



COLORADO COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE SYSTEM

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# Colorado Community College System

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**TRANSFER REPORT  
FALL 2011 TO FALL 2012**

**FEBRUARY 2014**



## **Introduction**

Each year, the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) reports on the numbers of students who transfer from Colorado Community College System (CCCS) institutions to four-year colleges in Colorado. In 2011-12, CDHE reports that 6,255 students transferred from CCCS colleges to four-year colleges in Colorado.<sup>1</sup>

Because CCCS considers transfer production an important component of meeting its mission of facilitating the achievement of educational goals of students, it seeks to obtain broader information on transfer students than the CDHE report provides. To that end, CCCS matches its students with National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data. NSC collects enrollment data from colleges and universities throughout the United States; the institutions that provide data to NSC enroll over 98 percent of the nation's postsecondary students. By using the NSC database, CCCS can obtain data on a much broader scope of colleges, including out-of-state as well as in-state institutions and two-year colleges 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 to in-state institutions: since the number of transfer students in the CDHE report relies on information provided by the transfer college, students who transfer may be missed in the data collection process. Once transfers are identified, CCCS can elicit demographic information and information regarding the academic status and intent of transfer students during the time they attended CCCS institutions.

Based on National Student Clearinghouse data, 13,149 students were found to be attending or transferred to another college in Fall 2012. This number is more than twice the number of students that the CDHE report identifies.

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<sup>1</sup> CDHE data on transfers includes students entering four-year, in-state institutions that report to SURDS when the student is identified as a transfer by the receiving institution at entry. The SURDS undergraduate applicant files are the source of the data.

### **Fall 2011 to Fall 2012 Transfers**

A total of 13,149 students attending a Colorado Community College System (CCCS) college in Fall 2011 transferred to another institution of higher education in Fall 2012. This number amounts to 14.3 percent of the 91,917 students submitted to NSC for matching. Of the transfers, 1,285 students were concurrently enrolled at a CCCS college and another college in Fall 2012. 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 2011 to Fall 2012		Fall 2010 to Fall 2011	
	Headcount	Percent of Cohort	Headcount	Percent of Cohort
Original Cohort*	91,917	100.0%	91,947	100.0%
Transfers**	13,149	14.3%	12,225	13.3%
Concurrent Transfers***	1,285	1.4%	1,348	1.5%

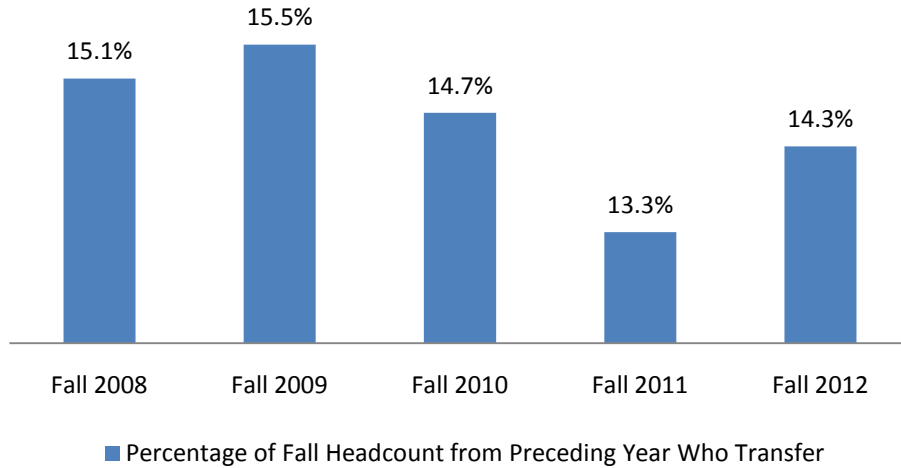
\*The original cohort includes all countable undergraduates selected from the Fall 2011 Demographic file in the Student Tracking System, duplicated across CCCS colleges.

\*\*Transfers are students who attended or graduated from another institution in Fall 2012, 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 96.6% 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 2012. They are included in the transfer headcount and percentage.

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

**Figure 1. Percentage of Students Who Transfer**



The majority of students, 91.4 percent, transferred to a four-year institution (Table 2), with 84 percent of students attending a public institution (Table 3). Of those at public colleges, 90.5 percent attended a four-year college. Over the last five years, the percentage of transfers attending a four-year college has remained relatively consistent, averaging 91.7 percent (Figure 2).

