



COLORADO COMMUNITY
COLLEGE SYSTEM

Colorado Community College System

TRANSFER REPORT FALL 2015 TO FALL 2016 STUDENT TRANSFERS TO FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

MAY 2017



Students enroll in Colorado Community College System (CCCS) colleges for a variety of reasons, but the most oft-cited reason is to earn credits for transfer to an institution where they can earn a baccalaureate degree. Tracking transfer production – the number of students who transfer from a CCCS college to a four-year institution of higher education – helps CCCS measure its success in facilitating the educational goals of this significant segment of the student population.

To obtain the broadest information available on student transfers, 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 transfers to out-of-state as well as in-state institutions and more expansive data on in-state transfers to private colleges.¹

Fall 2015 to Fall 2016 Transfers

A total of 11,744 students attending a CCCS college in Fall 2015 transferred to a four-year institution of higher education in Fall 2016. These “transfers” equal 15 percent of the 78,287 students submitted to NSC for matching, referred to as the cohort. A student was counted as a transfer if he or she was enrolled in a four-year institution of higher education in Fall 2016, regardless of whether the student earned a credential at the originating CCCS college.

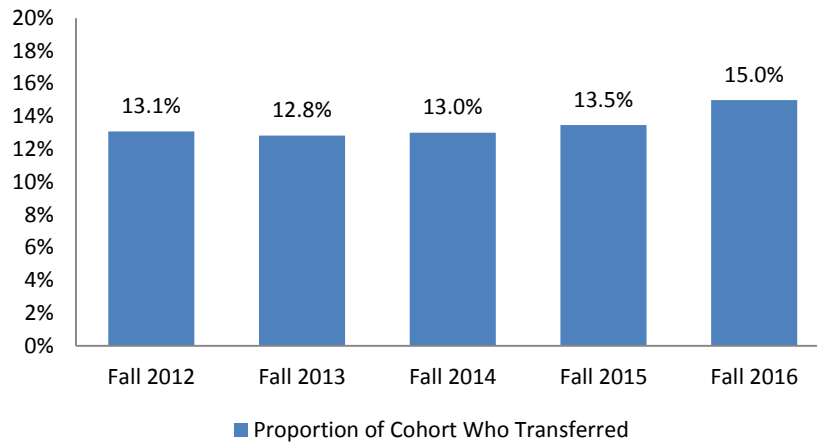
¹ The Colorado Department of Higher Education also produces a report on transfers. The CDHE report is based on data that is more limited than the data provided by NSC. The CDHE report does not include out-of-state institutions and its data from in-state private schools is limited. Further, the CDHE report for public in-state institutions relies on information provided by the transfer college, which may result in an underreporting of CCCS transfers. For comparison, CDHE's 2014-15 report identified 6,237 CCCS transfers to four-year institutions, while NSC data identified 11,049 such transfers.

Figure 1. CCCS Fall Students Transferred to Four-Year Institutions in Following Fall

	Fall 2015 Cohort	Percent of Cohort	Fall 2014 Cohort	Percent of Cohort
Original Cohort ²	78,287	100.0%	82,022	100.0%
Transfers ³	11,744	15.0%	11,049	13.5%

Figure 2 illustrates the change in the proportion of students transferring to a four-year institution over the last five years. The percentage of students transferring has been increasing since 2013 and peaked in 2016 at 15 percent.

Figure 2. Percentage of Students Who Transfer



The majority of student transfers – 81.1 percent – remained in Colorado to earn their baccalaureate degree, and Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver) was the top transfer destination, drawing 16.4 percent of transfer students. The top five

² The original cohort includes all countable undergraduates registered in a CCCS college in Fall 2015, duplicated across CCCS colleges, including high school students who are countable. A student is not countable if a third party pays for the student. An example of a non-countable student is a Department of Corrections' inmate registered at a CCCS college.

