

# VCCS Transfer Project: Transfer Rates, Transfer Performance, and Baccalaureate Completion



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## **What is the pool of students used to examine transfer? Students beginning college studies in the VCCS and successfully completing 12 credit hours:**

- 24,542 students began college studies at a community college in fall 1993.
- Over forty-five percent of these first-time students, or 11,154, earned twelve course credit hours by the end of 1996-97. This is the Center for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC) definition and is the denominator for calculating transfer rates.
- See Table 1

## **What happens to this group of new students who complete nearly a half-year of college at a community college?**

- Graduation Rate: More than twenty percent, 2299, earned a VCCS degree, diploma, or certificate in the 4-year period.
- Transfer Rate: Over twenty-four percent, or 2,695, enrolled at a 4-year college or university within the same four-year period, 1993-94 through 1996-97.
- BA Completion Rate: Fifteen percent, or 1,672 students in this cohort, completed a BA degree or higher within 8 years after entering higher education at a community college.
- Transfer Completion Rate: Of those students who do transfer, 62 percent completed a BA or higher.
- See Tables 1 and 2.

## **For those transferring, how soon did they go?**

- Twenty-seven percent enrolled at a 4-year college by the second year (1994-95) and seventy percent by the third year (1995-96) after entering. Thirty percent transferred the last or fourth year (1996-97).

## **How many hours were completed before transferring?**

- 43 percent completed 12 to 36 hours.
- 25 percent earned 37-59 hours
- 32 percent had earned 60 or more credits.
- See Table 5

## **For those transferring, where did they go?**

- Eighty-five percent enrolled at a public college or university. More than 400 enrolled at George Mason University. As a group, George Mason, Virginia Commonwealth, Virginia Tech, Old Dominion, Radford, and James Madison Universities received over two-thirds of the students transferring.
- See Table 4

## **What about academic performance?**

- Students eventually transferring earned a grade average of 2.84 for all first-year course work in the VCCS.
- At the transfer institution, the overall average was 2.73, nearly equaling their community college performance.
- See Tables 3 and 4.

## **Did those transferring complete degrees? in what programs?**

- Sixty-two percent completed a BA or higher degree.
- Nearly one hundred completed Master's degrees.
- The ten most frequent degrees earned (in order):  
Psychology, Business Administration and Management, Interdisciplinary Studies, English Language and Literature, Biology, Nursing, History, Accounting, Sociology, Computer & Information Sciences.

## Background and Method

### Recent VCCS Transfer Data

In 2001, with the cooperation of State Council staff, the VCCS participated in an on-going study of transfer conducted by the Center for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC). Results showed that of the students who begin their college studies in the VCCS and who continue or enroll for more hours than what incidental course takers do, i.e., students who take more than a course or two. Of this group, a large share is baccalaureate-bound, eventually transferring to a four-year institution.

Using the CSCC method, Virginia's results are comparable to that for community colleges nationally. Of all students who begin their college study in the VCCS and who complete three to four courses (12 credit hours), nearly 1 in 4 will enroll in a four-year college or university within four years of first enrolling in the VCCS. When transfer to a private institution is included, 1 in every 3.6 of these students beginning study in the VCCS will transfer to a Virginia 4-year college. For a review of this information see [http://www.so.cc.va.us/vccsasr/Research/Transfer Assembly Measure.pdf](http://www.so.cc.va.us/vccsasr/Research/Transfer%20Assembly%20Measure.pdf) .

### Additional Transfer Measures

The current method in addition to the basic transfer measure<sup>1</sup> includes indicators of how students perform before and after transferring and whether or not the baccalaureate degree is completed. Again, working with State Council staff and using the same CSCC definitions of transfer student, four-year information was obtained for course performance in the transfer year and completion of the baccalaureate degree.

### Definitions

**Transfer Rate:** The Center's definition is: "all students entering the two-year college in a given year who have no prior college experience and who complete at least 12 college credit units within four years, divided into the number of that group who take one or more classes at a public, in-state university or college within four years."

**Academic Performance:** VCCS course performance is limited to the first academic year, 1993-94, fall and spring semesters, for those entering students who eventually earned twelve hours in four years. Transfer performance is based on courses taken in only the first year, the transfer year, at the four-year college/university. The first transfer year could be any year within the 1993-94 to 1996-97 period.

**Completion rate:** Of those who transfer, this is the percentage of those who earn the BA or a higher degree. The minimum completion period is five years. For, those entering the transfer institution in 1996-97 the degree must be obtained by 2000-01 (five years) to count as completed. About 70 percent of the transfers had transferred by the third year (1995-96) of the 4-year defining period. As a result the completion period is 6 years for most (70 percent) and actually 7 years for 30 percent of the transfers who did so by 1994-95.

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<sup>1</sup> For this project, transfer to both public and private institutions is counted. The CSCC national rate is limited to public colleges and universities.