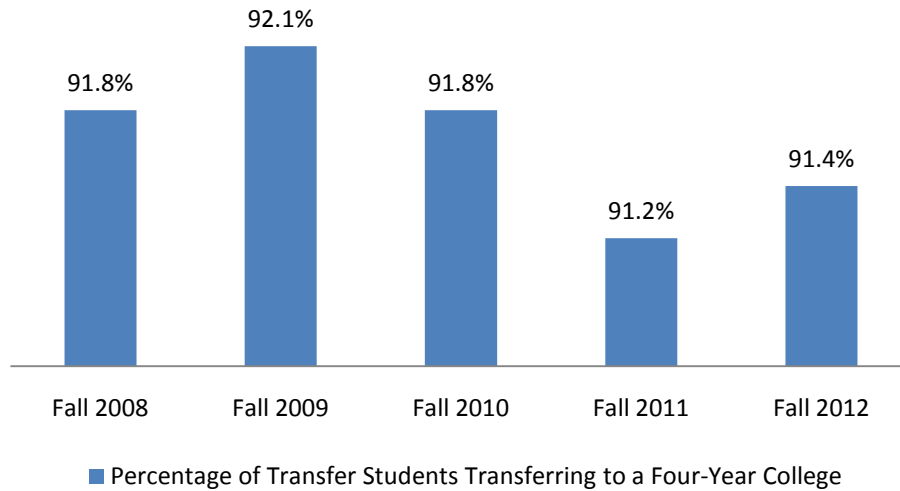
**Table 2. Destination of Transfer Students by Type of Institution**

Type	Total	Public	Private	All
Four-Year	91.4%	10,000	2,024	12,024
Two-Year	8.6%	1,044	81	1,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>11,044</b>	<b>2,105</b>	<b>13,149</b>

**Table 3. Destination of Transfer Students by Location and Type of Institution**

Type	Colorado	All
Public	70.4%	84.0%
Private	8.2%	16.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>78.6%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Figure 2. Transfers to Four-Year Colleges**



In Fall 2011, a higher proportion of those who transferred were attending a CCCS college on a full-time basis – although not markedly so, 34.9 percent versus 33 percent for all students (Table 4). The proportion of transfers who were high school students in Fall 2011 was higher than that for all students – 11.9 percent compared to 6.3 percent – and was also higher than the year-ago level of 3.9 percent. About 11 percent of students who transferred in Fall 2012 were new to college in Fall 2011 compared to 19.7 percent of the overall population.

**Table 4. Enrollment Status in Fall 2011**

Type of Student	Transfers	All Students
Part-Time	65.1%	67.0%
Full-Time	34.9%	33.0%
Continuing Student	53.2%	57.1%
New First Time Anywhere	11.3%	19.7%
Transfer Student	10.6%	8.9%
Unknown/Other	9.4%	2.2%
Readmit	3.5%	5.7%
High School Student	11.9%	6.3%

Table 5 displays students' intended credential before transferring, represented here by the degree or certificate program declared in Fall 2011. About 64 percent of all students who transferred had declared an intention to earn some type of associate's degree, while 31.7 percent 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**

Student Intent	Percent
AA/AS Degree	37.5%
Non-Degree Seeking	14.3%
Undeclared	17.4%
AAS Degree	14.7%
AGS Degree	11.5%
Certificate	4.6%
Unknown	0.0%

Seventeen and a half percent of transfers obtained a credential at CCCS in the year before transferring. The majority of credentials, 58.6 percent, were AA and AS degrees. Approximately 18 percent of awards were certificates (Table 6).<sup>2</sup>

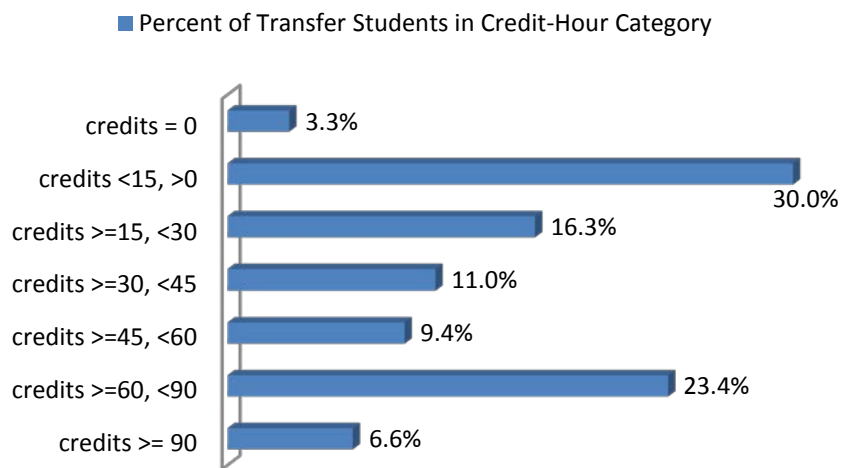
**Table 6. Credentials Earned by Transfer Students at CCCS Institutions in Year Preceding Transfer**

