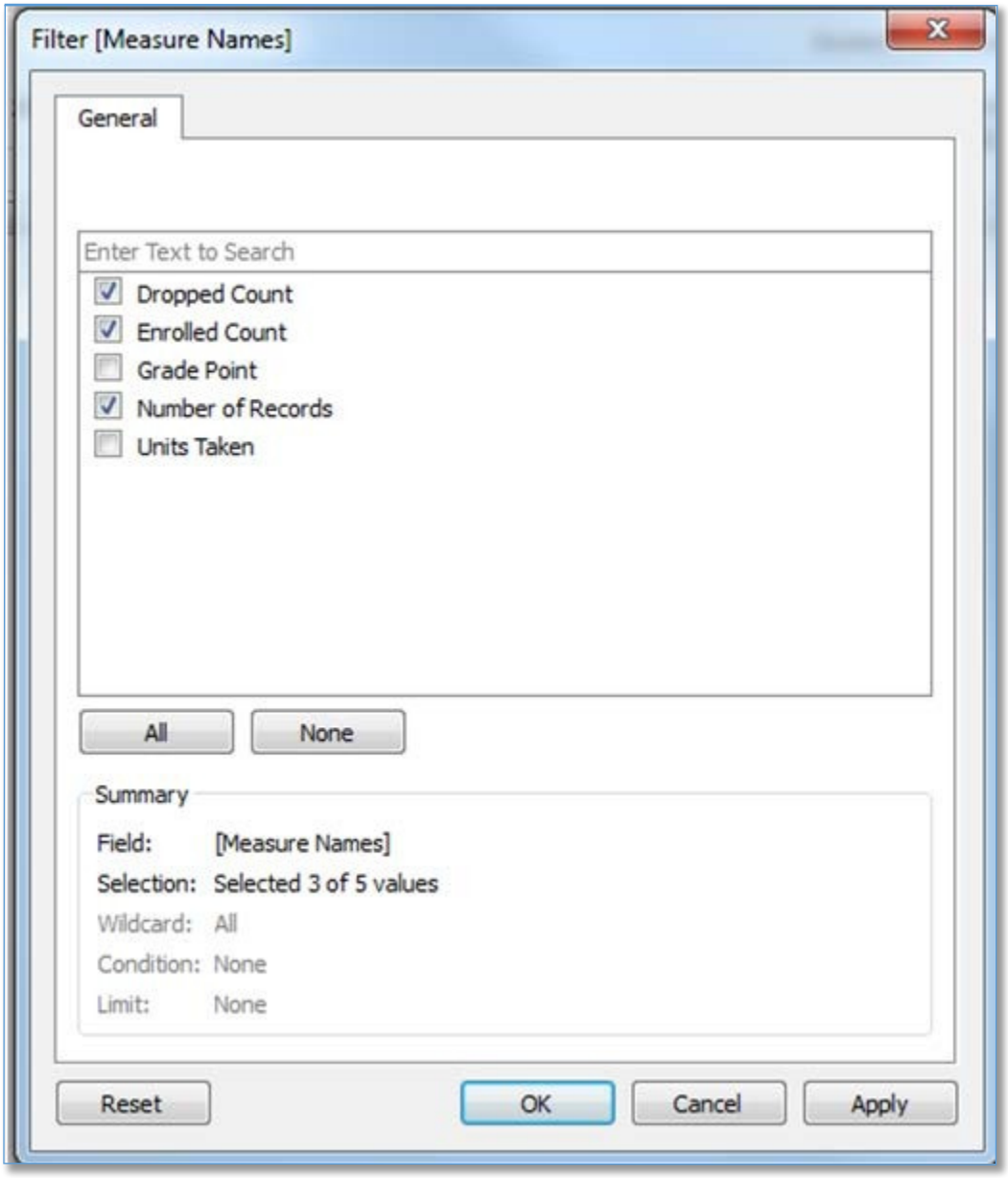
2. Drag the dimension **Student Term Description** to **Columns**.