Table1  
Beginning Students in Fall 1993: VCCS Completion, Transfer, and BA Completion Rates

	(A) Students Entering in Fall 1993	(B) Who earned 12 credit hours in 4 years.  N and pct Col A	Who earned 12 credit hours and completed a VCCS award within 4 years  N and pct Col B	Who earned 12 credit hours and transferred within 4 yrs  N and pct Col B	Who earned 12 hours, transferred within 4 years, and completed a BA or higher degree in 8 yrs.  N and pct of Col. B	Who earned 12 credits, a VCCS award, transferred within 4 years, and completed a BA or higher degree in 8 years  N and pct of Col. B
BRCC	562	246_43.8	67_27.2	68_27.6	50_20.3	21_8.5
CVCC	681	242_35.5	29_12.0	81_33.5	49_20.2	5_2.1
DSLCC	384	168_43.8	62_36.9	46_27.4	29_17.3	11_6.5
DCC	966	381_39.4	120_31.5	97_25.5	64_16.8	15_3.9
ESCC	226	95_42.0	37_38.9	7_7.4	4_4.2	2_2.1
GCC	627	278_44.3	64_23.0	90_32.4	53_19.1	24_8.6
JSRCC	1711	737_43.1	122_16.6	186_25.2	105_14.2	27_3.7
JTCC	1011	351_34.7	58_16.5	62_17.7	34_9.7	11_3.1
LFCC	673	339_50.4	112_33.0	92_27.1	67_19.8	47_13.9
MECC	654	389_59.5	91_23.4	66_17.0	38_9.8	9_2.3
NRCC	621	293_47.0	80_27.3	67_22.9	43_14.7	11_3.8
NVCC	5581	2815_50.4	377_13.4	696_24.7	419_14.9	118_4.2
PHCC	459	233_50.8	65_27.9	71_30.5	47_20.2	22_9.42
PDCCC	449	194_43.2	35_18.0	65_33.5	42_21.7	1_0.5
PVCC	726	228_31.4	47_20.6	68_29.8	43_18.9	16_7.0
RCC	409	174_42.5	62_35.6	43_24.7	28_16.1	16_9.2
SVCC	1187	589_49.6	126_21.4	175_29.7	109_18.5	21_3.6
SWCC	875	447_51.1	136_30.4	67_15.0	38_8.5	26_5.8
TNCC	1389	621_44.7	114_18.4	111_17.9	53_8.5	16_2.6
TCC	3130	1313_41.9	212_16.1	282_21.5	178_13.6	67_5.1
VHCC	456	275_60.3	81_29.5	43_15.6	29_10.5	14_5.1
VWCC	1189	524_44.1	126_24.0	156_29.8	118_22.5	44_8.4
WCC	576	222_38.5	76_34.2	56_25.2	32_14.4	6_2.7
VCCS	24542	11154_45.4	2299_20.6	2695_24.2	1673_15.0	550_4.9

Table 2

VCCS Students Who Transfer: Completion Rates Within the VCCS and at the Transfer Institution

	A			
	Transfers: earned 12 credit hours and transferred within 4 years	Transfers who completed a VCCS award in 4 years  N and pct of Col. A	Transfers who completed a BA or higher degree in 8 years  N and pct of Col. A	Transfers who earned a VCCS award within 4 years and completed a BA or higher degree in 8 years N and pct of Col.A
BRCC	68	27__39.7	50__73.5	21__30.4
CVCC	81	13__16.0	49__60.5	5__6.2
DSLCC	46	17__37.0	29__63.0	11__23.9
DCC	97	27__27.8	64__66.0	15__15.5
ESCC	7	4__57.1	4__57.1	2__28.6
GCC	90	32__35.6	53__58.9	24__26.7
JSRCC	186	40__21.5	105__56.5	27__14.5
JTCC	62	15__24.2	34__54.8	11__17.7
LFCC	92	56__60.9	67__72.8	47__51.1
MECC	66	17__25.8	38__57.6	9__13.6
NRCC	67	20__29.9	43__64.2	11__16.4
NVCC	696	182__26.1	419__60.2	118__17.0
PHCC	71	28__39.4	47__66.2	22__31.0
PDCCC	65	6__9.2	42__64.6	1__1.5
PVCC	68	23__33.8	43__63.2	16__23.5
RCC	43	20__46.5	28__65.1	16__37.2
SVCC	126	32__18.3	109__62.3	21__12.0
SWCC	67	38__56.7	38__56.7	26__38.8
TNCC	111	27__24.3	53__47.7	16__14.4
TCC	282	85__30.1	178__63.1	67__23.8
VHCC	43	18__41.9	29__67.4	14__32.6
VWCC	156	53__34.0	118__75.6	44__28.2
WCC	56	10__17.9	32__57.1	6__10.7
VCCS	2695	790__29.3	1672__62.0	550__20.4

Table 3

VCCS Students Who Transfer: Numbers Transferring and Academic Performance Within the VCCS and at the Transfer Institution --by Community College

