



COLORADO COMMUNITY
COLLEGE SYSTEM

Colorado Community College System

TRANSFER REPORT FALL 2010 TO FALL 2011

APRIL 2013



Introduction

Each year, the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) reports on the numbers of students who transfer from two-year colleges to Colorado's public four-year colleges. In 2010-11, CDHE reports that 5,593 students transferred from CCCS colleges to public, four-year colleges in Colorado. Metropolitan State University of Denver was the destination for the greatest number of transfer students, accounting for approximately one-third of the total. The CDHE report is available online at:

http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/Publications/Reports/Enrollment/FY2011/2011_Transfer_Summary.pdf

CCCS considers transfer production an important component of meeting its mission of facilitating the achievement of educational goals of students. Thus, in an effort to obtain broader information on its transfer students than the CDHE report provides, CCCS matched its students with National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data. NSC collects enrollment data from colleges and universities in the United States; the institutions that provide data to NSC enroll over 92 percent of the nation's postsecondary students. By using the NSC database, CCCS can obtain data on a much broader scope of colleges, including public and private, out-of-state as well as in-state, and two-year in addition to four-year institutions. Matching with the NSC data also helps resolve a data collection issue with the CDHE report that may result in the underreporting of CCCS transfer students: the number of transfer students in the CDHE report relies on information provided by the transfer college, so students who transfer may be missed in the data collection process. Within its own database, CCCS can elicit information regarding the academic status and intent of transfer students during the time they attended CCCS community colleges.



Based on National Student Clearinghouse data, 12,225 students were found to be attending or transferred to another college in Fall 2011. This number is more than twice the number of students that the CDHE report identifies.

Fall 2010 to Fall 2011 Transfers

A total of 12,225 students attending a Colorado Community College System (CCCS) college in Fall 2010 transferred to another institution of higher education in Fall 2011. This amounts to 13.3 percent of the 91,947 students submitted to NSC for matching.¹ Of the transfers, 1,348 students were attending a CCCS college and another college in Fall 2011. A student is counted as a transfer if he or she enrolls in a different institution of higher education in the subsequent fall, regardless of whether the student earned a credential at the originating CCCS college.

Table 1. CCCS Fall Students Transferred to Other Institutions in Following Fall

	Fall 2010 to Fall 2011		Fall 2009 to Fall 2010	
	Headcount	Percent of Cohort	Headcount	Percent of Cohort
Original Cohort*	91,947	100.0%	83,369	100.0%
Transfers**	12,225	13.3%	12,218	14.7%
Concurrent Transfers***	1,348	1.5%	1,466	1.9%

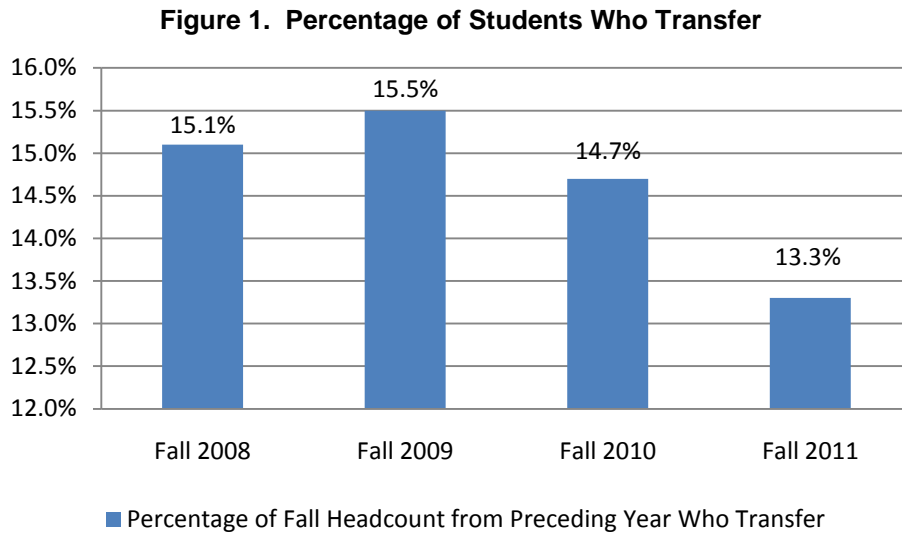
*The original cohort includes all countable undergraduates selected from the Fall 2010 Demographic file in the Student Tracking System, duplicated across CCCS colleges.

**Transfers are students who attended or graduated from another institution in Fall 2011, according to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). Transfers do not include those who withdrew from the transfer institution that term. A student’s enrollment status before or after that term is not included in the analysis. NSC matching was performed on student name and date of birth, and resulted in a 56.5% match rate. Not all institutions participate in NSC.