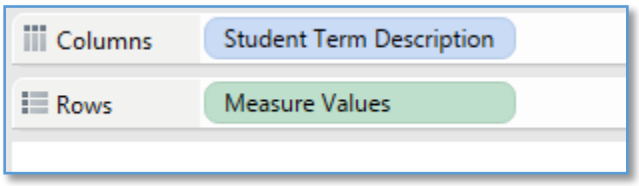
3. Drag **Measure Names** to Color on the Marks Card.



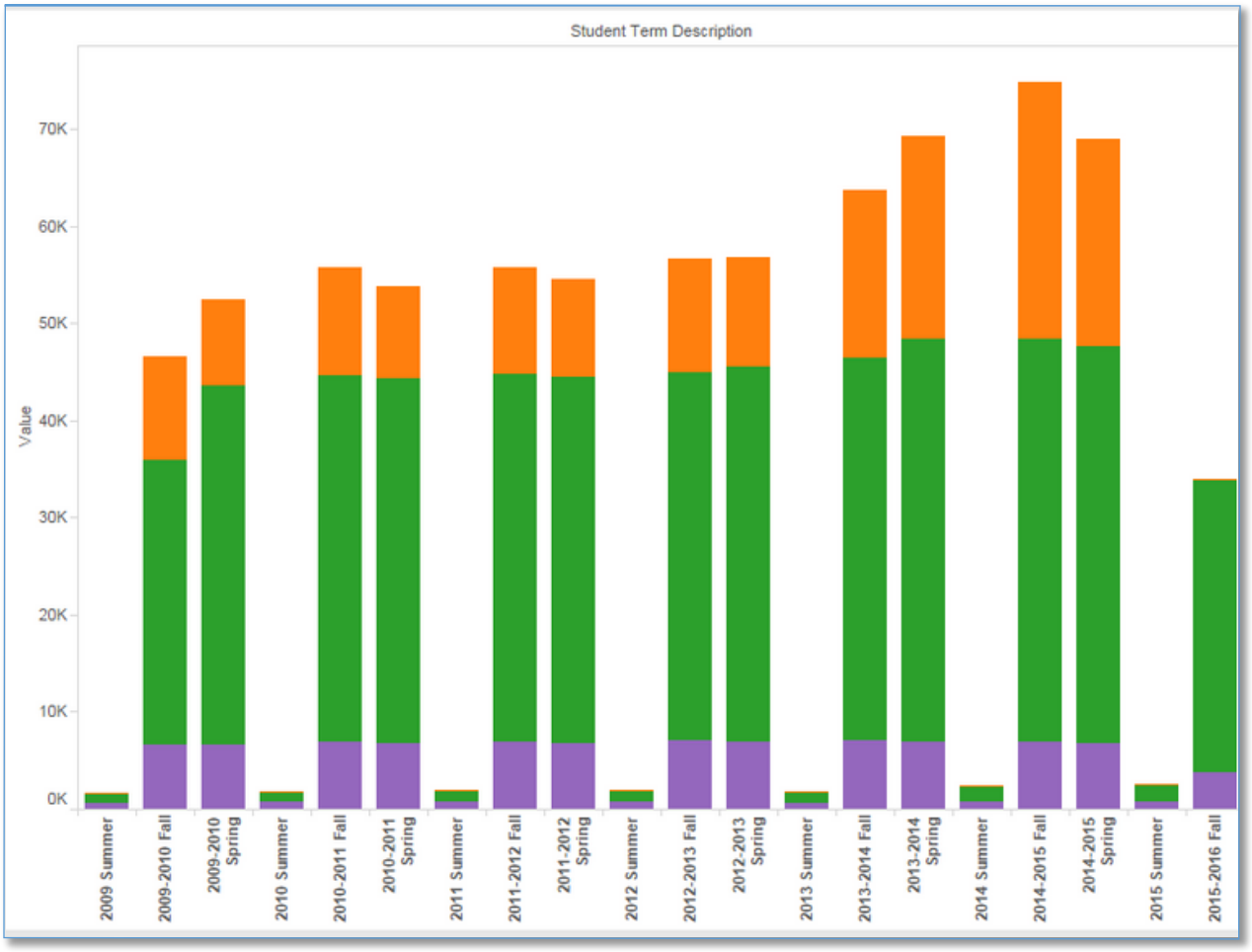
4. On the **Marks Card**, right-click **Measure Names** and select **Filter**. Select the check boxes for the measures you would like to display. Then click **OK**.



