Transfer students

The majority of community college students transfer to public institutions.

Community college transfer students

- Public four-year, less selective: 56%
- Public four-year, highly selective: 16%
- Private non-profit: 8%
- Private for-profit: 8%

Source: Community College Research Center, Teacher’s College, Columbia University, “What We Know About Transfer,” January, 2015.

Approximately 72 percent of community college students who transferred went on to public four-year institutions. Eighty percent of community college students intend to earn a bachelor’s degree, but only a quarter of them end up transferring to four-year institutions within five years. The completion outcome of those transfer students varies, depending on the type of institution they transfer to, as well as the number of credits accepted at the receiving institution. For example, fewer than 60 percent of students were able to transfer most of their credits. Another 15 percent transferred no credits. Bachelor’s degree completion data six years after transfer show that 65 percent of students switching to a public four-year college/university had completed a baccalaureate. The outcomes for private non-profit transfers were comparable to public four-years, representing 60 percent of students who had competed a degree in that time. Transfers to private for-profits had the lowest completion rate at 35 percent. Click for more: http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/media/k2/attachments/what-we-know-about-transfer.pdf

For more information, contact Kent Phillippe, associate vice president for research and students success at the American Association of Community Colleges, at (202) 416-4505 or kphillippe@aacc.nche.edu, or Rahel Tekle, AACC’s research associate at (202) 416-4508 or rtekle@aacc.nche.edu