

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

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.³

Many Students' Transfer Expectations Are Not Met⁴



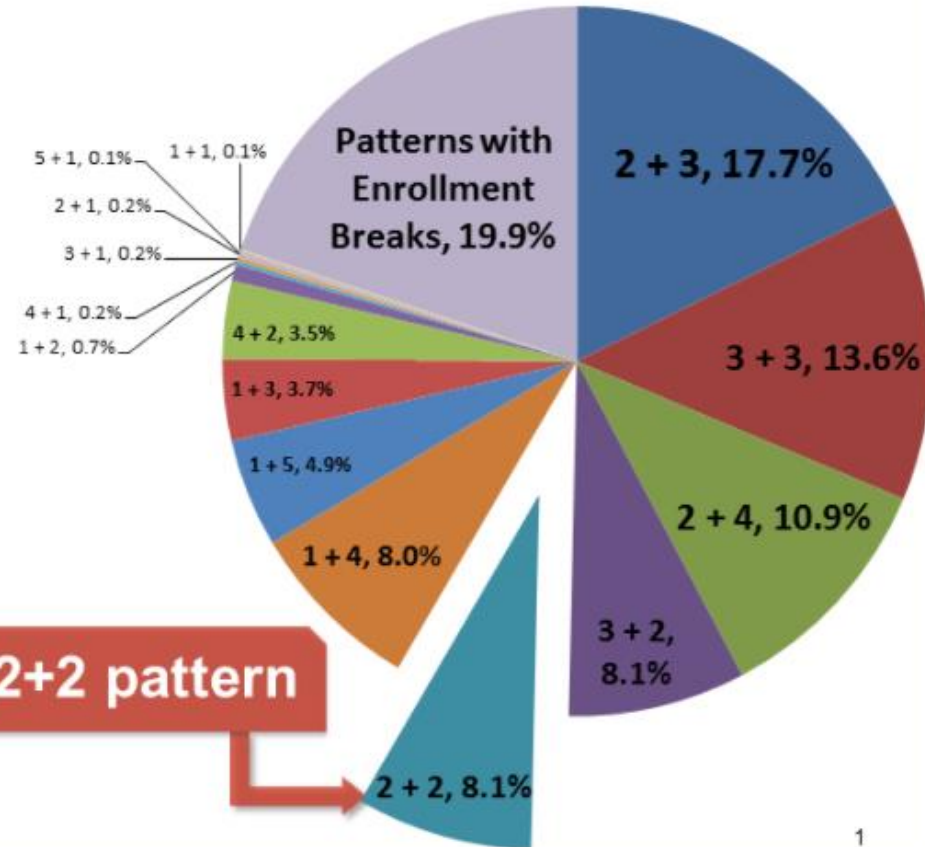
Source: CCRC (Based on national data)