5. From the Measures pane, drag **Measure Values** to **Rows**.



You will now have a stacked bar chart with each Dimension with its own bar.



Exercise: Create a Bar Chart Stacked Bar Chart with a Separate Bar for Each Measure

1 Using the same workbook as the previous exercise, create a new worksheet.

. Drag a dimension, **Gender**, to the **Color** shelf.

2

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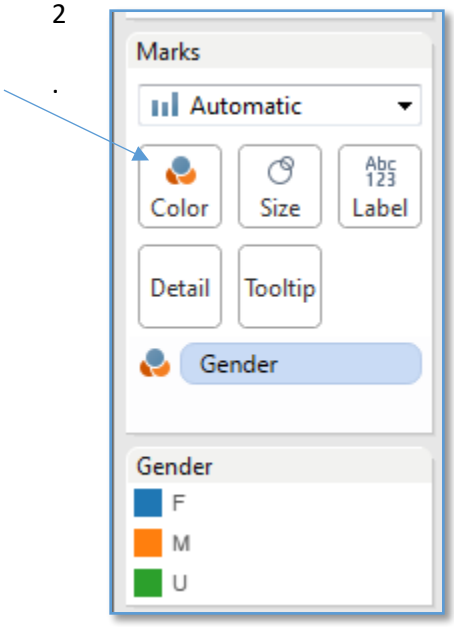
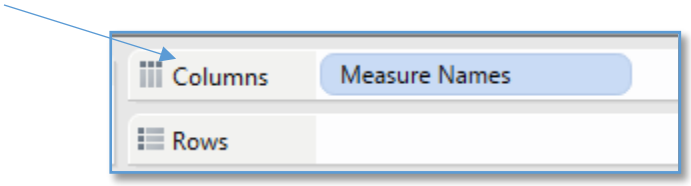
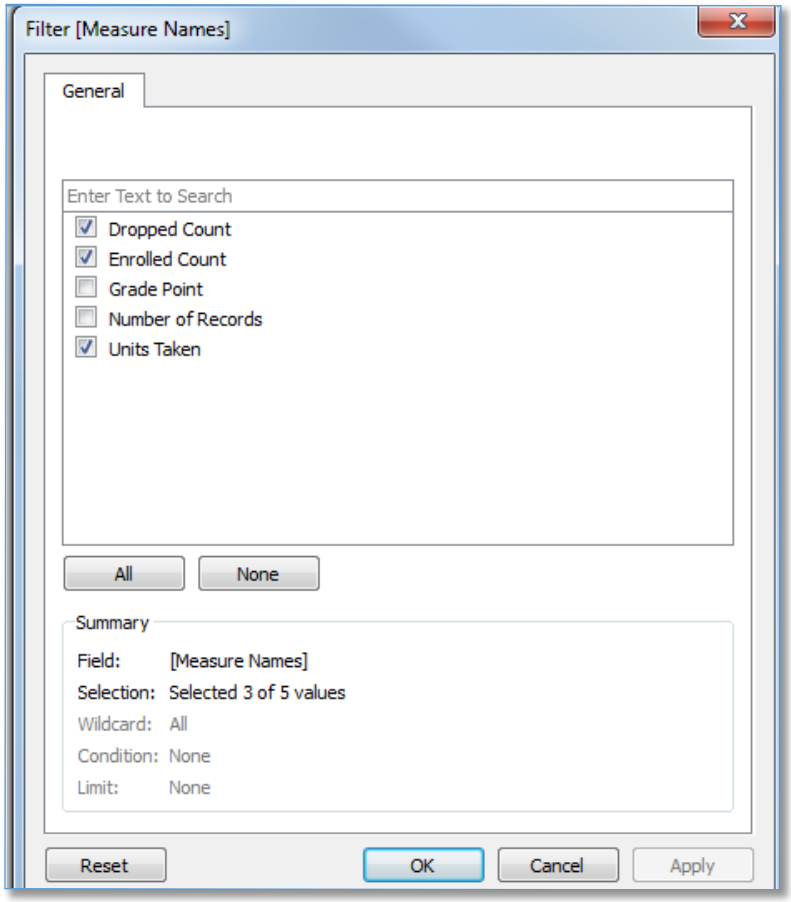


