



SAN DIEGO
Community College District

City College · Mesa College · Miramar College
College of Continuing Education

Student Completion: Following First Time Students

Flex: 31137/38170

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Agenda

- Brief Introductions
 - Name? What you would like to gain from this workshop?
- Defining First-Time to SDCCD students
- Defining Student Journey Pathways
- Transfer Rate definition/Data
- Intervention Slides
- Q & A (Last 10-15 minutes)
- Resources

Session Learning Outcomes

- Gain insight into how we define first-time students
- Gain insight into their student journey, specifically Transfer
- Gain insight into factors most associated with Transfer
- Gain insight into effective interventions to improve Transfer outcomes

First-Time Students

- Tracking the student journey necessitates defining and identifying first-time to college students
- OIER utilizes various application/transcript data points
- Dual Enrolled/CCAP/ACP students
 - Not considered first-time student until they graduate

Student Journey Pathways

- Focus is generally on three pathways
 - Award attainment
 - Transfer (Rate) to a 4-year institution
 - 4-Year Degree Attainment
- This workshop will focus on Transfer Rate
- Expressed as a percentage of total starting cohort size

What do we consider a successful Student Transfer?

- Vertical Transfer
 - From the CCC system -> Professional program (e.g. Nursing or Law School) or a 4-year institution
 - Considered a successful student transfer
- Horizontal Transfer
 - Community College -> Community College
 - Not considered a successful student transfer
- Reverse Transfer
 - 4-year institution -> Community College
 - Credit College -> Non-Credit College
 - Not considered successful student transfers

Transfer Metrics

- Transfer Volume
 - Count of all students in a specified time period (Fall or Academic Year) that have a vertical transfer on record based on specified requirements
 - Expressed in Fall or Academic Year Counts
- Transfer Rate
 - Follows specific, first-time student cohorts for periods of time
 - Expressed as a percentage of cohort over time
 - 2-year, 3-year, 4-year, and 6-year
 - Limited by specific Educational Objectives

National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)

- The most widely used source for tracking the “Student Journey’ is the [National Student Clearinghouse](#) (NSC), which encompasses 98% of the higher education institutions in the U.S
- Each Term, SDCCD uploads all enrollments and degree data
- NSC utilizes fuzzy matching to track students
 - First name, Middle Initial, Last Name, and DOB input into their internal matching methodology

National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)

1. Pros

1. Allows us to identify transfers at student level
2. Allows for joining to internal data systems
3. Allows tracking through BA/Post Baccalaureate degree attainment

2. Cons

1. Utilizes fuzzy matching
 1. Married and changed last name
 2. Used different names on applications
2. Students with FERPA blocks will not match
3. Counts will be lower than using CSU/UC Analytics for CSU/UC transfers

Transfer Rate Data Outcomes (*Preliminary!*)

- Transfer Rate Methodology
- Transfer Rates (Internal Data/NSC) (*Preliminary!*)
- Alternative Transfer Outcomes (State Level)

Transfer Rate Methodology

- Transfer rate cohorts are defined as:
 - First-time to SDCCD students with no prior degrees
 - Educational objective of 'transfer without earning an AA/AS' or 'transfer after earning AA/AS'
 - Under 30 years of age
 - Not concurrently enrolled in a 4-year institution
 - Non-special admit (high school) student
- Metric expressed as a percent of starting cohort size

Factors Most Associated with Transfer Outcomes

- The following factors were examined in relation to Outcomes
 - First-Generation
 - High School GPA
 - Ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Educational Objective
- Three most impactful factors
 - First Generation
 - High School GPA
 - Educational Objective

Transfer Rate (Ed Objective)

Table. Transfer Rate by Educational Objective

Cohort	Educational Obj	Count	%xfer	%xfer2	%xfer3	%xfer4	%xfer5	%xfer6
2019-20	XferIntent	2,437	3%	14%	25%	33%	39%	42%
2019-20	NotXferIntent	1,066	3%	6%	10%	13%	15%	16%
2020-21	XferIntent	3,164	3%	16%	29%	37%	41%	
2020-21	NotXferIntent	1,088	7%	10%	14%	17%	19%	
2021-22	XferIntent	3,080	3%	14%	29%	34%		
2021-22	NotXferIntent	1,053	5%	7%	11%	13%		
2022-23	XferIntent	3,251	3%	16%	29%			
2022-23	NotXferIntent	1,164	2%	5%	8%			
2023-24	XferIntent	3,494	3%	16%				
2023-24	NotXferIntent	1,297	3%	5%				
2024-25	XferIntent	3,456	3%					
2024-25	NotXferIntent	1,577	2%					

