



Measuring Your College’s Effectiveness Serving Transfer Students

(Originally composed by the Aspen Institute, Community College Research Center, and Public Agenda)

The tables and definitions below detail a basic set of metrics your college can compute using NSC data to measure the outcomes of your students who seek to transfer to a four-year institution. Table 1 presents overall measures of your college’s transfer outcomes in comparison to national averages and top colleges, and Table 2 shows how your transfer students fare at your college’s top five transfer destinations.

Table 1. Tracking Transfer Measures

	Transfer-out Rate ¹	Transfer with Award Rate ²	Transfer-out Bachelor’s Completion Rate ³
National Average	33%	29%	42%
Top Urban CC Nationally	77%	61%	64%
Top Rural CC Nationally	64%	69%	66%
Your Community College			

Cohort & tracking period: Entering FTEIC community college students in a fall term, excluding current and prior high school dual enrollment students, tracked for six calendar years.

Transfer definition: Students in the cohort who ever enrolled at a four-year institution for at least one term after their first term at the community college, within the six-year tracking period.

Outcome Definitions

¹The percentage of students in an entering community college cohort who ever enrolled at a four-year institution for at least one term after their first term at the community college, within six years of first enrolling at the community college.

²The number of transfer students who started at your community college and earned a certificate or associate degree from your college prior to their earliest enrollment at a four-year institution, divided by the number of transfer students in your college’s entering cohort.

³The number of transfer students who started at the community college and earned a bachelor’s degree from any four-year institution within six years of community college entry, divided by the number of transfer students in the community college’s entering cohort.

Source: Davis Jenkins and John Fink, *Tracking Transfer: New Measures of Institutional and State Effectiveness in Helping Community College Students Attain Bachelor’s Degrees*, Community College Research Center, Teachers College Columbia University, Aspen Institute and National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, January 2016.

Table 2. Major Transfer Partner Measures

Top 5 largest four-year transfer destinations	Number of transfers to this university	Percent of transfers to this university who earned a CC award before transferring	Bachelor’s degree completion rate among students who transferred to this university