3. Drag **Measure Names** to **Columns**.

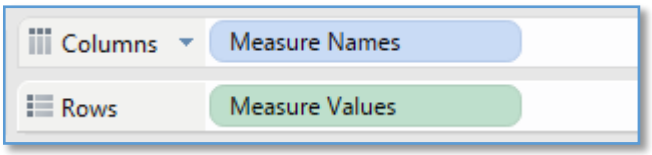


4. On the Columns shelf, right-click **Measure Names**. Select **Filter** and select the measures to display, **Dropped Count**, **Enrolled Count,** and **Units Taken**. Click **OK**.

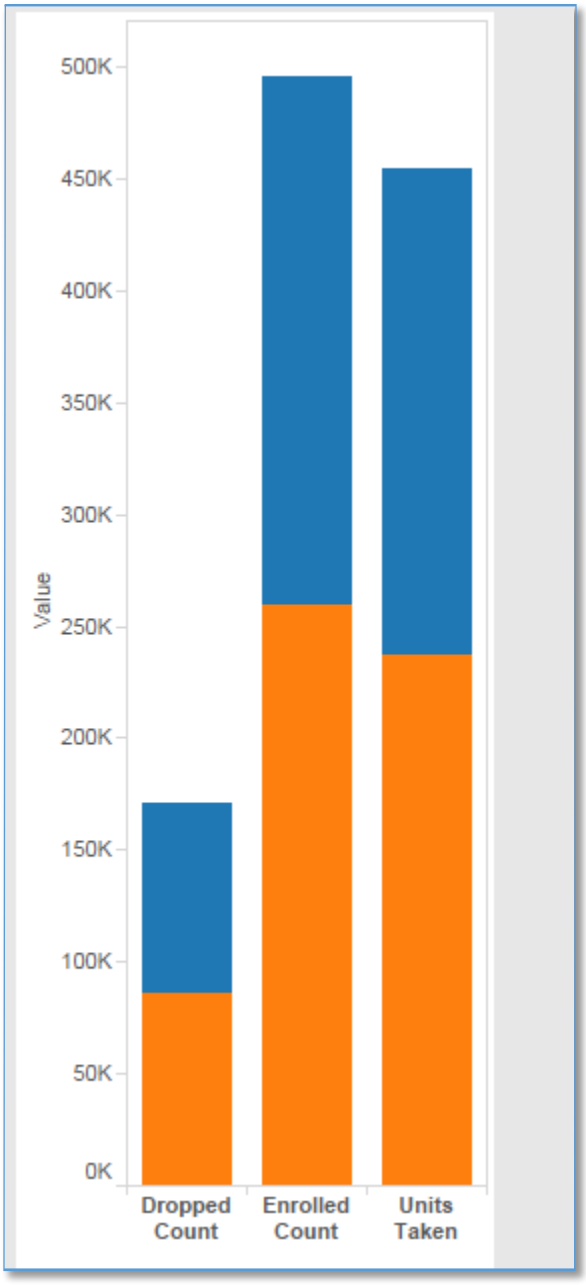


From the Measures pane, drag **Measure Values** to Rows.

5.



You will now have a stacked bar chart with each Measure on its own bar.



Exercise: Create a Bar Chart with Multiple Measures on a Single Axis

1 Once again, using the same workbook, create a new worksheet.

. Drag a dimension, **Student Term Description**, to **Columns**.

