



COLORADO COMMUNITY
COLLEGE SYSTEM

Colorado Community College System

**TRANSFER REPORT
FALL 2012 TO FALL 2013**

SEPTEMBER 2014



Introduction

Facilitating the achievement of student educational goals is an important component of the mission of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS). The educational goal of many Coloradans is a baccalaureate or higher degree, and for a number of students a community college is the first step toward attaining that goal. Ultimately, though, students must transfer from a CCCS college to a four-year institution to achieve their goal of a baccalaureate degree. Tracking transfer production – the number of students who transfer from a CCCS college to another institution of higher education – helps CCCS measure its success in facilitating the educational goals of this segment of its 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, public and private colleges, and two-year colleges in addition to four-year institutions.¹

Fall 2012 to Fall 2013 Transfers

A total of 12,655 students attending a CCCS college in Fall 2012 transferred to another institution of higher education in Fall 2013. This number is 14.1 percent of the 89,868 students submitted to NSC for matching. A student is counted as a transfer if he or she

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 that may result in an underreporting of CCCS transfers. For comparison, CDHE’s 2012-13 report identifies 6,210 CCCS transfers, while NSC data identifies 12,655 such transfers.

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

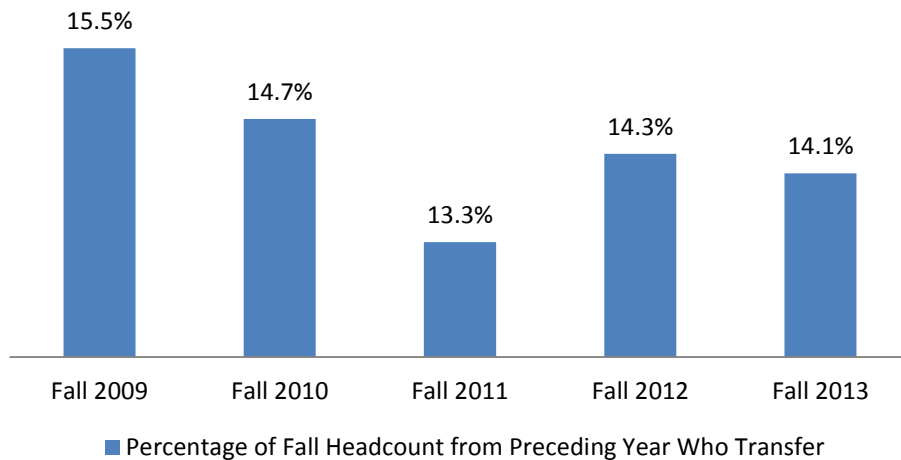
	Fall 2012 to Fall 2013		Fall 2011 to Fall 2012	
	Headcount	Percent of Cohort	Headcount	Percent of Cohort
Original Cohort*	89,868	100.0%	91,917	100.0%
Transfers**	12,655	14.1%	13,149	14.3%

*The original cohort includes all countable undergraduates selected from the Fall 2012 Demographic file in the Student Tracking System, duplicated across CCCS colleges.

**Transfers are students who attended or graduated from another institution in Fall 2013, according to 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 96.1% match rate. Not all institutions participate in NSC.

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, 91.1 percent, transferred to a four-year institution (Table 2), with 83.9 percent of students attending a public institution (Table 3). Of those at public colleges, 90.1 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 91.5 percent (Figure 2).

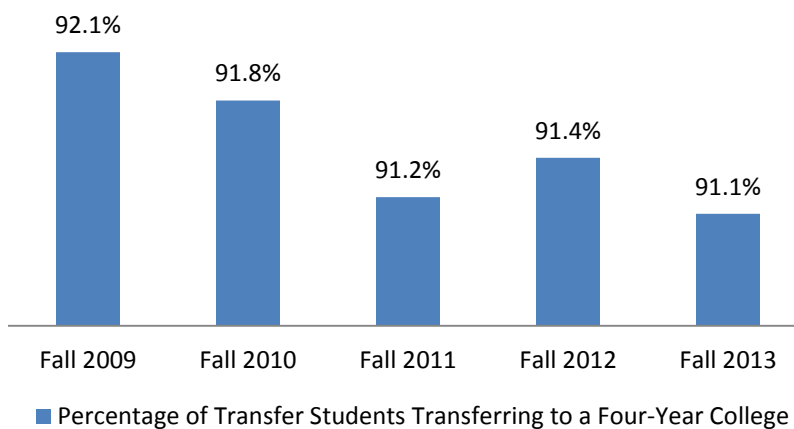
Table 2. Destination of Transfer Students by Type of Institution