³ Transfers are students who attended or graduated from a four-year institution in Fall 2016, according to NSC. Transfers do not include those who withdrew from the transfer institution that term. A student's enrollment status before or after the Fall term is not included in the analysis. NSC matching was performed on student name and date of birth, and resulted in a 96.9% match rate. Not all institutions participate in NSC.

transfer destinations, illustrated in Figure 3, claimed 56.8 percent of college destinations. Eighty-four percent of students attended a public institution of higher education, although students who transferred to an out-of-state institution were more likely to enroll in a private institution than those who attended a Colorado institution (Figure 4). Regis University was the top private school destination of CCCS student transfers.

Figure 3. Top Five Transfer Destinations for CCCS Students

Transfer Destination	Students	% of Total Transfer Colleges
MSU Denver	1,933	16.4%
Colorado State University - Fort Collins	1,506	12.8%
University of Colorado Denver	1,201	10.2%
University of Colorado Colorado Springs	1,137	9.7%
University of Colorado Boulder	909	7.7%
Total of Top Five Destinations	6,686	56.8%

Figure 4. Destination of Transfer Students by Location and Type of Institution

Type	Colorado	Out of State	All
Public	91.0%	54.6%	84.1%
Private	9.0%	45.4%	15.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Overall Total	81.1%	18.9%	100.0%

In Fall 2015, a slightly higher proportion of those who transferred were attending a CCCS college on a full-time basis – 33.3 percent versus 31.5 percent for the cohort as a whole (Figure 5). The most significant difference between the transfer population and the cohort was in the proportion of transfers who were high school students: 25.2 percent of transfers were high school students compared to 15 percent of the cohort. Transfers were less likely to be new to college in the preceding fall (10.7 percent) than the cohort (16.1 percent).

Figure 5. Enrollment Status in Fall 2015

Type of Student	Transfers	Cohort
Part Time	66.7%	68.5%
Full Time	33.3%	31.5%
Continuing	49.3%	51.9%
New First Time Anywhere	10.7%	16.1%
Transfer	9.4%	10.7%
Other*	2.7%	0.9%
Readmit	2.7%	5.2%
High School	25.2%	15.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

*This category includes CCD consortium students and continuing education, internal transfer, international student admit, and less than high school students.

Figure 6 displays transfer students' goals in attending their CCCS college, represented here by the credential they were seeking in Fall 2015. Compared to the cohort, transfer students were less likely to indicate a career-oriented credential – a certificate or an associate of applied science (AAS) degree – as their goal and more likely to indicate an associate of arts (AA) or associate of science (AS) degree as their intended credential. Transfer students were also more likely to be undeclared or non-degree seeking than the cohort as a whole.

Figure 6. Student Intent Prior To Transfer

Student Intent	Transfer	Cohort
AA/AS Degree	56.1%	47.6%
Non-Degree Seeking	3.6%	1.5%
Undeclared	22.1%	11.7%
AAS Degree	9.0%	22.6%
AGS Degree	5.7%	9.8%
Certificate	3.5%	6.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

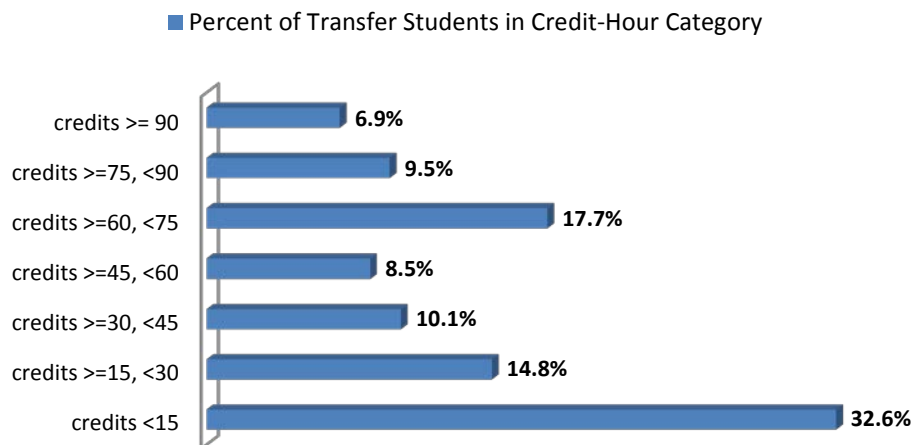
Twenty-three percent of transfer students, or 2,701 students, obtained at least one credential at a CCCS institution in the year before transferring. Seventy-nine percent of the 3,141 credentials earned were associate degrees; 55.8 percent were AA or AS degrees. Twenty-one percent of awards were certificates (Figure 7).⁴

