



RESEARCH UPDATE

March 2007

The purpose of this research project is to chart the pathways to success of underrepresented students as they move from community college (CC) through a university and attain a Bachelor's degree. Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) and Portland Community College (PCC) have provided data on cohorts of students who began their community college studies in the Summer or Fall of 1999 or 2000. Those students have been tracked to Portland State University (PSU) using institutional data and to other universities using National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data over 6 years.

Degree Attainment and Transfer

The cohorts have been updated to include only students enrolling for at least one credit at the community college (CC) for the first time in Summer or Fall of 1999 or 2000 who had no previous college enrollment or college degree. There are 19,797 students in the final data set. Associate and bachelor's degree attainment information and transfer information from MHCC, PCC, PSU and the National Student Clearinghouse has been added to the database.

The following are highlights from preliminary results:

- 8% of students earn an associate degree from their home CC. NSC data reveal that an additional 1.4% of students earn an associate degree from an institution other than their home institution.
- Of the 1,559 students who earned associate degrees from their home CCs, more (43.8%) earned applied science degrees than Oregon Transfer degrees (30%) or other associate degrees (26.2%). Students who earned associate degrees at institutions other than their home CC ($n = 283$) were more likely to earn other types of associate degrees (55%) than applied science (33.6%) or Oregon Transfer degrees (12%).
- 9.9% of students transferred to Portland State University. National Student Clearinghouse data reveal that an additional 11.2% of students transferred to other four-year institutions.
- 2.4% of students earned bachelor's degrees from PSU. An additional 6% earned bachelor's degrees from institutions other than PSU.
- Of the 1,969 students who transferred to PSU, 24.5% earned a bachelor's degree from PSU.
- When data from all three institutions and NSC are combined, the associate degree attainment rate for these cohorts is 9.3%. The transfer rate to any four-year institution is 21.2%. From the overall cohorts, the bachelor's attainment rate from any four-year institution is 8.4%.

Next Steps

- To address the intent of the research project, the next step in the data analysis is to determine whether there are differences in associate degree attainment, transfer, and bachelor's degree attainment for underrepresented groups.
- Because a large number of students transfer without having earned an associate degree, we will examine the pathways of students who transfer with and without associate degrees for differences in bachelor's attainment.



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Update prepared by Rowanna Carpenter

The goal of the Urban Transfer Research Network is to increase the transfer and success rates of community college students who intend to earn a bachelor's degree.

Funded by a generous grant from Lumina Foundation for Education.

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