Type	Total	Public	Private	All
Four-Year	91.1%	9,567	1,957	11,524
Two-Year	8.9%	1,056	75	1,131
Total	100.0%	10,623	2,032	12,655

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

Type	Colorado	All
Public	70.0%	83.9%
Private	8.4%	16.1%
Total	78.4%	100.0%

Figure 2. Transfers to Four-Year Colleges



In Fall 2012, a higher proportion of those who transferred were attending a CCCS college on a full-time basis – 35.6 percent versus 32.1 percent for the cohort submitted to NSC for matching (Table 4). The proportion of transfers who were high school students in Fall 2012 was higher than that for the cohort – 17.7 percent compared to 9.8 percent – and was also higher than the year-ago level of 11.9 percent. Fall 2013 transfers were less likely to be new to college in the preceding fall (8.6 percent) than the cohort (17.5 percent).

Table 4. Enrollment Status in Fall 2012

Type of Student	Transfers	Cohort
Part-Time	64.4%	67.9%
Full-Time	35.6%	32.1%
Continuing Student	51.6%	53.4%
New First Time Anywhere	8.6%	17.5%
Transfer Student	11.6%	11.8%
Unknown/Other ¹	7.1%	1.8%
Readmit	3.4%	5.7%
High School Student	17.7%	9.8%

¹ This category includes CCD consortium students. All but one of the transfers are consortium students

Table 5 displays students' intended credential before transferring, represented here by the degree or certificate program declared in Fall 2012. About 69 percent of all students who transferred had declared an intention to earn some type of associate degree, while 27.7 percent did not identify a particular course of study.

Table 5. Student Intent Prior To Transfer

Student Intent	Percent
AA/AS Degree	47.8%
Non-Degree Seeking	8.5%
Undeclared	19.2%
AAS Degree	11.4%
AGS Degree	9.3%
Certificate	3.6%
Unknown	0.0%
Total	100.0%

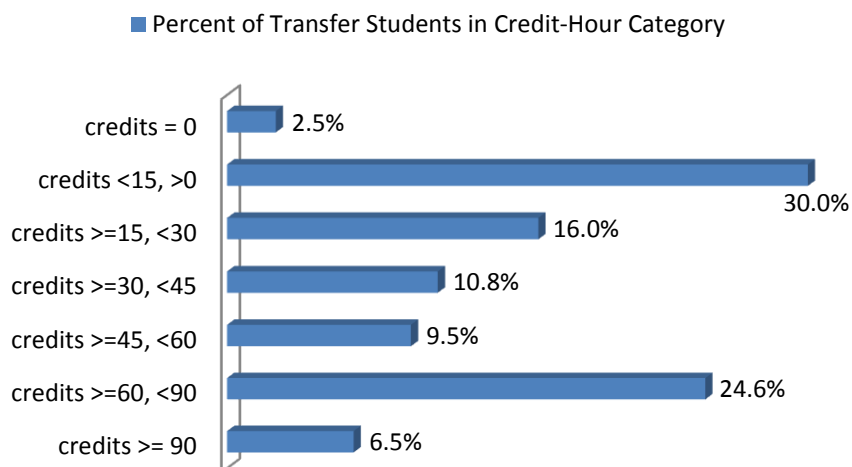
Just under 18 percent of transfers obtained a credential at a CCCS institution in the year before transferring. The majority of credentials, 52.3 percent, were AA and AS degrees. Approximately 21 percent of awards were certificates (Table 6).²

Table 6. Credentials Earned by Transfer Students at CCCS Institutions through Academic Year 2012-13

Award	Number	Percent of Awards
Certificate	531	21.2%
AAS Degree	301	12.0%
AGS Degree	363	14.5%
AA or AS Degree	1,309	52.3%
Total Awards	2,504	100.0%

Forty-six percent of students who transferred in Fall 2013 had earned between one and twenty-nine credit hours at the time of their transfer. Figure 3 provides a breakout of credit hours earned through Summer 2013 by Fall 2013 transfer students.³

Figure 3. Estimated Credit Hours Earned by Transfer Students



² 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 2,229.

