Transfer Student Myths

1. Community College Students Don’t Want to Transfer
2. Community College Transfer Students Take Linear 2+2 Pathways
3. Transfer Students are Inadequately Prepared for University
4. Transfer Outcomes are Equitable
5. Transfer Students Don’t Lose Much Credit When They Transfer
Transfer Student Myth #1

Community College Students Don’t Want to Transfer

X
Vertical Transfer Gap
Gap between the percent of students who aspire to transfer and those who actually transfer

At What Rate Do Students Transfer and Graduate?
Over 80 percent of community college students intend to earn at least a bachelor’s degree. However, only about a quarter end up transferring (20 percent of these students earn an associate degree or certificate first). Only 17 percent complete a bachelor’s degree.  

Many Students’ Transfer Expectations Are Not Met

Source: CCRC (Based on national data)
Transfer Student Myth #2

Community College Transfer Students Take Linear 2+2 Pathways to the Bachelor’s Degree
Enrollment Patterns among Bachelor’s Degree Completers who Started at a Community College

Source: Fink (2017)
Transfer helps students complete their bachelor’s degree!

Utah = 44%

Source: National Student Clearinghouse (2017)
Transfer Student Myth #3

Transfer Students are Inadequately Prepared for University
Nationally representative data show **NO DIFFERENCE** in bachelor’s degree attainment between community college transfers and 4-Year rising juniors.

### Table 2

**Differences on Educational Attainment by Type of College First Attended:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Non-Remedial College Credits</th>
<th>Baccalaureate Attainment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OLS5</td>
<td>Probit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ATT</td>
<td>ATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linear Regression (Weighted)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer versus Rising Junior</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>(3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard errors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F/LR</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard errors</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

* The control variables used include: female, Hispanic, SES, test scores, academic program in high school, participated in honors program in high school, participated in school government in high school, had a child by 1992, married by 1992, educational expectations, grants, loans, work in study-related activities, census region dummies, county average manufacturing rate, county income in 1992, two-year tuition in county, four-year public tuition in county.
* The standard errors were calculated using bootstrapping and 50 repetitions.
* The bandwidth used was 0.4 and the trimming level was 40.
* Significant at 5%; ** significant at 1%.


Source: Melguizo, Kienzl, & Alfonso (2011)
Transfer Student Myth #4

Transfer Outcomes are Equitable

X
Inequitable Transfer Access

Nationally representative data 1970s, 80s, & 90s:
- Black, low-SES, female, and older community college students less likely to transfer than their counterparts (Dougherty & Kienzl, 2006; Lee & Frank, 1990; Velez & Rajshekhar, 1987)

- Racial Transfer Gap (Crisp & Nunez, 2014)
  - 45% of White CC students transfer
  - 32% of Black and Latinx CC students transfer
Transfer Student Myth #5

Transfer Students Don’t Lose Much Credit When They Transfer
Credit Loss: On average, students lose 22% of community college credits when they transfer.