	A Transfers: earned 12 credit hours and transferred within 4 years	For Transfers (Col.A): Average VCCS GPA for the first year of course work	For Transfers (Col. A): Average transfer institution GPA for the first year of course work
BRCC	68	2.92	2.73
CVCC	81	2.91	2.72
DSLCC	46	2.83	2.62
DCC	97	2.90	2.67
ESCC	7	2.84	2.48
GCC	90	2.88	2.56
JSRCC	186	2.79	2.48
JTCC	62	2.40	2.59
LFCC	92	3.07	2.75
MECC	66	2.83	2.68
NRCC	67	2.82	2.79
NVCC	696	2.78	2.73
PHCC	71	2.84	2.68
PDCCC	65	2.80	2.57
PVCC	68	3.00	2.71
RCC	43	2.99	2.62
SVCC	126	3.11	2.85
SWCC	67	3.11	2.81
TNCC	111	2.68	2.77
TCC	282	2.80	2.88
VHCC	43	2.99	2.69
VWCC	156	2.75	2.91
WCC	56	2.56	2.82
VCCS	2695	2.84	2.73

Table 4

VCCS Students Who Transfer: Numbers Transferring and Academic Performance within the VCCS and at the Transfer Institution-- by Transfer Institution

Transfer Institution	Number of Transfers	Percent of Total	VCCS Grade Average	4-year Grade Average
George Mason University	425	15.74	2.77	2.74
Virginia Commonwealth Univ	331	12.26	2.66	2.66
Virginia Polytechnic Inst	324	12.00	3.09	2.64
Old Dominion University	310	11.48	2.78	2.65
Radford University	279	10.33	2.67	2.68
James Madison University	151	5.59	3.09	2.83
Longwood College	97	3.59	2.96	2.82
University of Virginia	91	3.37	3.46	2.87
Christopher Newport Univ	80	2.96	2.59	2.75
Clinch Valley College	63	2.33	2.65	2.74
Mary Washington College	59	2.19	3.35	2.65
Norfolk State University	45	1.67	2.53	2.97
CHRV College of Health Scienc	30	1.11	2.27	2.91
Coll of William and Mary	28	1.04	3.63	2.61
Averett College	27	1.00	3.01	2.84
Shenandoah University	25	0.93	2.84	-
Emory and Henry College	23	0.85	2.85	2.77
Roanoke College	22	0.81	2.79	-
Liberty University	21	0.78	2.41	2.67
Lynchburg College	21	0.78	2.88	-
Ferrum College	20	0.74	2.73	-
Marymount University	20	0.74	2.44	2.71
Bluefield College	17	0.63	3.10	3.11
Virginia Wesleyan College	15	0.56	2.81	2.97
Bridgewater College	13	0.48	3.03	-
Virginia Military Inst	13	0.48	2.44	2.29
ECPI-Richmond	12	0.44	1.81	3.44
ECPI-Va. Beach	12	0.44	2.16	3.50
Virginia State University	12	0.44	1.97	2.58
Hampton University	11	0.41	2.91	-
Mary Baldwin College	11	0.41	2.81	-
Hampden-Sydney College	10	0.37	3.26	-
Richard Bland College	8	0.30	2.87	2.92
Randolph-Macon College	8	0.30	3.25	2.88
Saint Paul's College	8	0.30	2.35	2.69
Virginia Union University	8	0.30	2.41	2.73
University of Richmond	7	0.26	3.44	3.07
Hollins College	6	0.22	3.00	-
Randolph-Macon Woman's Colleg	6	0.22	3.23	-
Virginia Intermont College	6	0.22	2.74	3.16
ECPI Computer Inst - Roanoke	6	0.22	2.10	3.50
Eastern Mennonite College & S	5	0.19	2.78	-
National Business College	4	0.15	2.31	3.20
Other	10	0.37	-	-
Total	2700		2.84	2.73

Table 5

VCCS Students Who Transfer: Numbers Transferring and Credits Completed prior to Transferring --by Community College

	Transfers: earned 12 credit hours and transferred within 4 years	Number and percent earning 12-36 hours	Number and percent earning 37-59 hours	Number and percent earning 60 + hours
BRCC	68	23_34	18_26	27_40
CVCC	81	54_67	17_21	10_12
DSLCC	46	22_48	11_24	13_28
DCC	97	53_55	19_20	25_26
ESCC	7	2_29	1_14	4_57
GCC	90	41_46	19_21	30_33
JSRCC	186	88_47	48_26	50_27
JTCC	62	34_55	13_21	15_24
LFCC	92	24_26	23_25	45_49
MECC	66	26_39	21_32	19_29
NRCC	67	34_51	18_27	15_22
NVCC	696	237_34	224_32	235_34
PHCC	71	18_25	21_30	32_45
PDCCC	65	50_77	9_14	6_9
PVCC	68	25_37	19_28	24_35
RCC	43	18_42	5_12	20_46
SVCC	126	133_76	15_9	27_15
SWCC	67	16_24	8_12	43_64
TNCC	111	54_49	29_26	28_25
TCC	282	94_33	92_33	96_34
VHCC	43	14_33	8_18	21_49
VWCC	156	65_42	30_19	61_39
WCC	56	30_54	15_27	11_19
VCCS	2695	1155_43	683_25	857_32