³ Based on cumulative credit hours reported in SURDS enrollment files.

Transfer Destinations

The most common transfer destination overall was Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver), claiming 21.9 percent of all transfers. MSU Denver's share of the transfer population dropped 2.2 percentage points from last year. Colorado State University (CSU) drew the next largest number, at 10.2 percent. The top five transfer destinations drew 53.2 percent of all transfers (Table 7). Regis University was the top private institution, drawing 4.4 percent of transfer students.

Table 7. Top Five Transfer Destinations

Transfer Destination	Students	% of Total Transfers
MSU Denver	2,771	21.9%
Colorado State University	1,296	10.2%
University of Colorado Denver	1,009	8.0%
University of Colorado Colorado Springs	911	7.2%
University of Colorado Boulder	744	5.9%
Total of Top Five Destinations	6,731	53.2%

As Figure 4 illustrates, MSU Denver has been the top destination throughout the last five years, although the number of students transferring there decreased in each of the last two years. The University of Colorado Boulder returns as the fifth most popular transfer destination after being replaced by Regis University in 2010.

Figure 4. Top Five Transfer Destinations, 2009 - 2013

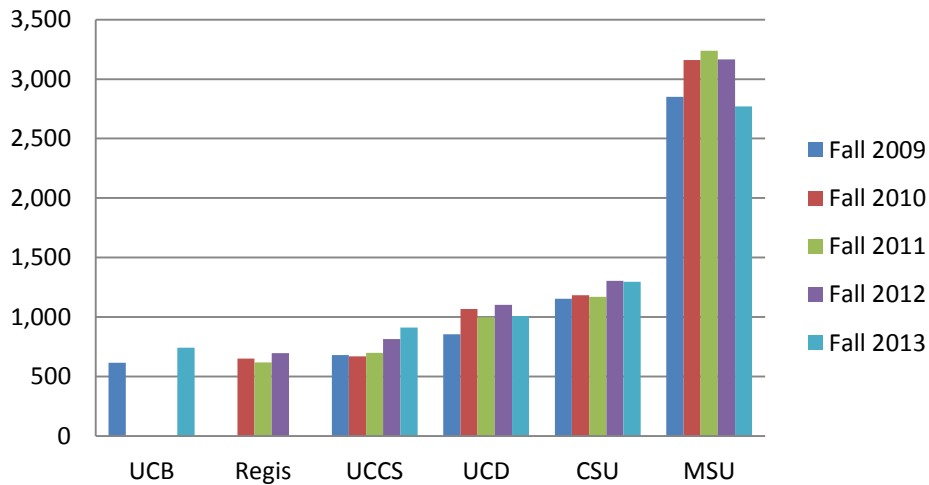


Table 8 identifies the number of transfers and the top transfer destination for each CCCS college. CNCC had the highest percentage of transfers (19.3 percent), followed by CCD (17.9 percent). MSU Denver was the top destination for four of the thirteen community colleges, while CSU Pueblo was the top destination for three.