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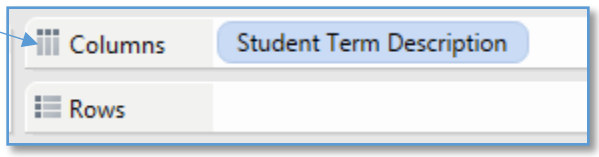
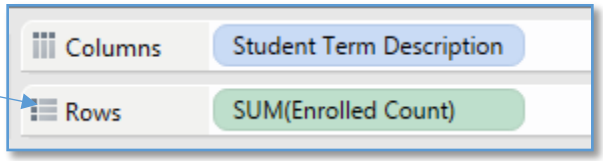
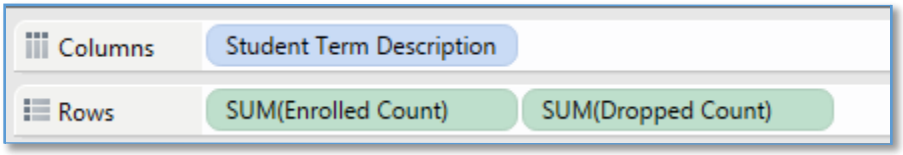


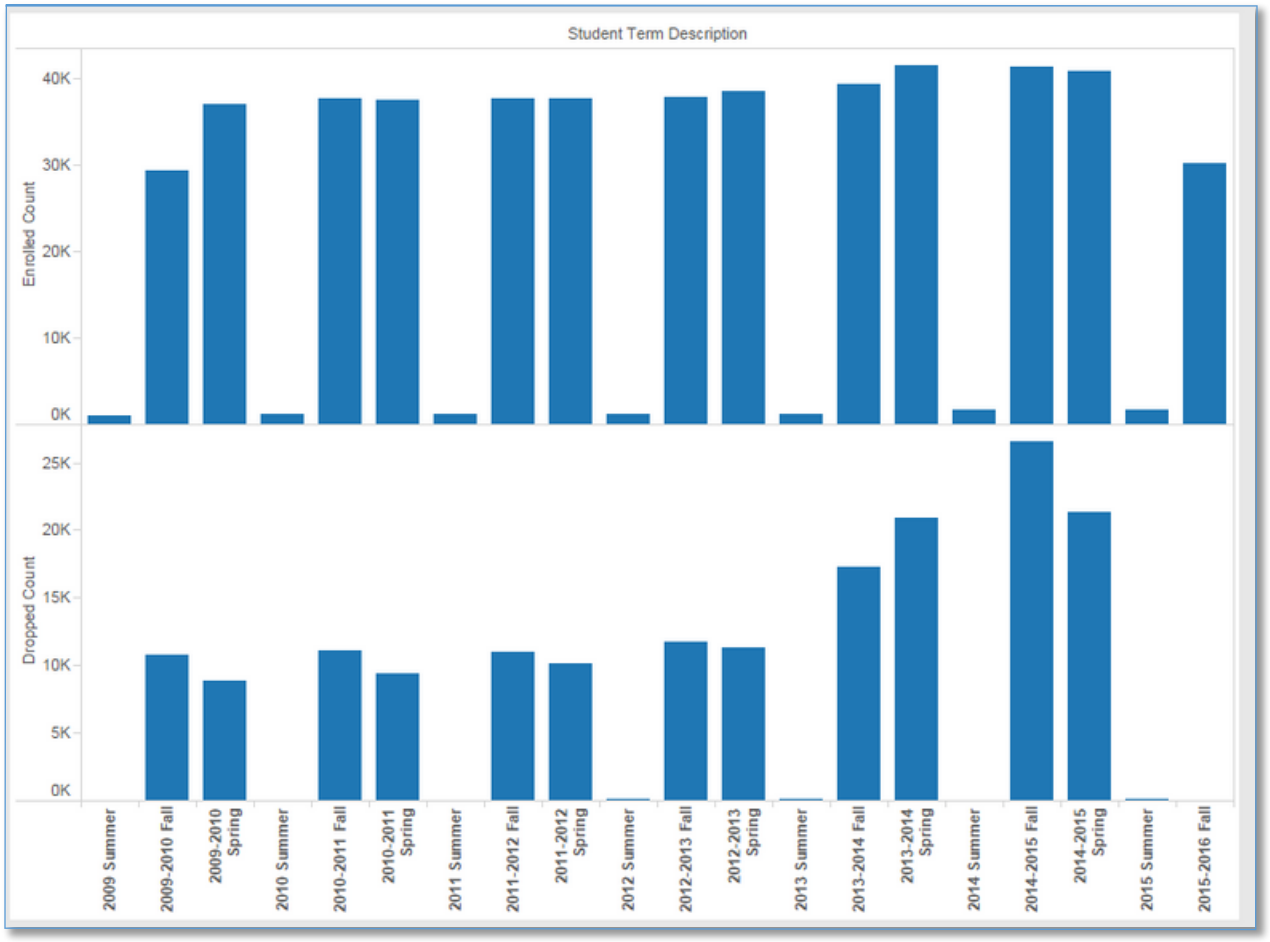
3. Drag a measure, **Enrolled Count**, to **Rows**.



