

## Measuring Your College’s Effectiveness Serving Transfer Students

### Part 2: Further Analyses using NSC Data

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The tables and definitions below detail an extensive set of metrics your college can compute using NSC data to measure the outcomes of your students who transfer to a four-year institution. The first section replicates outcomes described in the report [Tracking Transfer](#) for your institution and compares those outcomes to state and national averages. The second section provides additional data on students who transfer from your institution to your major university transfer destinations.

### Data Definitions

**Cohort & tracking period.** First-time-ever-in-college (FTEIC), degree-seeking students who started at your community college in the fall of 2010, excluding current and prior high school dual enrollment students, tracked for six calendar years.

**Degree-seeking definition<sup>1</sup>.** 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.

**Reference:** 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.

**Table 1.** Student Counts, (Example College)

|   | All students | Merge records with college data to further disaggregate by: |        |     |        |
|---|--------------|---|--------|-----|--------|
|   |              | Race  | Income | Age | Gender |
| Entering Students in Cohort                         | 1460         |   |        |     |        |
| Transfer Students                                   | 568          |   |        |     |        |
| Students who transferred with an award from this CC | 211          |   |        |     |        |
| Transfer students who completed a bachelor’s degree | 336          |   |        |     |        |

*Note:* For disaggregation by student age, we recommend using student age as recorded upon their first enrollment at the community college and examining results separately for students who started at ages 18-21, 21-24, and 25+. For disaggregation by student income, we recommend using Pell status (student has ever received Pell, Y/N).

<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Tracking Transfer Measures:**  
(Example College Results)

**Table 2. Transfer-out Rates**

**Transfer-out Rate Definition:** 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.

|  | All students | Transfer-out Rate   |        |     |        |
|--|--------------|---|--------|-----|--------|
|  |              | Merge records with college data to further disaggregate by: |        |     |        |
|  |              | Race  | Income | Age | Gender |
| Example College Average                                | 39%          |   |        |     |        |
| Statewide Average <sup>2</sup>                         |              |   |        |     |        |
| <b>National Results – Fall 2010 Cohort<sup>3</sup></b> |              |   |        |     |        |
| National Average, All CCs                              | 30%          |   |        |     |        |
| Average, Urban CCs                                     | 29%          |   |        |     |        |
| Top Urban CC   | 60%          |   |        |     |        |
| Average, Rural CCs                                     | 29%          |   |        |     |        |
| Top Rural CC   | 56%          |   |        |     |        |

**Table 3. Transfer-with-Award Rates**

**Transfer-with-Award Rate Definition:** 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.

|  | All students | Transfer-with-Award Rate                                    |        |     |        |
|--|--------------|---|--------|-----|--------|
|  |              | Merge records with college data to further disaggregate by: |        |     |        |
|  |              | Race  | Income | Age | Gender |
| Example College Average                                | 37%          |   |        |     |        |
| Statewide Average <sup>2</sup>                         |              |   |        |     |        |
| <b>National Results – Fall 2010 Cohort<sup>3</sup></b> |              |   |        |     |        |
| National Average, All CCs                              | 33%          |   |        |     |        |
| Average, Urban CCs                                     | 32%          |   |        |     |        |
| Top Urban CC   | 76%          |   |        |     |        |
| Average, Rural CCs                                     | 32%          |   |        |     |        |
| Top Rural CC   | 61%          |   |        |     |        |

<sup>2</sup> Comparable statewide averages available in the *Tracking Transfer* report (fall 2007 cohort) and in a forthcoming NSC Signature Report (fall 2010 cohort). NSC data limitations have not allowed for further disaggregation by student race in these national reports on transfer outcomes, underlining the importance for colleges to merge NSC data with their own student records to understand and address any inequities in the college’s transfer outcomes.

<sup>3</sup> 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. Top” college results from colleges in the sample with more than 10 students in the denominator.

**Table 4.** Transfer-out Bachelor’s Completion Rates

**Transfer-out Bachelor’s Completion Rate Definition:** 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.

|  | All<br>students | Transfer-Out Bachelor’s Completion Rate                     |        |     |        |
|--|-----------------|---|--------|-----|--------|
|  |                 | Merge records with college data to further disaggregate by: |        |     |        |
|  |                 | Race  | Income | Age | Gender |
| Example College Average                                | 59%             |   |        |     |        |
| Statewide Average <sup>2</sup>                         |                 |   |        |     |        |
| <b>National Results – Fall 2010 Cohort<sup>3</sup></b> |                 |   |        |     |        |
| National Average, All CCs                              | 43%             |   |        |     |        |
| Average, Urban CCs                                     | 42%             |   |        |     |        |
| Top Urban CC   | 68%             |   |        |     |        |
| Average, Rural CCs                                     | 43%             |   |        |     |        |
| Top Rural CC   | 73%             |   |        |     |        |

**Transfer Partnership Measures:**

Example College

**Note:** For the following transfer partnership analyses, the transfer student definition is restricted to those students who directly transferred from your community college to a particular four-year institution and did not enroll at any other institution during the tracking period. This restricted transfer definition is intended to more purely measure the working relationship between transfer partners. For more information on transfer partnership data definitions, see the methodology appendix of the [The Transfer Playbook: Essential Practices for Two- and Four-Year Colleges](#).