Award	Number	Percent of Awards
Certificate	434	17.7%
AAS Degree	297	12.1%
AGS Degree	283	11.6%
AA or AS Degree	1,436	58.6%
<b>Total Awards</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>2</sup> The number of credentials exceeds the number of students who earned a credential because some students received more than one credential. The number of students who earned a credential was 2,273.

Just over 46 percent of students who transferred in Fall 2012 had earned between one and twenty-nine credit hours at the time of their transfer. Figure 3 provides a breakout of credit hours earned by Fall 2012 transfer students.<sup>3</sup>

**Figure 3. Estimated Credit Hours Earned by Transfer Students through Fall 2012**



### **Transfer Destinations**

The most common transfer destination overall was Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver), claiming 24.1 percent of all transfers. Colorado State University drew the next largest number, at 9.9 percent. Regis University was the fifth top destination and the top private institution, drawing 5.3 percent of transfer students (Table 7). The top five transfer destinations drew 53.9 percent of all transfers.

<sup>3</sup> Based on cumulative credit hours reported in SURDS enrollment files. Credit hours include advanced credit and transfer hours but not remedial hours.

**Table 7. Top Five Transfer Destinations**

Transfer Destination	Students	% of Total Transfers
MSU Denver	3,166	24.1%
Colorado State University	1,304	9.9%
University of Colorado Denver	1,102	8.4%
University of Colorado Colorado Springs	815	6.2%
Regis University	697	5.3%
<b>Total of Top Five Destinations</b>	<b>7,084</b>	<b>53.9%</b>

As Figure 4 illustrates, MSU Denver has been the top destination throughout the last five years, although the number of students transferring there decreased slightly in 2012. Regis University replaced the University of Colorado Boulder as a top-five transfer destination in 2010.

**Figure 4. Top Five Transfer Destinations, 2008 - 2012**

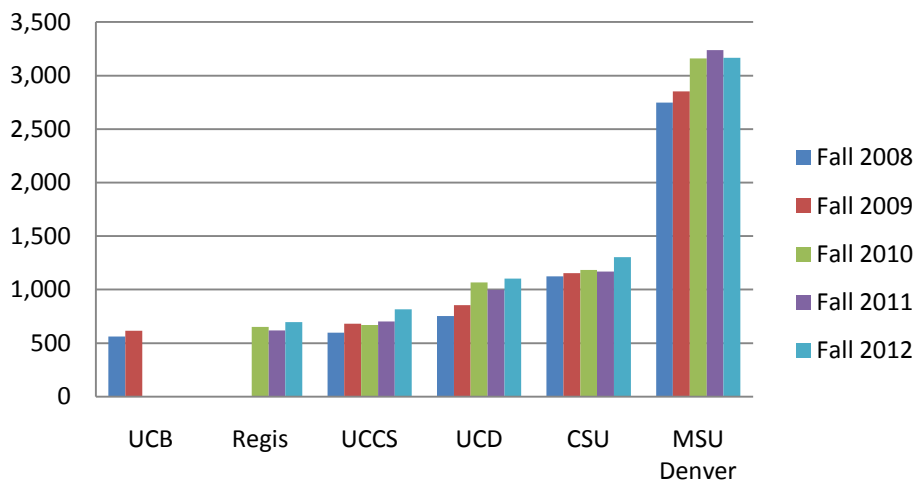


Table 8 identifies, for each CCCS college, the number of transfers and the top transfer destination. CCD had the highest percentage of transfers (20.7 percent), followed by MCC at 16.8 percent. Metropolitan State University of Denver was the top destination