Transfer Rate (2019-2024 Aggregated and Individual Cohorts)

- After the 2019-20 cohort, transfer rates have remained fairly stable over the past 6 years

First-Time Cohort	%Xfer1Yr	%Xfer2Yr	%Xfer3Yr	%Xfer4Yr	%Xfer5Yr	%Xfer6yr
2019-20	3%	14%	25%	33%	39%	42%
2020-21	3%	16%	29%	37%	41%	
2021-22	3%	14%	29%	34%		
2022-23	3%	16%	29%			
2023-24	3%	16%				
2024-25	3%					
<i>Aggregate</i>	3%	15%	28%	35%	40%	42%

Transfer Rate (First Generation Status)

- One of the more differentiating metrics
- In first three years, non-first gen students transfer at nearly twice the rate as first gen students

Table. 2019-2024 Aggregated Cohorts

First Gen Status	%Xfer1Yr	%Xfer2Yr	%Xfer3Yr	%Xfer4Yr	%Xfer5Yr	%Xfer6yr
First Gen	2%	9%	18%	24%	30%	30%
Not First Gen	4%	19%	34%	41%	45%	46%
Unknown	2%	12%	25%	34%	40%	44%

Transfer Rate by HS GPA Band

➤ [Transfer rate by GPA.eth.cohort.xlsx](#)

Alternate Outcomes Transfer

Student Completion of Transfer English & Math by Credit Academic Year

Credit Academic Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
2015-16	6.91%	14.53%	18.60%	20.50%	21.83%	22.59%	23.00%	23.12%	23.26%	23.30%
2016-17		8.30%	16.35%	20.60%	22.99%	24.26%	24.78%	25.01%	25.28%	25.30%
2017-18			7.94%	16.42%	21.20%	23.24%	24.02%	24.58%	24.91%	25.01%
2018-19				9.69%	18.16%	22.48%	24.23%	25.23%	25.78%	25.95%
2019-20					12.98%	20.50%	24.37%	25.95%	27.07%	27.38%
2020-21						14.80%	22.13%	26.08%	28.09%	28.60%
2021-22							12.26%	19.20%	23.30%	24.30%
2022-23								11.16%	19.39%	21.06%
2023-24									12.56%	15.31%
2024-25										3.23%

- The percentage of students who completed Transfer English and Math within five years of their first enrollment in community college increase 7 percentage points between 2016 and 2021.