Figure 7. Credentials Earned by Transfer Students at CCCS Institutions in Fall 2015 or Spring or Summer 2016

Award	Number of Credentials	Percent of Credentials
Certificate	665	21.2%
AAS Degree	400	12.7%
AGS Degree	324	10.3%
AA or AS Degree	1,752	55.8%
Total Awards	3,141	100.0%

Sixty-seven percent of students who transferred in Fall 2016 had earned at least fifteen credit hours at the time of their transfer. Figure 8 provides a breakout of credit hours earned through Summer 2016 by Fall 2016 transfer students.

Figure 8. Credit Hours Earned by Transfer Students



⁴ The number of credentials exceeds the number of students who earned a credential because some students received more than one credential.

Transfers by College

Arapahoe Community College had the highest proportion of its cohort transfer to a four-year institution, at 18.5 percent, followed by the Community College of Aurora, at 17.5 percent. MSU Denver was the top destination for four of the thirteen community colleges, while CSU Fort Collins was the top destination for three and CSU Pueblo was the top destination for two. Figure 9 identifies the number of transfers and the top transfer destination for each CCCS college.

Figure 9. Transfers by Originating College

Originating College	Student Transfers to Four-Year Institution	Transfers as % of Cohort	Top Transfer Destination
ACC	1,700	18.5%	Metropolitan State University of Denver
CCA	1,215	17.5%	Metropolitan State University of Denver
CCD	1,473	16.1%	Metropolitan State University of Denver
CNCC	173	14.7%	Colorado Mesa University
FRCC	3,037	16.2%	Colorado State University
LCC	123	15.8%	University of Colorado Colorado Springs
MCC	271	16.5%	Colorado State University
NJC	257	17.2%	Colorado State University
OJC	178	12.6%	Colorado State University - Pueblo
PCC	491	9.4%	Colorado State University - Pueblo
PPCC	1,642	12.6%	University of Colorado Colorado Springs
RRCC	926	11.9%	Metropolitan State University of Denver
TSJC	258	15.5%	Adams State University
Total	11,744	15.0%	Metropolitan State University of Denver

Figure 10 shows transfers as a percentage of the originating college's cohort over the last five years, while Figure 11 illustrates the total number of transfers by originating college for the same period. Over the five-year period, the Community College of Aurora and Trinidad State Junior College had the greatest increases in the proportion of students transferring to four-year institutions, at 5 percentage points and 4.6 percentage points, respectively.