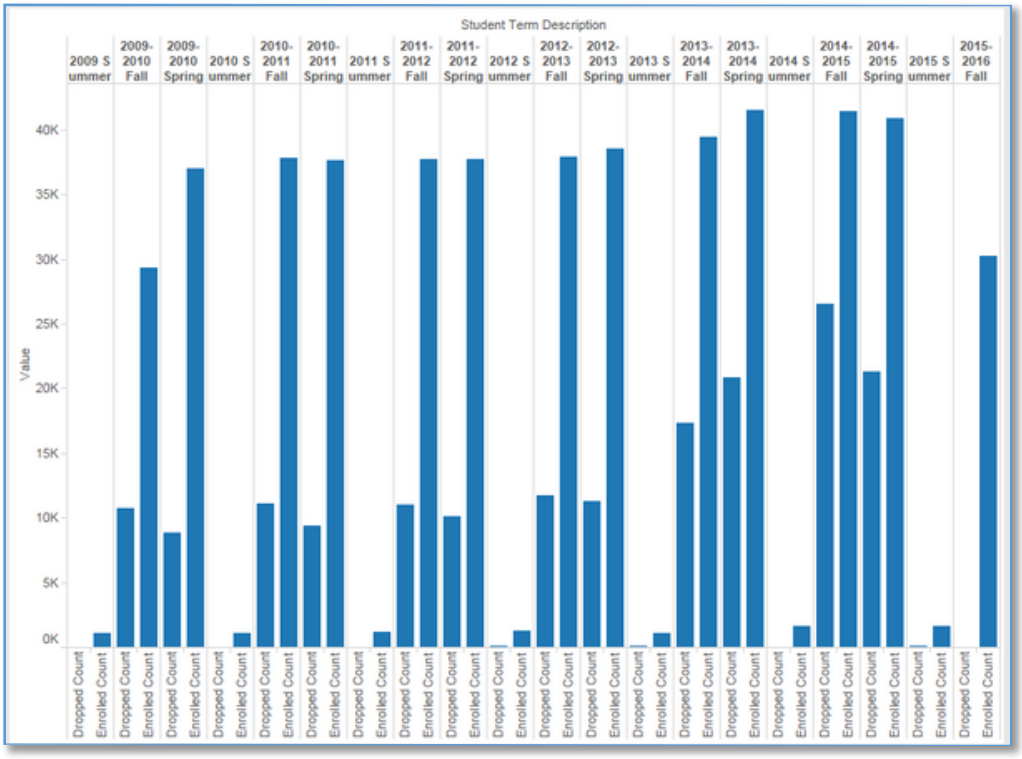
4. If you would like to compare a second measure alongside the first you have different options. You could have two parallel bar charts. To do this drag a second dimension, **Dropped Count**, to **Rows**.