*** Concurrent transfers are those who were attending a CCCS college as well as another institution in Fall 2011. They are included in the transfer headcount and percentage.

¹ This number is less than the Fall 2010 headcount because some student records are not submitted to NSC. For example, records without a date of birth are not submitted.

Figure 1 illustrates the change in the proportion of students transferring over the last four years. During the four-year period, the percentage of students transferring peaked in Fall 2009 at 15.5 percent.



The majority of transfer students, 91.2 percent, transferred to a four-year institution (Table 2), with 84.8 percent of the students attending a public institution (Table 3). Of those at public colleges, 90.2 percent attended a four-year college. Over the last four years, the percentage of transfers attending a four-year college has remained relatively consistent (Figure 2).

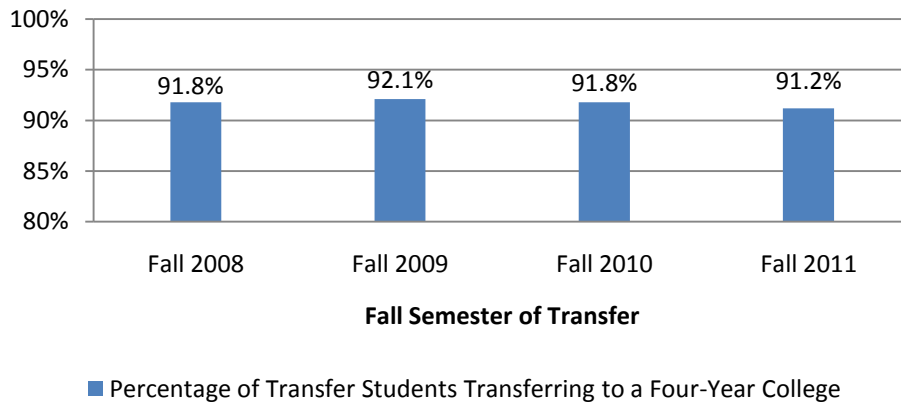
Table 2. Two-Year and Four-Year Transfer Colleges Compared to Public and Private Transfer Colleges

	Total	Public	Private	All
Four-Year	91.2%	9,348	1,802	11,150
Two-Year	8.8%	1,014	61	1,075
Total	100.0%	10,362	1,863	12,225

Table 3. Type of Transfer Institution

	Colorado	All
Public	71.7%	84.8%
Private	8.2%	15.2%
Total	79.9%	100.0%

Figure 2. Transfers to Four-Year Colleges



In Fall 2010, a higher proportion of those who transferred were attending a CCCS college on a full-time basis – although not markedly so, 38.9 percent versus 35.1 percent for all students (Table 4). The proportion of transfers who had attended college before is relatively comparable to the proportion for all students: 59.4 percent for transfers versus 56.5 percent for all students. About 12 percent of students who transferred in Fall 2011 were new to college in Fall 2010 compared to 22.1 percent of the overall population.

Table 4. Enrollment Status in Fall 2010

	Transfers	All Students
Part-Time	61.1%	64.9%
Full-Time	38.9%	35.1%
Continuing Student	59.4%	56.5%
New First Time Anywhere	12.1%	22.1%
Transfer Student	10.3%	9.2%
Unknown/Other ¹	10.7%	2.3%
Readmit	3.7%	5.8%
High School Student	3.9%	4.1%

¹“Unknown/Other” primarily includes CCD Consortium Students; a small number of continuing education students are also included.

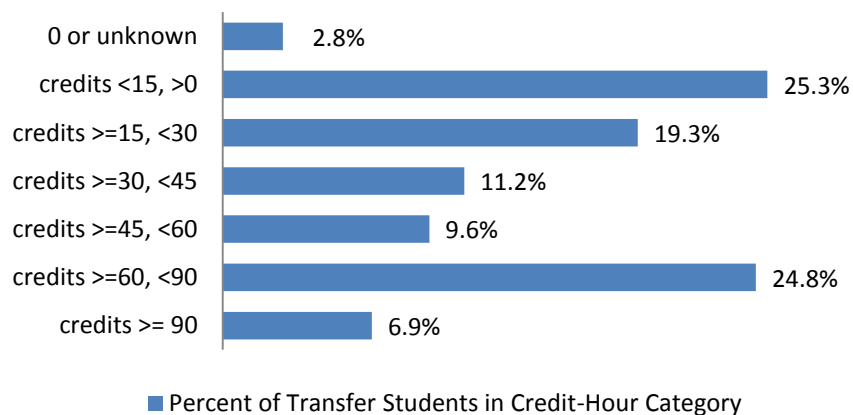
Table 5 displays students' intended credential before transferring, represented here by the degree or certificate program declared in Fall 2010. About 62 percent of all students who transferred had declared an intention to earn some type of associate's degree, while one-third identified themselves as non-degree seeking or undeclared before transferring a year later. This latter statistic suggests the original intent of these students was to transfer to another institution after taking classes at a CCCS college.