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

years at CC
+
years at 4yr



Few graduates follow 2+2 pattern

1

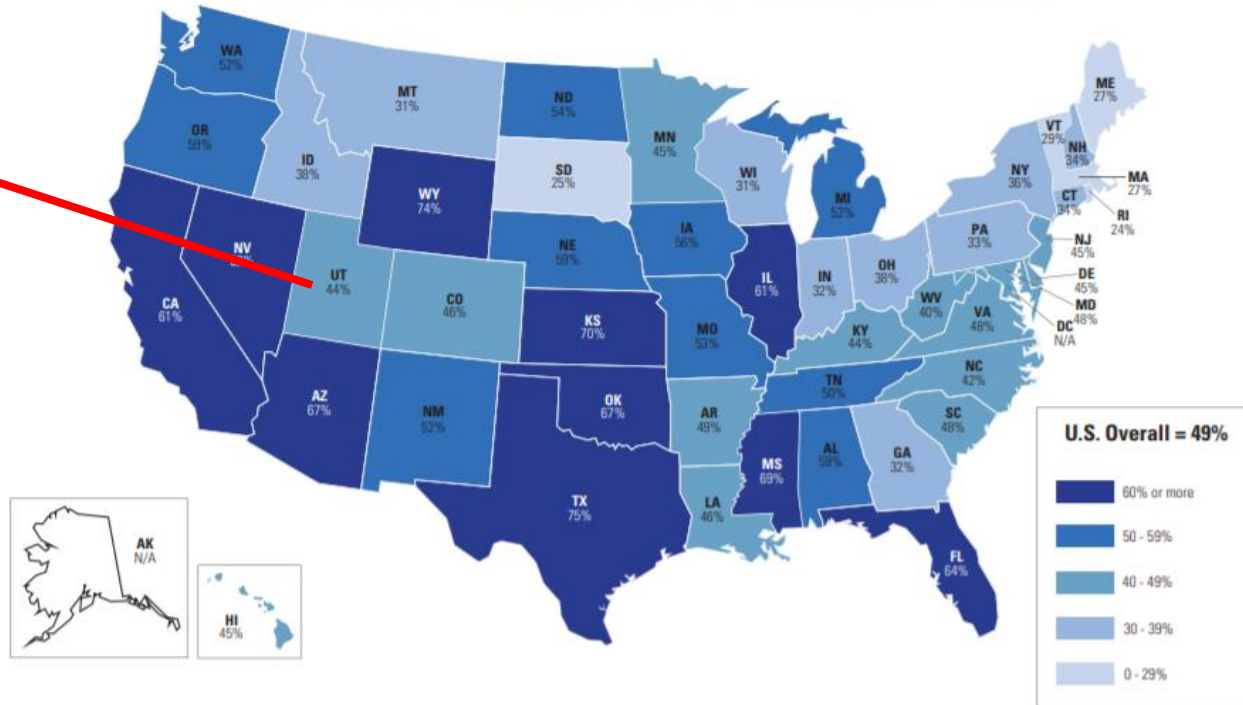
Source: Fink (2017)

Transfer helps students complete their bachelor's degree!

U.S. Overall = 49%

With data current through August 2016

Percentage of 2015-16 Bachelor's Degree Earners with Previous Enrollments at Two-Year Public Institutions



Utah = 44%

The states in the map represent the states in which bachelor's degrees were awarded. In this analysis, baccalaureate-granting institutions that predominantly award associate degrees (at least 55 percent of the undergraduate degrees awarded are associate degrees) are classified as two-year institutions. As such, enrollments at these institutions count in the numerator, but bachelor's degrees awarded by them do not count in the denominator. Alaska and D.C. are labeled N/A on this map because the two-year public institutions in those two areas report data to the Clearinghouse under the same institutional profile as four-year public institutions.

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:
Linear regression and propensity score matching

	Total Non-Remedial College Credits			Baccalaureate Attainment				
	OLS ^a	ATT	PSM ATE	ATU	Probit	ATT	PSM ATE	ATU
Linear Regression (Weighted								
Transfer versus Rising Junior	1.02				0.001	5.00		
Standard errors	(3.7)				(0.04)	5.00		
F/LR	9.36**				12.54**	5.00		
Linear Regression ^b								
Transfer versus Rising Junior	1.05	3.03	3.68		-0.04	-0.06	-0.06	
Standard errors ^c		(2.38)	(3.33)	(4.0)		(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.04)

Notes.

^a 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.

^b The standard errors were calculated using bootstrapping and 50 repetitions.

^c The bandwidth used was 0.4 and the trimming level was 40.

* Significant at 5%; ** significant at 1%

Source. National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988/2000 (NCES 2003-402).

