

Through the Gate:

Mapping the Transfer Landscape for California Community College Students

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The RP Group

www.rpgroup.org

Mission

- Strengthen CCCs' ability to gather, analyze, and act on information in order to enhance student equity and success

Services

- Research, evaluation, planning, professional development, and technical assistance—designed and conducted by CCC practitioners

Organization

- 501(c)3 with roots as membership organization

College Futures Foundation

www.collegefutures.org

Vision

- More graduates for a thriving California

Mission

- Removing barriers so more low-income and underrepresented students attain bachelor's degrees

Funder

Partner

Connector

Today's Presentation Outcomes

Participants will...

- Learn how many students are “at” or “near” the transfer gate
- Gain insights into barriers to progress and opportunities for increasing transfer
- Know the next steps in this transfer research

Through the Gate Transfer Study

A Fresh Take on the Transfer Challenge



Why Is Transfer Important?

Economic Perspective

- Strategy for addressing expected shortfall of 1M+ college graduates in CA by 2030 (Public Policy Institute of California, 2015)
- Cost-effective way to support baccalaureate completion (theoretically)

Equity Perspective

- Opportunity for underrepresented students to gain access to university, secure a baccalaureate, increase economic and social mobility

What Do We Know about Improving Transfer Success?

- Transfer velocity – we know who makes it to transfer
- Role transfer cultures play (CC and university perspectives)
- AD-T implementation

Through the Gate Aims to...

Identify individuals who have **completed all or most of their transfer requirements, but who do not make it “through the gate”** to university

Identify strategies for increasing transfer, boosting baccalaureate production, and enhancing students' social and economic mobility--especially for underrepresented populations

Research Approach

Phase I:

Mapping the Transfer Landscape

Quantitative research to better understand the transfer landscape focusing on students who met all or most of their requirements but have not transferred

Phase II:

Getting Better Directions

Mixed-methods research to understand what factors impact these students' journeys and how policy and practice might change to propel them through the gate

Mapping the Transfer Landscape

Phase I Findings

Phase I Research Questions

1. How many CCC students have met all or most of their transfer requirements, but have not yet transferred?
1. Who are these students and where do they reside?
1. What can we glean about possible opportunities to increase these students' transfer success?

A Fresh Take on the Transfer Continuum

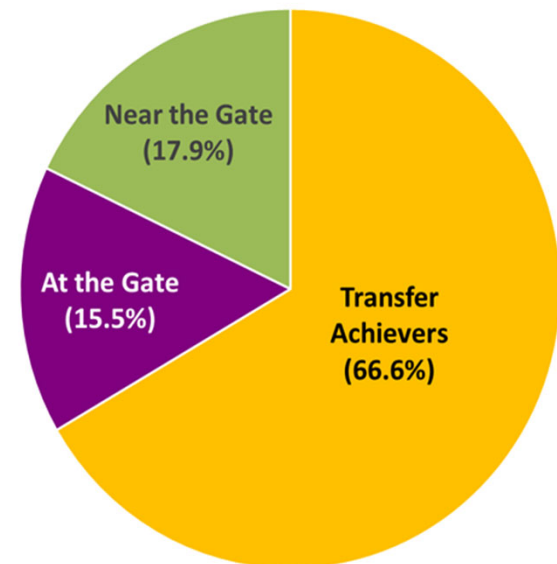


Study Sample

- 875,630 CCC students
- Enrolled between 2010-2011 and 2014-2015
- Outcomes through spring 2016

Three subgroups:

1. Transfer Achievers (583,074)
2. Students At the Gate (135,557)
3. Students Near the Gate (156,999)



Transfer Achievers

- Two-thirds of sample achieved transfer
- Majority transferred without a degree or certificate (68.5%, $n=399,635$)

Students At the Gate

- Nearly 136,000 stopped at the gate
- Over half of transfer-ready students left without a college credential
- More likely to be Latino—regardless of gender

Students Near the Gate

- Nearly 157,000 got near the gate
- 92% needed to complete math requirements in order to transfer
- Nearly half exited the system without a college credential
- Time is the enemy; students who did not transfer within a year of becoming transfer-ready were less likely to transition to university

Role of Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Region

- 75% of African-American students who make it near or at the gate, made it through the gate (yet most do not make it near, at, or through the gate)
- Latino male students and Native-American female students were less likely to transfer
- Latino students were also more likely to earn an AD-T, but halt their transfer journey
- Inland Empire students were least likely to make it through the transfer gate

Limitations In Transfer Data

1) Challenges in Establishing Which Students Intend to Transfer

- Transfer-intent through stated goals? Through academic behavior?

2) Meeting Transfer Requirements

- Minimum 2.0 GPA as threshold
- The “right” 60 transferable units
- Transfer-level math requirement being met in other disciplines

3) Data Availability

- Compared to statewide data, college-level data may be more accurate and complete since it can identify which courses meet which transfer requirements

Discussion

Why don't students who are at or near the gate transfer?

- What are some potential barriers that may be unique to students in your district and/or region?

What intervention points and actions can help advance more students through the transfer gate?

Getting Better Directions

Phase II Research

Phase II Research Questions

- **Why** do so many students who are close to achieving their transfer goal stop short of making this transition?
- **What can we do** to help students who are at or near the gate transfer?
- **What is holding back different student groups, and how can we help** them continue their journey?
- **What is impacting IE and CV students' transfer progress, and** what strategies can be pursued to increase their success?

Phase II Methodology: Study Sample

Recruiting 34 colleges to participate by region:

Central Valley	Inland Empire
Los Angeles/Orange County	San Francisco Bay Area
San Diego	Greater Sacramento
South Central Coast	Far North

Phase II Methodology: Online Survey

Exploration of the obstacles that prevented or dissuaded students from transferring as well as the supports that could bring them back onto the transfer path

- Student Sample
 - Near the gate students still enrolled and exited
 - Missing English, math, or both academic requirements
 - At the gate students still enrolled and exited
 - AD-T earners, Associate degree earners, or students without a degree

Phase II Methodology: Telephone Interviews

Student voices collected through telephone interviews to take an in-depth look at students' non-transfer stories – what barriers emerged and how they faced them, what drove their decision-making at various exit points – and collect quotes that capture the participants' perspectives and ideas.

- Student Sample
 - 25 Near the gate students still enrolled and exited
 - Missing English, math, or both academic requirements
 - 75 At the gate students still enrolled and exited
 - AD-T earners, Associate degree earners, or students without a degree

What Can Colleges Do Now?

- Figure out who these students are at your college
 - Identify how many students are at or near the gate
 - Analyze to see if certain student groups are more likely to be at or near the gate
- Reach out to these students to explore barriers and identify needs
- Develop plans to help address emerging barriers and needs

Questions?

For more information on the Through the Gate Study

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THROUGH THE GATE

www.rpgroup.org/through-the-gate

#StudentsThroughtheGate

Thank you!