Overview

- Student Mobility & Transfer
- Five Metrics of Effectiveness from Tracking Transfer
- NSC Research Center’s Tracking Transfer Signature Report
Most Students Today are Mobile

Among all starting undergraduates in 2008 (3.6M students)

- 37% attended more than one institution within 6 years
  - 36.5% of students who started at a 4-year public
  - 39.5% of students who started at a CC
Mobility Among Completers

Among all bachelors degree recipients in 2014/15 (1.5M graduates)

- 65% attended 2 or more institutions
- 25% attended 3 or more institutions
- 55% had attended a Community College
- 20% had earned an associate degree
At 2-year institutions, nearly one-third (32%) of degree completions take place somewhere else.

First Completions within six years for Fall 2010 entering cohort.
...it's nearly one half (49%) if we include subsequent bachelor’s after associates

All Completions within six years for Fall 2010 entering cohort
Community College to Bachelor’s
A Critical Pathway

- IPEDS reporting for 2-year institutions only tracks number of students who transfer, not numbers who complete after transfer;
- Some voluntary reporting (VFA, SAM);
- Some state-level reporting, but many students transfer inter-state;
- Institutions do not regularly track where students transfer to, nor whether they are successful when they get there.
Tracking Transfer: Measures of Effectiveness
New Metrics for Effectiveness of State and Institutional Partnerships

For Community Colleges

1. **Transfer-out rate**: % of a CC’s degree-seeking students who transfer to a 4-year institution

2. **Transfer-with-award rate**: % of a CC’s transfer students who earn either a certificate or associate’s before transferring to a 4-year

3. **Transfer-out bachelor’s completion rate**: % of a CC’s students who transfer to a 4-year and earn a bachelor’s degree (any four-year) within six years of entering a CC
New Metrics for Effectiveness of State and Institutional Partnerships

For 4-year institutions

1. **Transfer-in bachelor’s completion rate**: % of the students who transfer into a given 4-year institution and complete a bachelor’s at that institution within six years of having entered a CC
New Metrics for Effectiveness of State and Institutional Partnerships

For Community Colleges and States

1. **CC cohort bachelor’s completion rate**: the rate at which degree seeking students who enter higher ed through a CC transfer and earn a bachelor’s (any four-year)
   - For the starting institution
   - For the statewide CC sector
Average Transfer-Out Rates by CC Characteristics

- **Program Mix**
  - Primarily Academic: 31.4%
  - Primarily Occupational: 32.0%

- **Urbaneity**
  - Rural: 30.5%
  - Suburban/Town: 32.4%
  - Urban: 30.8%

- **Average Student SES**
  - Lower Quintiles: 26.3%
  - Middle Quintile: 27.8%
  - Top Quintiles: 34.6%

U.S. Community College Average: 31.5%
Average Transfer-Out Bachelor’s Completion Rate

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM MIX</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Community College Average</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
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<th>URBANICITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
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<td>Top Quintiles</td>
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CC Cohort Bachelor’s Completion Rate

U.S. Community College Average: 13.3%

Primarily Academic: 12.8%
Primarily Occupational: 14.0%

Rural: 12.7%
Suburban/Town: 14.1%
Urban: 12.6%

Lower Quintiles: 9.4%
Middle Quintile: 10.9%
Top Quintiles: 15.5%

Community College Cohort Bachelor’s Completion
## Transfer Outcomes by Student-Level Income

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<th>Transfer-Out</th>
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<td><strong>Higher Income</strong></td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
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Transfer-In Bachelor’s Completion Rate

- Public: 41.3%
- Private Nonprofit: 31.4%
- Private For-profit: 6.3%
Transfer-In Bachelor’s Completion Rate By Selectivity

- Nonselective: 21.1%
- Moderately Selective: 38.8%
- Very Selective: 54.5%
Key Findings & Implications

• Publics and highly selective 4-yrs highest
• Outcomes varied widely by state
• High state cohort completion rates require both high transfer-out rates and high transfer-in-completion rates
• 2- and 4-year institutions should regularly monitor performance using common metrics that track students all the way to bachelor’s
How can you use the reports to improve student success?

• Measure and benchmark these metrics, controlling for
  - Institutional characteristics—sending and receiving institutions
  - Institution’s transfer partners
  - Student characteristics
  - State policy contexts

• Track annually to demonstrate progress and set new goals

• Access student-level results and link to institutional data from your SIS, using StudentTracker
Questions?

Reports & Publications
nscresearchcenter.org

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