**Restricted Transfer definition** (used in Tables 5-9). Students in the entering community college cohort who directly transferred to a four-year institution and did not enroll at any other higher education institutions within the six-year tracking period.

**Table 5.** Direct Transfer Outcomes for Example College’s Top 10 Four-Year (FY) Transfer Destinations

|                                    | Number of transfers to this FY | Pct. of transfers who earned a pre-transfer CC award | Bachelor’s degree completion rate for transfers to this FY | Average number of years before transfer to the FY | Pct. of CC’s transfers who transferred to this FY | Pct. of CC’s bachelor’s degree graduates who completed at this FY |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| FY Destination #1                  | 148                            | 51%  | 66%  | 2.7   | 35%   | 37%   |
| FY Destination #2                  | 50                             | 64%  | 78%  | 2.6   | 12%   | 15%   |
| FY Destination #3                  | 49                             | 24%  | 65%  | 1.9   | 12%   | 12%   |
| FY Destination #4                  | 38                             | 32%  | 66%  | 2.1   | 9%  | 10%   |
| FY Destination #5                  | 20                             | 40%  | 50%  | 2.5   | 5%  | 4%  |
| FY Destination #6                  | 10                             | 50%  | 90%  | 2.5   | 2%  | 3%  |
| FY Destination #7                  | 7                              | ++   | ++   | ++  | 2%  | 0%  |
| FY Destination #8                  | 6                              | ++   | ++   | ++  | 1%  | 0%  |
| FY Destination #9                  | 5                              | ++   | ++   | ++  | 1%  | 2%  |
| FY Destination #10                 | 5                              | ++   | ++   | ++  | 1%  | 1%  |
| All other FY destinations (N = 59) | 82                             | 27%  | 50%  | 2.5   | 20%   | 16%   |
| <b>Total/Average</b>               | <b>420</b>                     | <b>41%</b>   | <b>63%</b>   | <b>2.5</b>  | <b>100%</b>                                       | <b>100%</b>   |

++ Fields with fewer than 10 students in the denominator are withheld from reporting

*Note.* The total/averages for some columns will be different than similar measures presented in Tables 1-2 because **this table uses a more restrictive transfer student definition described on the previous page.**

**Transfer Partnership Data – Further Detail for Top Transfer Partners**

**Table 6. #1 Transfer Partner**

|   | All<br>Students | Merge records with college data to further<br>disaggregate by: |        |     |        |
|---|-----------------|--|--------|-----|--------|
|   |                 | Race   | Income | Age | Gender |
| Number of transfer students to this FY  | 148             |  |        |     |        |
| Pct. of transfers who earned a pre-transfer CC award  | 51%             |  |        |     |        |
| Average number of years before transfer to this<br>four-year institution                        | 2.7             |  |        |     |        |
| Bachelor’s degree completion rate for students who<br>transferred to this four-year institution | 66%             |  |        |     |        |
| Average time to bachelor’s degree completion<br>(within 6 years)                                | 4.7             |  |        |     |        |

**Further Detail on Broad Degree Fields among Transfer Students who Completed Bachelor’s Degrees**

|  | Percentage  |
|--|-------------|
| Business   | 10%         |
| Health Professions   | 2%          |
| Arts, Humanities, & English  | 19%         |
| Social & Behavioral Sciences   | 20%         |
| Science & Mathematics  | 16%         |
| Agriculture & Natural Resources                                      | 4%          |
| Computer & Information Sciences                                      | 12%         |
| Education  | 2%          |
| Engineering  | 13%         |
| Applied Technology   | 0%          |
| Public Services & Administration                                     | 0%          |
| <b>All bachelor’s degree completers in this partnership (N = 98)</b> | <b>100%</b> |

++ Fields with fewer than 10 students in the denominator are withheld from reporting

*Note.* Student age is recorded upon their first enrollment at the community college. Categories may not add up to 100% as this taxonomy excludes 0.2% of the bachelor’s degree earners nationally who earned a degree in some culinary, mortuary, multidisciplinary, and leisure/recreation fields. A detailed description of the CIP codes included in each broad area is available upon request.

**We recommend replicating Table 6 for your college’s #2 and #3 transfer partners as well.**