Table 5. Student Intent Prior To Transfer

AA/AS Degree	36.8%
Non-Degree Seeking	16.9%
Undeclared	15.8%
AAS Degree	14.6%
AGS Degree	10.7%
Certificate	5.2%
Unknown	0.0%
	100.0%

Almost 45 percent of students who transferred in Fall 2011 had earned between one and twenty-nine credit hours at a CCCS institution at the time of their transfer. Figure 3 provides a breakout of credit hours earned by Fall 2011 transfers.

Figure 3. Credit Hours Earned by Transfer Students through Fall 2011



The most common transfer destination overall was Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver), claiming 26.5 percent of all transfers. Colorado State University drew the next largest number, at 9.6 percent. Regis University was the fifth top destination and the top private institution, drawing 5.1 percent of transfer students (Table 6).

Table 6. Top Five Transfer Destinations

Transfer Destination	Students	% of Total
MSU Denver	3,238	26.5%
Colorado State University	1,169	9.6%
UC Denver	997	8.2%
UC Colorado Springs	701	5.7%
Regis University	619	5.1%
	6,724	55.1%

As Figure 4 illustrates, Metropolitan State University of Denver has been the top destination throughout the last four years, and the number of students transferring there has increased in each of the last four years. Regis University has replaced the University of Colorado – Boulder in the top five transfer destinations in the last two years.

Figure 4. Top Five Transfer Destinations, 2008 - 2011

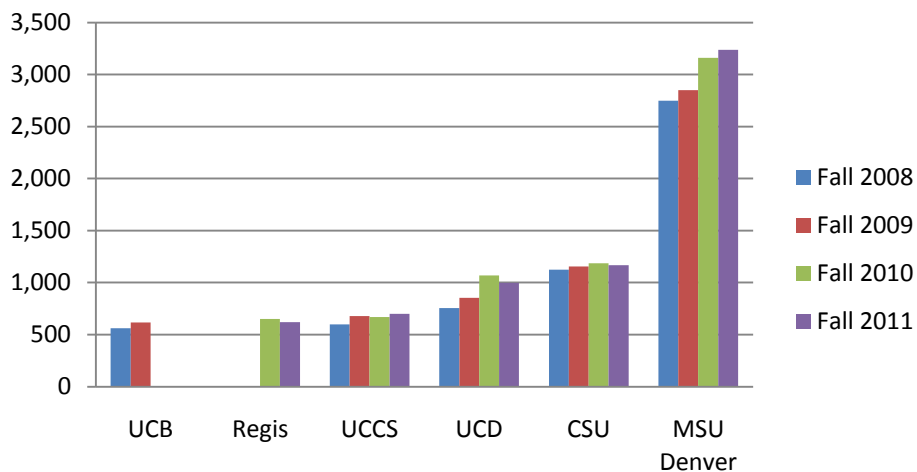




Table 7 identifies, for each CCCS college, the number of transfers and their top destinations. CCD had the highest percentage of their students transfer (20.9 percent), followed by LCC at 16.2 percent. Metropolitan State University of Denver was the top destination for four of the thirteen community colleges; Colorado State University - Pueblo was the top destination for three of the community colleges.

Table 7. Transfers by Originating College

Originating College	Transfer to 2 yr	Transfer to 4 yr	Total	Transfers as Percent of Total Students	Top Transfer Destination
ACC	87	902	989	10.7%	MSU Denver
CCA	48	843	891	11.7%	MSU Denver
CCD	125	2,577	2,702	20.9%	MSU Denver
CNCC	39	148	187	12.9%	Colorado Mesa
FRCC	284	2,645	2,929	14.6%	CSU
LCC	18	149	167	16.2%	CSU - Pueblo
MCC	32	266	298	15.2%	UNC
NJC	44	264	308	14.2%	UNC
OJC	21	193	214	11.7%	CSU - Pueblo
PCC	75	551	626	9.3%	CSU - Pueblo
PPCC	200	1,353	1,553	10.2%	UCCS
RRCC	74	1,029	1,103	11.3%	MSU Denver
TSJC	28	230	258	13.5%	Adams State
Total	1,075	11,150	12,225	13.3%	MSU Denver

Figure 5 shows transfers as a percentage of total students by originating college over the last four years, while Figure 6 illustrates the total number of transfers by originating college for the same timeframe.