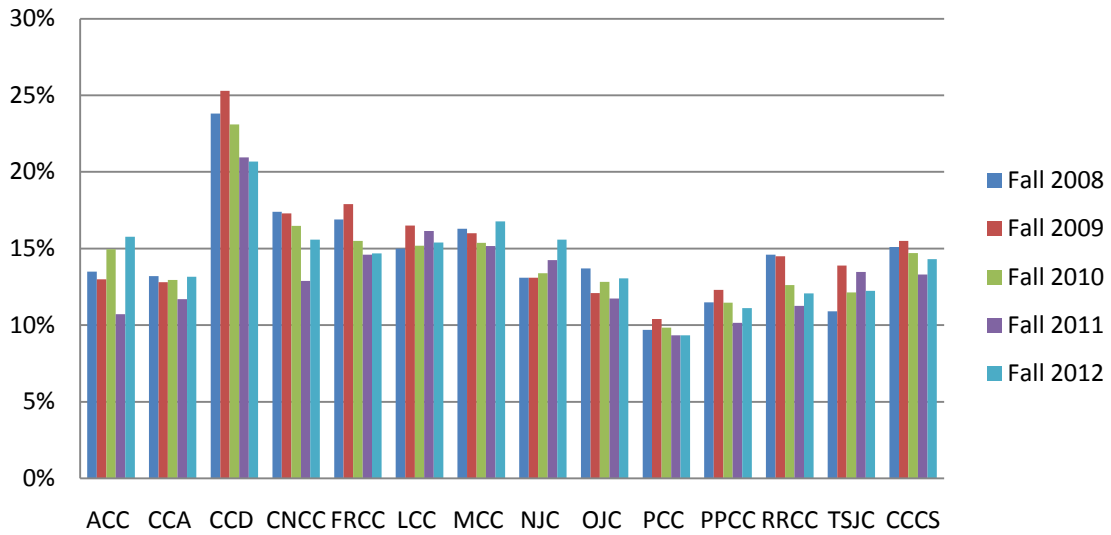
for four of the thirteen community colleges; Colorado State University and Colorado State University Pueblo were each the top destination for two of the community colleges. An out-of-state institution – West Texas A&M University – was the top destination for LCC transfers. West Texas A&M, which is located in Canyon, Texas, just south of Amarillo, replaced CSU Pueblo as LCC's top transfer destination by two students. Fifteen students transferred to West Texas A&M, while thirteen transferred to CSU Pueblo.

**Table 8. Transfers by Originating College**

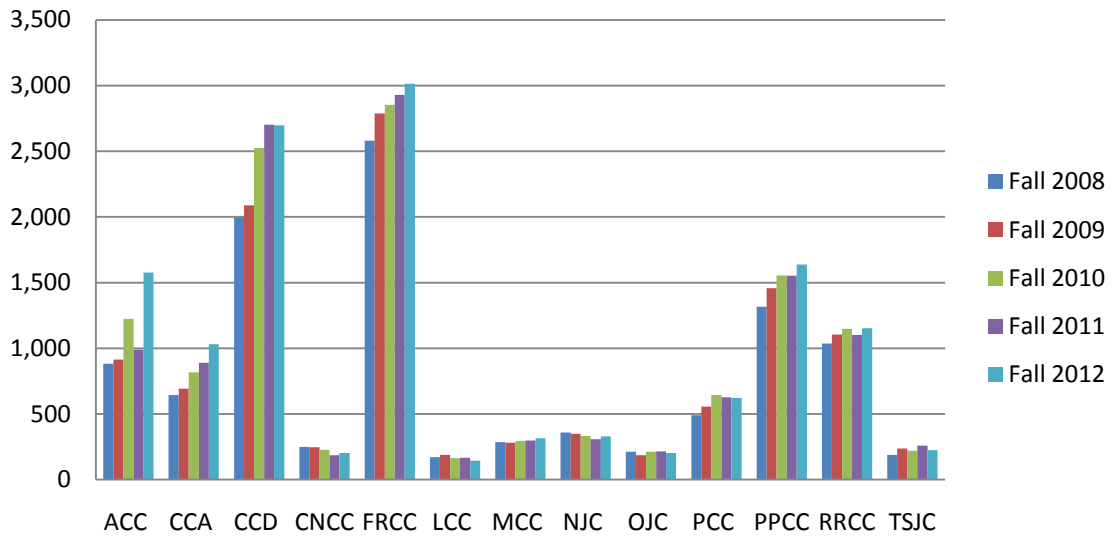
Originating College	Transfer to 2 yr	Transfer to 4 yr	Total	Transfers as % of Total Students	Top Transfer Destination
ACC	99	1,477	1,576	15.8%	MSU Denver
CCA	49	981	1,030	13.2%	MSU Denver
CCD	121	2,577	2,698	20.7%	MSU Denver
CNCC	37	166	203	15.6%	Colorado Mesa
FRCC	304	2,710	3,014	14.7%	CSU
LCC	14	130	144	15.4%	West Texas A&M
MCC	42	274	316	16.8%	UNC
NJC	38	291	329	15.6%	CSU
OJC	21	181	202	13.1%	CSU - Pueblo
PCC	75	546	621	9.3%	CSU - Pueblo
PPCC	215	1,423	1,638	11.1%	UCCS
RRCC	86	1,067	1,153	12.1%	MSU Denver
TSJC	24	201	225	12.2%	Adams State
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>12,024</b>	<b>13,149</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>MSU Denver</b>