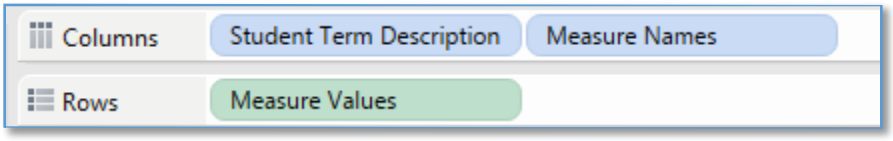
Notice that you now have two graphs.



5. If you really want to view your results in one graph with the second measure alongside the first, drag your measure, **Dropped Count** to the y-axis header **Enrolled Count**.



6. Notice how your graph has changed. Tableau has added **Measure Names** to your columns and replaced your row measure with **Measure Values**.



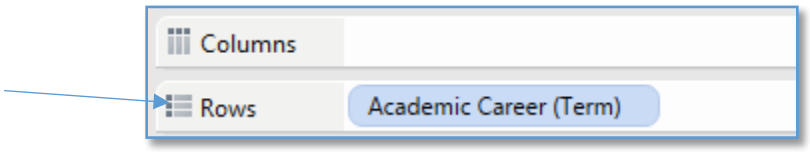
Also notice that your x-axis has two sets of labels. One for the original dimension and one for the measures you have just added.

Exercise: Create a Horizontal Bar Chart

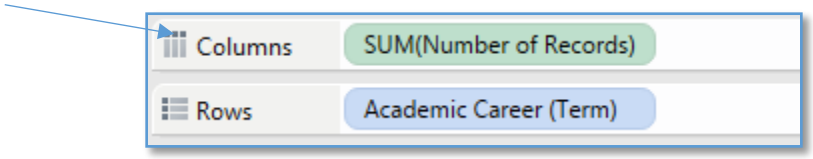
So far in our exercises we have focused on vertical bar charts. There are also times when a horizontal bar chart would be useful. The creation of these follows the same principles and steps as those discussed and demonstrated in the previous three exercises. We'll step through one more example here to get some experience with it now.

1. Again create a new worksheet within your workbook.

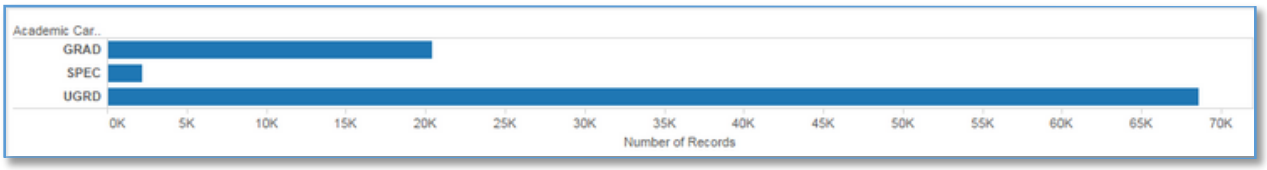
2. Drag a dimension, **Academic Career**, to **Rows**.