Figure 10. Percent of Transfers by Originating College: 2012 to 2016

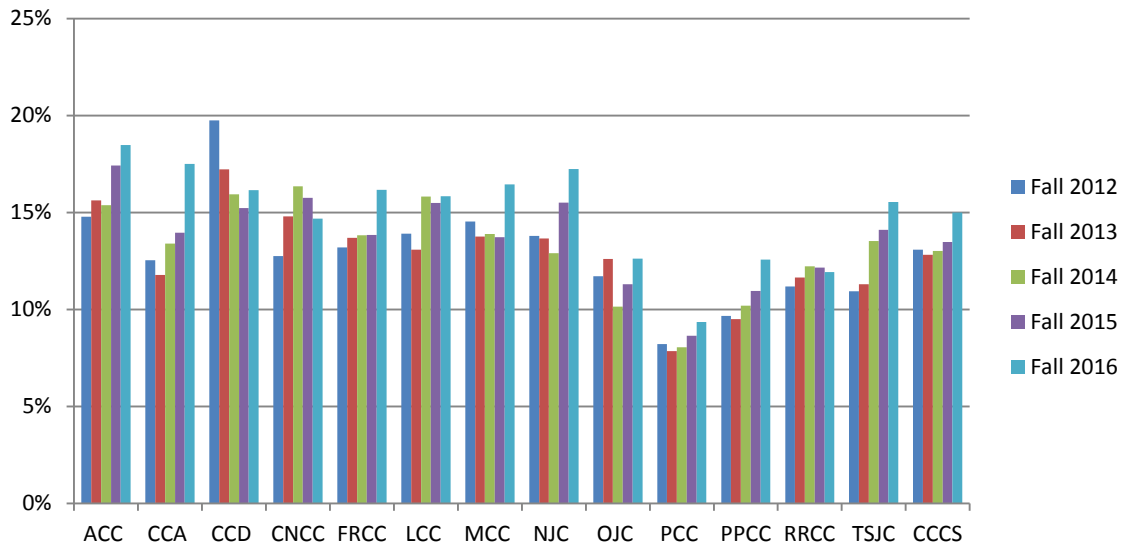
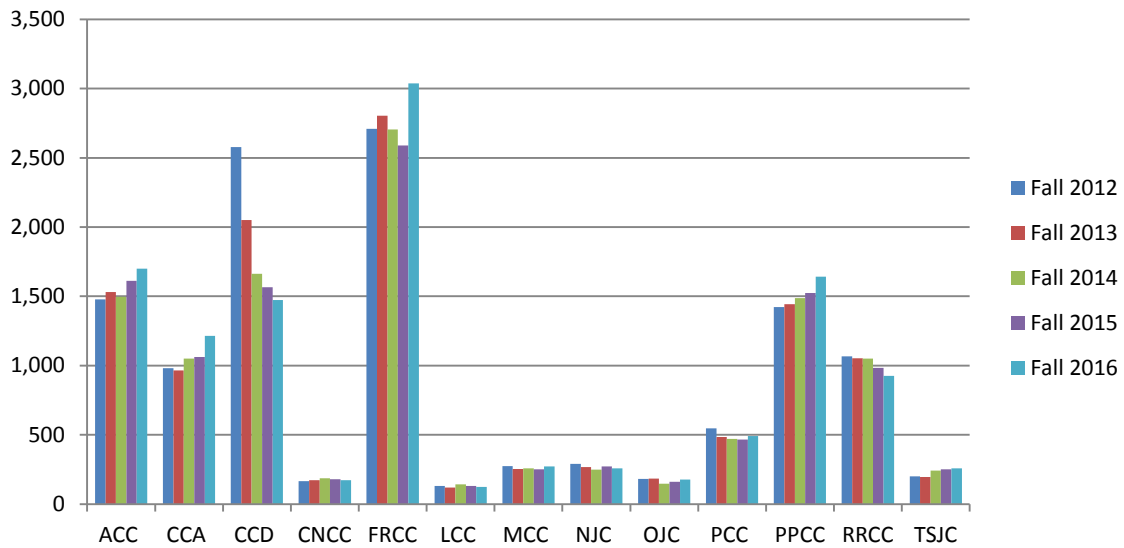


Figure 11. Number of Transfers by Originating College: 2012 to 2016



Demographics of Transfer Students

Students in the traditional college-age population were proportionally more likely to transfer than older students (Figure 12). Seventy-two percent of transfer students were age 24 or younger; 52.8 percent were age 20 or younger. In contrast, 60.5 percent of the cohort was age 24 or younger, and 40.8 percent was age 20 or younger. There were no significant differences between the transfer population and the cohort in gender, as illustrated in Figure 13.