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

**Figure 5. Percent of Transfers by Originating College: 2008 to 2012**



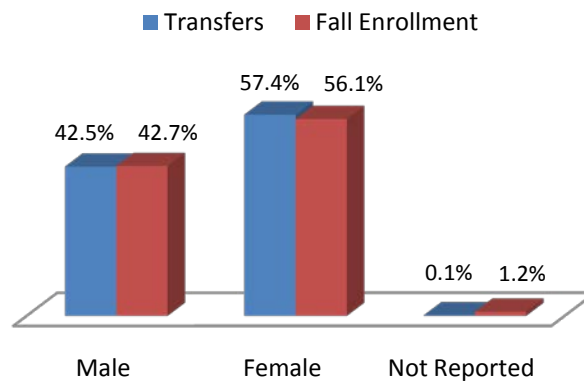
**Figure 6. Number of Transfers by Originating College: 2008 to 2012**



## Demographics of Transfer Students

Females comprised a slightly higher proportion of transfers than they did of the 2011 Fall enrollment: 57.4 percent compared to 56.1 percent (Figure 7). Males were almost equally represented, while the proportion of students who did not report gender was lower by about a percentage point in the transfer population.

**Figure 7. Comparison of Transfers and Overall Population by Gender**



Transfer students were slightly more likely to be white than the overall population: 59.4 percent of transfers reported as white versus 56.9 percent of the overall Fall enrollment (Table 8). Conversely, minorities comprised 30.5 percent of the transfer population compared to 34.6 percent of the overall enrollment.

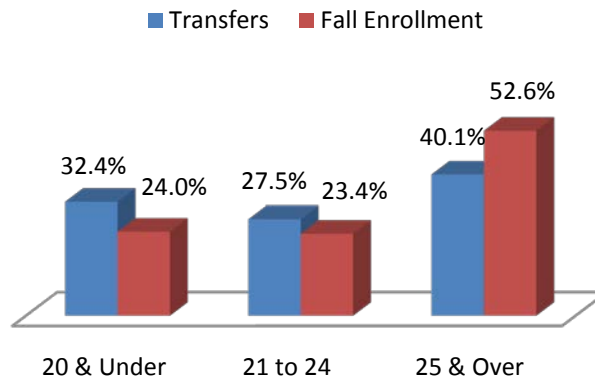
**Table 8. Comparison of Transfers and Overall Population by Race/Ethnicity**

Race/Ethnicity	Transfers	Fall 2011 Enrollment	Transfers Compared to Enrollment
Asian	3.2%	2.8%	0.4%
Black	5.9%	7.1%	-1.2%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%
Hispanic	13.4%	16.3%	-2.9%
Multiple	2.4%	2.5%	-0.1%
Native American/Alaska Native	0.9%	1.1%	-0.2%
Non-resident Alien	1.1%	1.3%	-0.2%
Unknown	13.4%	11.7%	1.8%
White	59.4%	56.9%	2.5%
<b>Minority*</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>34.6%</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>

\* The minority percentages are calculated using only the minority and white populations. Minorities include Asian, Black, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Multiple, and Native American/Alaska Native populations.

Students in the traditional college-age population were proportionally more likely to transfer than older students (Figure 9). Sixty percent of transfers were age 24 or younger, while 32.4 percent were age 20 or younger.

**Figure 9. Comparison of Transfers and Overall Population by Age**



## **Data**

The National Student Clearinghouse provides the most comprehensive data available for tracking student transfers. Nonetheless, not all postsecondary institutions participate. In Colorado, the following institutions with enrollment of 1,000 or more did not participate in the NSC at the time data was submitted for this report:

- Colorado Technical University
- United States Air Force Academy
- The Art Institute of Colorado
- Westwood College
- Jones International University
- College America
- Lincoln College of Technology
- Heritage College.