Figure 5. Percent of Transfers by Originating College: 2008 to 2011

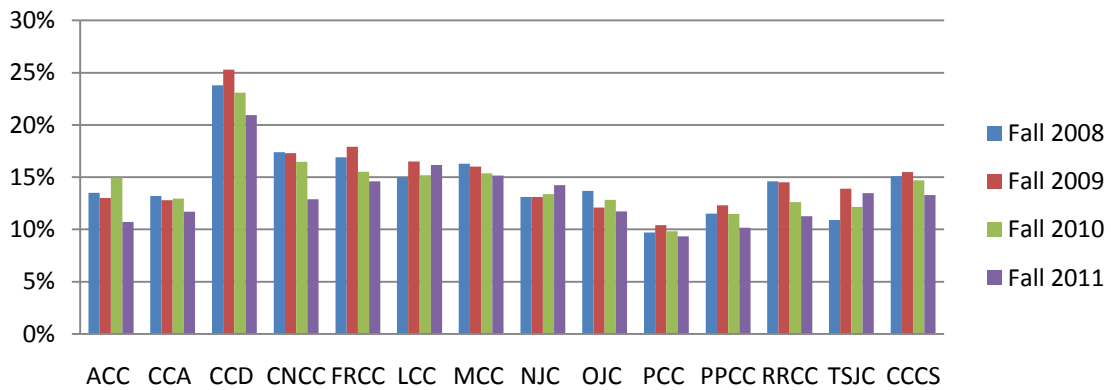
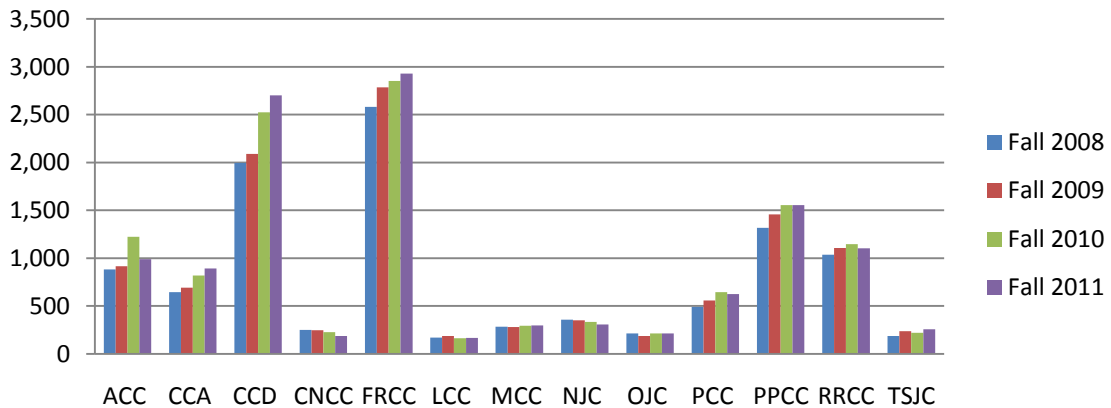


Figure 6. Number of Transfers by Originating College: 2008 to 2011





In Colorado, the following institutions with enrollment of 1,000 or more do not participate in the National Student Clearinghouse:²

- Colorado Technical University
- Westwood College
- United States Air Force Academy
- The Art Institute of Colorado
- Everest College
- Lincoln College of Technology.

In Fall 2012, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center conducted a study on the number of student records that were “blocked” and, therefore, unable to be used in research projects such as this transfer report.³ Both students and institutions are able to request that information be blocked, although institutional requests are rare, according to the report. The center’s study spanned three years (2006-07, 2008-09, and 2010-11) and found that the national average block rate for all three years was 4.65 percent. The rates varied significantly among states, however, with some states exceeding 10 percent and others, including Colorado, at less than one percent. Colorado’s block rates for the three years were 0.36 percent, 0.28 percent, and 0.30 percent. As noted earlier, about 80 percent of transfers attend a school in Colorado. Given the low block rates for Colorado and the high percentage of students who transfer to in-state institutions, the study implies a high degree of reliability for CCCS transfer data. The Colorado institutions with the highest number of student-requested blocks were Colorado State University – Pueblo and Colorado Mesa University. Both schools had a block rate of about 2.6 percent for the three years combined.

² The schools listed are estimates based on data from prior years’ reports, NSC, and college websites.

³ National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, *Impact of Directory Information Blocks on StudentTrackerSM Results*, http://research.studentclearinghouse.org/files/NSC_Directory_Block_Rates.pdf, September 13, 2012