Table 8. Transfers by Originating College

Originating College	Transfers to Two Year	Transfers to Four Year	Total	Transfers as % of Total Students	Top Transfer Destination
ACC	83	1,532	1,615	16.5%	MSU Denver
CCA	65	965	1,030	12.6%	MSU Denver
CCD	86	2,050	2,136	17.9%	MSU Denver
CNCC	52	172	224	19.3%	Colorado Mesa
FRCC	349	2,805	3,154	15.4%	CSU
LCC	15	120	135	14.7%	CSU Pueblo
MCC	54	253	307	16.7%	UNC
NJC	27	267	294	15.0%	CSU/UNC (tie)
OJC	17	184	201	13.8%	CSU Pueblo
PCC	69	484	553	9.0%	CSU Pueblo
PPCC	234	1,444	1,678	11.0%	UCCS
RRCC	68	1,053	1,121	12.4%	MSU Denver
TSJC	12	195	207	12.0%	Adams State
Total	1,131	11,524	12,655	14.1%	MSU Denver

Figure 5 shows transfers as a percentage of the originating college's cohort over the last five years, while Figure 6 illustrates the total number of transfers by originating college for the same period. Over the five-year period, ACC had the greatest increase in the proportion of students transferring, while CCD experienced annual declines in its transfer rate.

Figure 5. Percent of Transfers by Originating College: 2009 to 2013

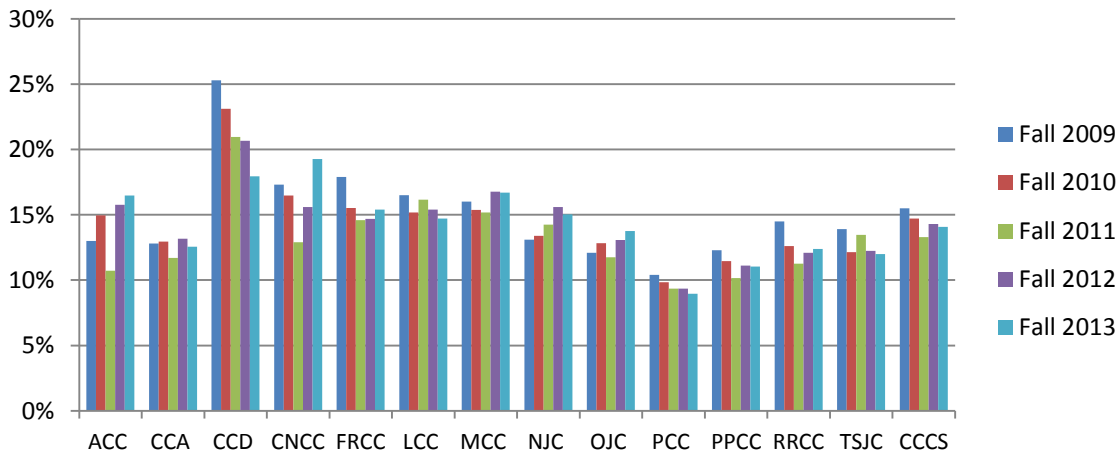
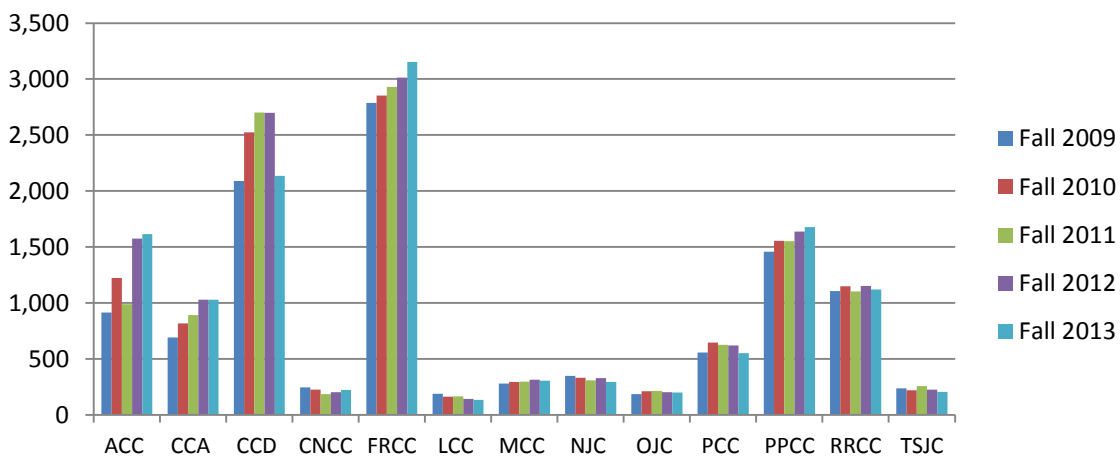


