

Measuring Your College's Effectiveness Serving Transfer Students

Part 1: Basic Analyses using NSC Data

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The tables and definitions below detail a basic set of metrics your college can compute using NSC data to measure the outcomes of your students who transfer to a four-year institution. Table 1 presents overall measures of your college's transfer outcomes in comparison to national averages and top colleges. Table 2 shows how your transfer students fare at your college's top five transfer destinations.

Cohort & tracking period: Entering FTEIC, degree-seeking community college students in a fall term, excluding current and prior high school dual enrollment students, tracked for six calendar years.

Degree-seeking definition.¹ Students are "degree-seeking" if they meet either of the following conditions:

- a. Enrolled full-time for at least one term within 12 months of starting in the fall cohort, OR
- b. Enrolled at least half-time for any two terms within 18 months of starting in the fall cohort.

Transfer definition. Students in the cohort who ever enrolled at a four-year institution for at least one term after their first term your community college, within the six-year tracking period.

Table 1. Student Counts (Example Numbers)

	<i>All students</i>
FTEIC degree-seeking students in cohort	1,460
Transfer students	568
Students who transferred with an award from your CC	211
Transfer students who completed a bachelor's degree	336

Outcome Definitions

Transfer-out Rate: The percentage of students in your entering community college cohort who ever enrolled at a four-year institution for at least one term after their first term at your community college, within six years of first enrolling at your community college.

Transfer-with-Award Rate: The number of transfer students who started at your community college and earned a certificate or associate degree from your college prior to their earliest enrollment at a four-year institution, divided by the number of transfer students in your college's entering cohort.

Transfer-out Bachelor's Completion Rate: The number of transfer students who started at your community college and earned a bachelor's degree from any four-year institution within six years of starting at your community college, divided by the number of transfer students in your community college's entering cohort.

Source: Davis Jenkins and John Fink, [Tracking Transfer: New Measures of Institutional and State Effectiveness in Helping Community College Students Attain Bachelor's Degrees](#), Community College Research Center, Teachers College Columbia University, Aspen Institute and National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, January 2016.

¹ This is the same definition of degree-seeking that the NSC uses in its "College Completions" Signature Reports. Your college may opt to use a more direct measure of students' intention to transfer and earn a bachelor's upon entry if this information is routinely gathered and already used in reporting by the college (e.g., student responses to questions as a part of the intake process). We would caution that such measures are often not reliable and that the experience of college can raise their college aspirations.

Table 2. Tracking Transfer Measures – Fall 2010 Cohort²

	Transfer-out Rate	Transfer with Award Rate	Transfer-out Bachelor's Completion Rate
National Average	30%	33%	43%
Top Urban CC Nationally	60%	76%	68%
Top Rural CC Nationally	56%	61%	73%
Example Community College	(568/1460) = 39%	(211/568) = 37%	(336/568) = 59%

Note. “Top” college results from colleges in the sample with more than 10 students in the denominator. Colleges are encouraged to disaggregate these outcomes by student race, income, age, and gender, as described in Part 2, “Further Analyses using NSC data.”

Table 3. Major Transfer Partner Measures

Top 5 largest four-year transfer destinations	Number of transfers to this university	Percent of transfers to this university who earned a CC award before transferring	Bachelor's degree completion rate among students who transferred to this university
University 1			
University 2			
University 3			
University 4			
University 5			
All Other 4-Yr Destinations			

Note. Counts for numbers of transfers at each university partner may be duplicated if a student enrolled at multiple four-year institutions. Using this more inclusive definition of transfer is a good starting point for conversations around improving transfer outcomes. In Table 5 of Part 2, “Further Analyses using NSC data,” we recommend using a more restricted definition of transfer that produces a similar table using unduplicated counts of students, disaggregating results by student race, income, age, and gender.

² Preliminary results (analyses by authors) from a replication of CCRC's *Tracking Transfer* report using updated data from 2010, to be released in 2017 by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.