Source: Melguizo, Kienzl, & Alfonso (2011)



Transfer Student Myth #4

Transfer Outcomes are Equitable



Inequitable Transfer Access

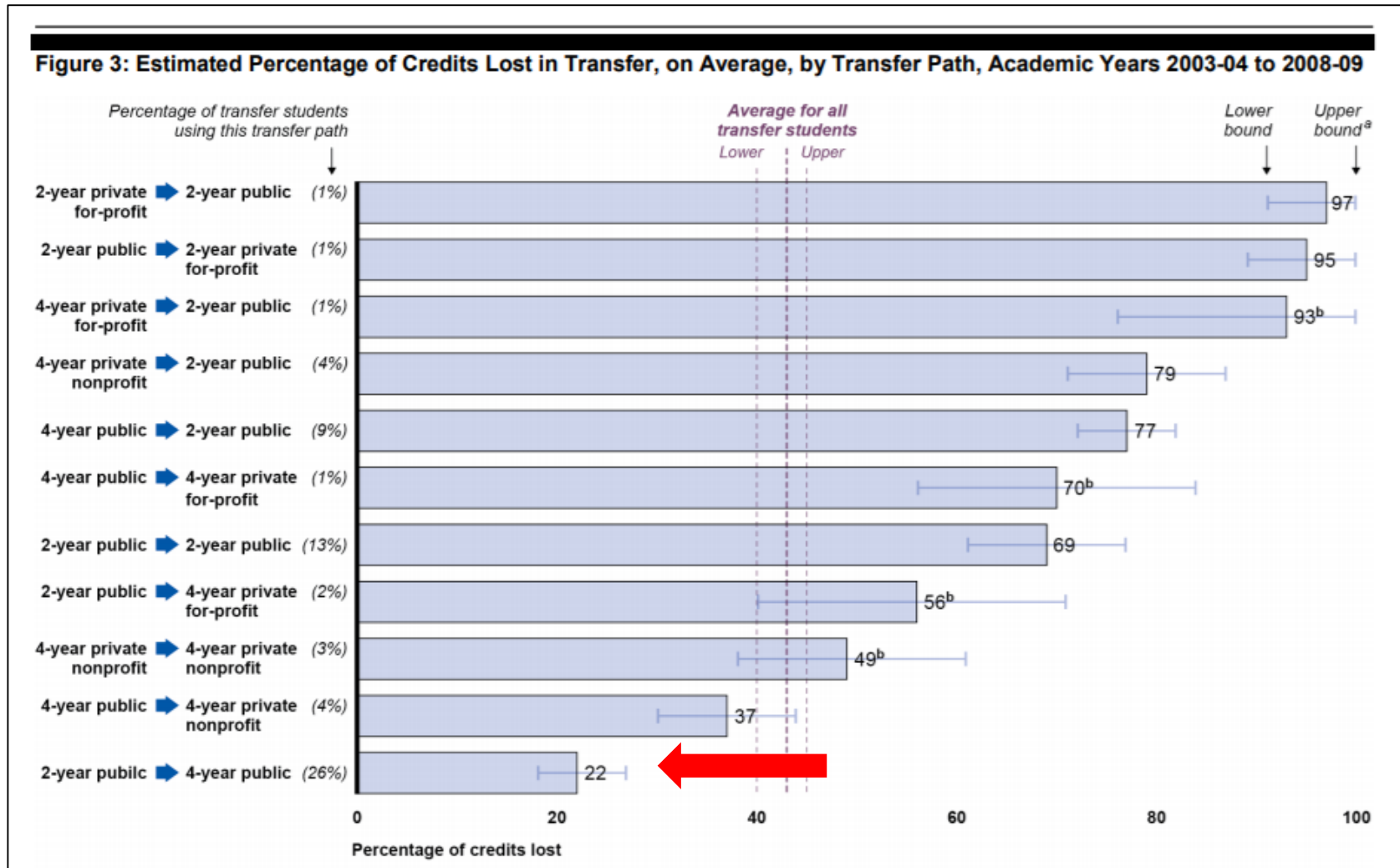
Nationally representative data 1970s, 80s, & 90s:

- 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.



Source: Government Accountability Office (2017)