3. Drag a measure, **Number of Records**, to **Columns**.

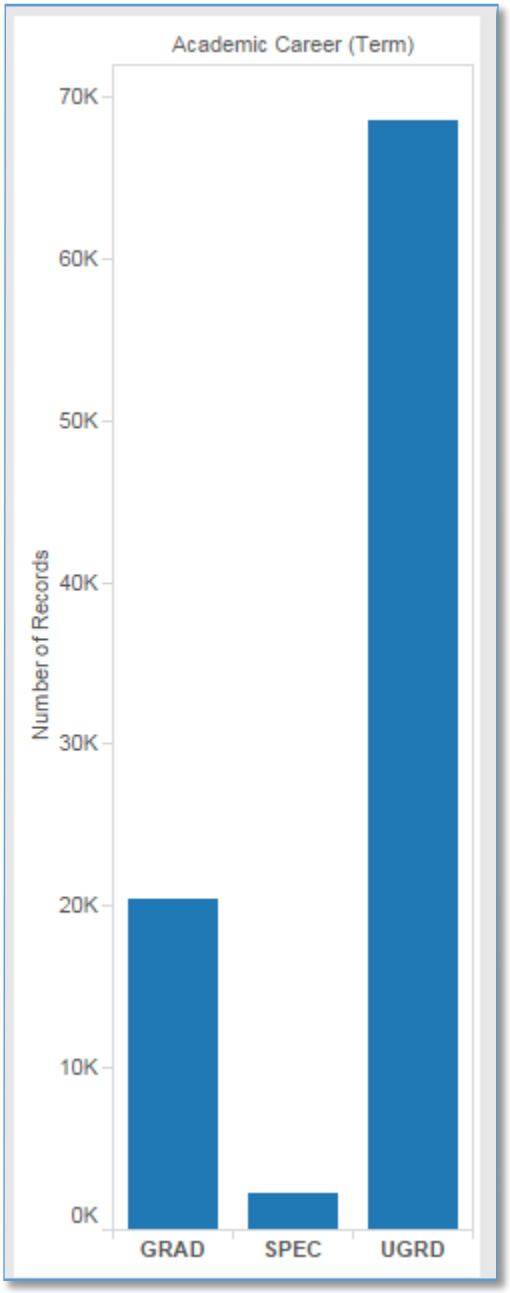


4. You will now have a horizontal bar chart.



5. If you ever create a bar chart and decide you want the orientation to switch, you can simply click the **Swap** icon (shown to the right here).

Your axes will be switched. Here is the result of this action:



Save this workbook as "**Training – Bar Charts xx**" (where xx are your initials) to the **Introduction to Tableau** folder on your desktop to be used later in this class.

Chart Customization

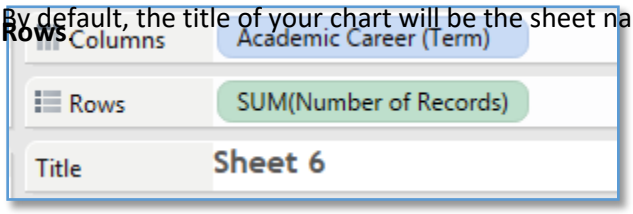
Once you've created a chart there are many ways you can add customization. These include changing the title, customizing the axes, editing aliases, editing the colors, changing the sort order, adding filters, and many more actions.

In order to follow along if you don't already have it open, please open the workbook **Training – Bar Charts xx**

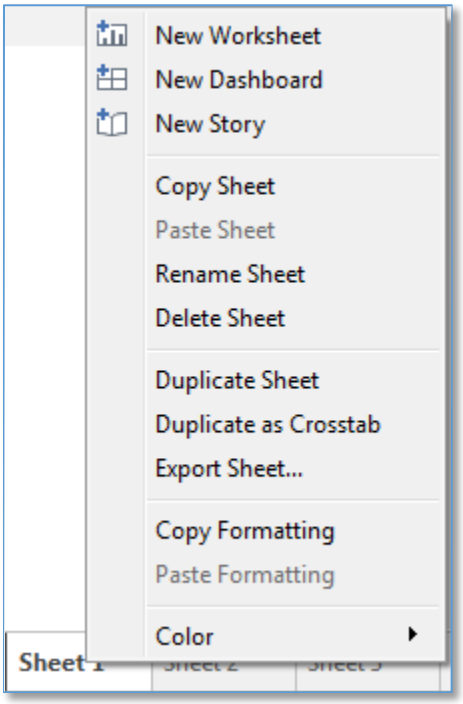
you
saved earlier.

Changing the Chart Title

By default, the title of your chart will be the sheet name and is displayed in Tableau just below **Columns** and **Rows**



You can edit the sheet name by right clicking on the sheet tab and selecting **Rename Sheet**. This will allow you to edit the sheet name directly on the tab.



Alternatively, you may edit the title when it is displayed by hovering your mouse over **Title**. An arrow will be displayed. Click this down arrow and select **Edit Title**. This will open a window where you can set the title you wish to be displayed. Using this method there are numerous options for customization of the title appearance including font, format, and even including additional variables and constants. Once all desired changes have been made, click **OK** to save any changes.