Figure 12. Comparison of Age of Transfer Students and Cohort

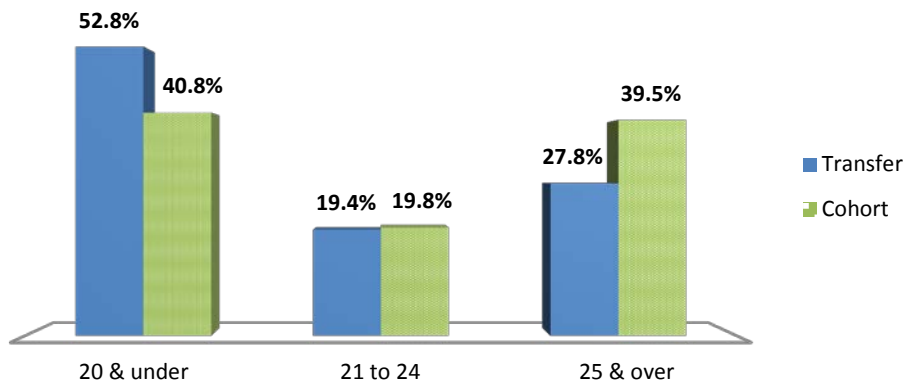
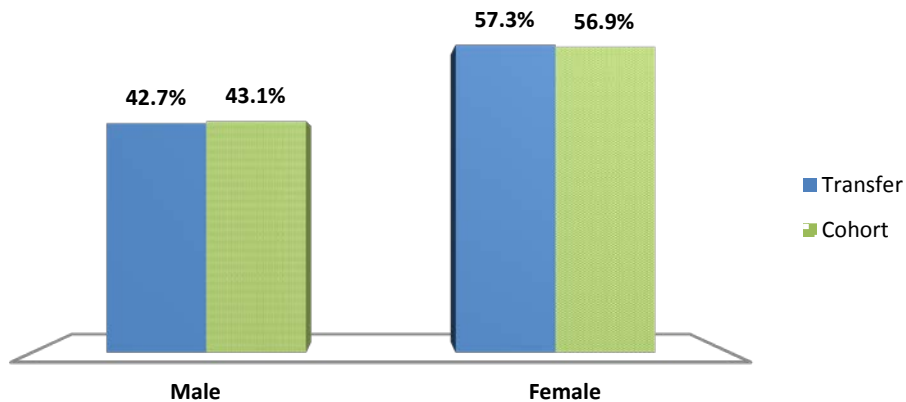


Figure 13. Comparison of Transfers and the Cohort by Gender⁵



⁵ Percentages limited to students who reported a gender.

Transfer students were more likely to be white than the cohort: 64.8 percent of transfer students reported as white versus 60.4 percent of the cohort (Figure 14). Students of color comprised 29.6 percent of the transfer population compared to 33.2 percent of the cohort. Hispanic students in particular were underrepresented in the transfer group.

Figure 14. Comparison of Race/Ethnicity of Transfer Students and Cohort

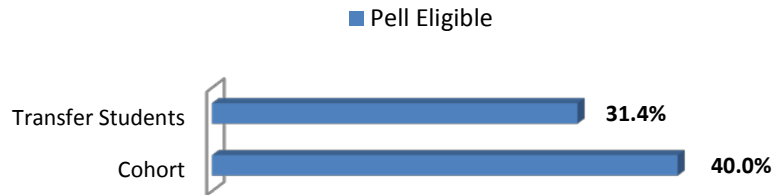
Race/Ethnicity	Transfer Students	Fall 2015 Cohort	Transfer Students Compared to Cohort
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.7%	0.9%	-0.2%
Asian	4.0%	3.2%	0.8%
Black or African American	4.8%	5.7%	-0.9%
Hispanic	15.1%	18.3%	-3.2%
Multiple Races	4.7%	4.8%	-0.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%
Non-Resident Alien (International)	0.8%	2.1%	-1.2%
Unknown	4.8%	4.3%	0.5%
White	64.8%	60.4%	4.3%
Students of Color	29.6%	33.2%	-3.6%

Students of color includes students who reported their race/ethnicity as American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or Hispanic or who reported multiple races, excluding international students.

Evidence suggests that students who transferred had more financial resources than the cohort at a whole. Thirty-one percent of transfer students were Pell eligible compared to 40 percent of the cohort.⁶ The federal Pell program is the single largest program providing financial assistance to college students in need. While application is voluntary and not all students apply for aid under the program, eligibility for the program is the most commonly used indicator to measure student financial resources.

⁶ Excludes high school students.

Figure 15. Pell Eligibility of Transfer Students and Cohort



Data

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

- Aspen University
- CSU Global Campus
- Concorde Career Institute - Denver
- Heritage College - Denver
- The Art Institute of Colorado
- Westwood College Denver North