

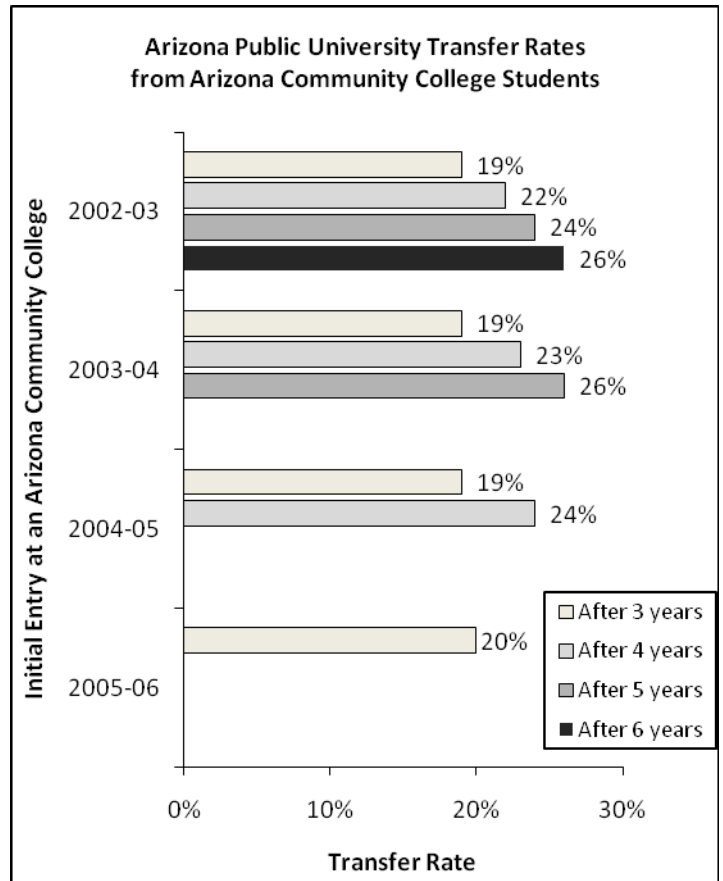
Arizona Statewide Transfer Rate

An analysis was conducted to determine the transfer rate of Arizona community college student to Arizona public universities. Students new to higher education who exhibited *transfer intent behavior* during the first three years of attendance at a community college were followed for six years to determine if they transferred to an Arizona public university. *Transfer intent behavior* was defined as the following:

- Earned 12 or more community college credit hours; and
- Declared an intent to transfer or obtain a transfer degree; and
- Completed at least one core course from the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC)

After six years, 26% of the 2002-03 cohort had transferred to an Arizona public university. Most of these students transferred within the first 3½ years. As expected, cohort transfer rates increase over time (for the 2002-03 cohort, 19%, 22%, 24% and 26%).

These data represent transfer to Arizona public universities only; therefore the statewide transfer rate *would be higher* if transfer to private and out-of-state institutions was taken into consideration. Private and out-of-state data are not available.



Source: ASSIST (Arizona State System for Information on Student Transfer)
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Comparison of an Arizona Statewide Transfer Rate to Alternative Transfer Rate Models

Background

As the work group of Arizona researchers began convening in April 2008 to design a meaningful measurement of transfer, a literature review of transfer rates and transfer effectiveness studies on both a statewide and national basis was conducted. This review highlighted the central issue facing researchers: defining who qualifies to be included in the pool of potential transfer students. As the cohort definition varied, so did the transfer measurement rates. Below are the two studies with methodologies most comparable to the methodology used by Arizona.

Comparable Transfer Rate Results

Transfer Assembly Project

The UCLA's Center for the Study of Community Colleges *Transfer Assembly Project* provided an aggregated national transfer rate for community colleges transfer students for a number of years. Similar to the proposed Arizona transfer intent cohort, the Transfer Assembly cohort is defined as:

New-to-higher education, full or part-time students who complete 12 or more credit hours. A transfer is measured as taking one or more credit hours at an in-state, public 4-year college within four years of starting at the community college.

For the latest published results (2002) for the 1995 cohort drawn from data for 538 colleges in 18 states, the national transfer rate was **25.2%** by Fall 1999. The closest comparable Arizona cohort is the 2001-2002 which posted a **25%** transfer rate after four years.

Due to confidentiality agreements, individual state and college rates were not released. However, for the 1995 cohort, *state transfer rates* ranged from **17.1% to 39.1%**. States where the community colleges operate as branch campuses of the public university system were reported to have the highest rates. The lowest transfer rates were generated for those states whose 2-year colleges have traditionally focused on technical education.

Previous years' studies also noted an even greater range of transfer rates among institutions in the same state than those found between states. In one state example with an overall 22.1% transfer rate, institutional transfer rates varied from a low of 4.9% to a high of 37%.

California Postsecondary Commission

In March 2007, the California Postsecondary Commission reported a transfer rate for the following cohort for California community colleges:

Fall 2000 first-time freshmen who graduated from high school in Spring 2000 and initially enrolled in a credit program.

After five years, **22%** of the cohort transferred to one of California's public universities, 52% left with no credential and did not transfer, 7% earned a credential but did not transfer, and 19% were still enrolled at a community college.

Arizona Public University Transfer Rate for New Maricopa Community College Students									
First Year Enrolled at Community College	Number of Students With Transfer Intent Behavior	Time to Transfer							
		After 3 years		After 4 years		After 5 years		After 6 years	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2002-03	10,120	1,985	20%	2,352	23%	2,579	26%	2,761	27%
2003-04	10,451	2,069	20%	2,459	24%	2,767	27%	-	-
2004-05	10,233	2,100	20.5%	2,554	25%	-	-	-	-
2005-06	10,656	2,236	21%	-	-	-	-	-	-