Alternate Transfer Outcomes

Student Transfers to a 4 Year College by Credit Academic Year

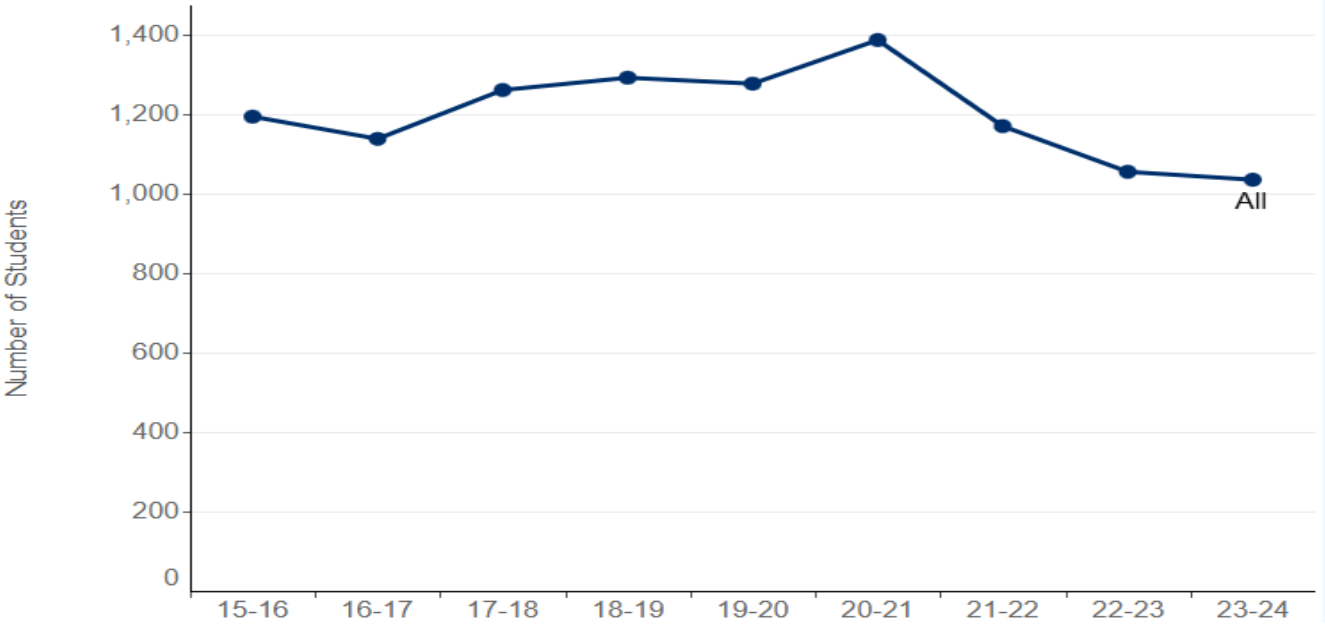
Credit Academic Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
⊕ 2015-16	4.01%	9.90%	16.15%	22.46%	27.24%	30.59%	32.33%	33.77%	35.04%	35.65%
⊕ 2016-17		2.35%	9.85%	17.74%	24.92%	30.18%	33.11%	34.97%	36.61%	37.32%
⊕ 2017-18			2.40%	12.57%	20.85%	27.60%	31.88%	34.82%	36.76%	37.64%
⊕ 2018-19				1.59%	10.82%	20.71%	27.86%	32.29%	35.40%	36.70%
⊕ 2019-20					1.46%	10.91%	22.36%	29.04%	34.00%	36.45%
⊕ 2020-21						2.69%	12.86%	25.59%	34.00%	38.55%
⊕ 2021-22							1.70%	10.65%	21.18%	28.30%
⊕ 2022-23								1.45%	9.93%	19.26%
⊕ 2023-24									1.72%	7.53%
⊕ 2024-25										0.73%

Students who transferred to a 4-year college within five years of their first enrollment in community college increased 41% between 2016 and 2021.

Student Transfer

Transferred to a Four-Year Institution, Out-of-State College by Overall

All General Admit Students in All Programs at San Diego (District)



About 1,200 SDCCD students transfer to a 4-year college every year.

Peer Reviewed Research

Leoni, Fleming, and McFarland (2023), in a seven-year study of 415 community college students, found that these students higher GPA (2.89 vs. 2.76, greater persistence 87% vs. 67%).

Dragonov, Kim, and Yoon (2025) found that a supplemental instruction program at a California community college showed a "positive association between program participation and use of activities toward AA degree attainment, fall-to-fall persistence, and transfer to four-year institution."

Sandoval-Lucero, Lindsey, Kilingsmith, and Chavez (2024) found that community college student who transferred after participating in a transfer support program showed increased preparation and resilience.

SI for the Sciences

https://sdccd0-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/ppanelli_sdccd_edu/IQARhdLIuxLiQ4HveGo4QPwqAb0P1F_hYhy57ZwoLQIfWb4?e=3hSsk4

Future Research

- Metrics
 - Degree Attainment
 - Transfer Prepared
- Interventions
 - Personal Growth Classes
 - Supplemental Instruction at City College
- What would you like to

Student Transfer Resources

- [National Student Clearinghouse](#) (NSC)
- [CSU Analytics Site](#)
- [UC Analytics Site](#)
- [SCFF](#) Metric Definitions
- [SCFF](#) Data