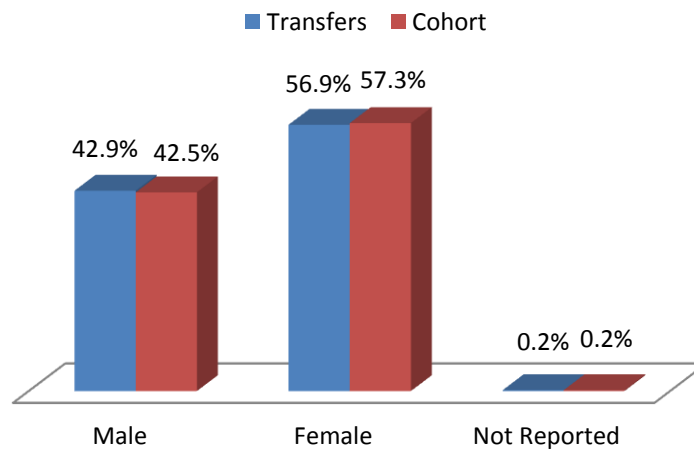
Figure 6. Number of Transfers by Originating College: 2009 to 2013



Demographics of Transfer Students

In terms of gender, the transfer population was not significantly different from the Fall 2012 cohort. Females comprised a slightly lower proportion of transfers than they did of the Fall 2012 cohort: 56.9 percent compared to 57.3 percent (Figure 7). Conversely, the proportion of transfers who were male was slightly higher than male representation in the cohort.

Figure 7. Comparison of Transfers and the Cohort by Gender



Transfer students were more likely to be white than the cohort: 62 percent of transfers reported as white versus 59.5 percent of the cohort (Table 8). Minorities comprised 30 percent of the transfer population compared to 34.6 percent of the cohort.

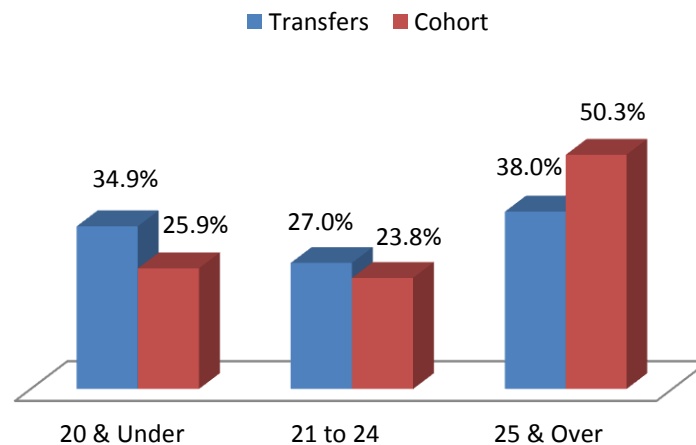
Table 8. Comparison of Transfers and Cohort by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Transfers	Fall 2012 Cohort	Transfers Compared to Cohort
Asian	3.2%	2.9%	0.4%
Black	5.7%	7.0%	-1.3%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%
Hispanic	13.4%	16.9%	-3.4%
Multiple	3.1%	3.4%	-0.3%
Native American/Alaska Native	0.8%	1.0%	-0.2%
Non-resident Alien	1.1%	1.3%	-0.2%
Unknown	10.2%	7.7%	2.5%
White	62.0%	59.5%	2.6%
Minority*	30.0%	34.6%	-4.6%

* 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). In the year of transfer, 62 percent of transfers were age 24 or younger, while 34.9 percent were age 20 or younger.

Figure 9. Comparison of Transfers and Cohort by Age





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 with enrollment of 1,000 or more did not participate in the NSC at the time data was submitted for this report:

- Concorde Career Institute
- Westwood College Denver North
- The Art Institute of Colorado
- Aspen University
- American Sentinel University
- Lincoln College of Technology
- Heritage College - Denver.