



## RESEARCH UPDATE

February 2007

### Pathways

Coding of student pathways is in process. The total numbers of students in the cohort has changed. Based on consensus in the data committee meeting held November 29, the new cohort definition eliminates students who show up only once at a community college and do not show up elsewhere in the data. Initial pathway coding of the remaining cohort includes three families of enrollment patterns: (a) attendance limited to home institution only; (b) linear enrollment post transfer; and (c) a swirling pattern after initial transfer. A swirling pattern is defined as students showing up at more than one location at a time or who transfer to university and then back to community college.

The following are highlights from preliminary results:

- Most students stay at the home institution. Further investigation is necessary to determine whether they attain an Associates degree.
- Students who left their home institution were twice as likely to swirl as have a linear enrollment pattern.
- Students at MHCC were twice as likely to swirl as compared to those at PCC.
- PCC students were more likely to stay at home institution. Note: Often PCC students swirl within different PCC locations. However, there is no way to track between locations.
- African American, Hispanic and (to a lesser degree) Caucasian students were more likely to stay at their home institution. However, African American students who transferred were less likely to display a linear pattern than the other two ethnicities.
- Asian students were the most likely to demonstrate a swirling pattern.
- No significant differences in enrollment patterns between genders.
- Students with linear enrollment patterns were more likely to attain the Bachelor's degree than other patterns.

Note: National student clearinghouse data is not combined with dataset at this time; therefore, it is undetermined if students who did not transfer went out of state.

Note: All community colleges in the Portland metropolitan area included.

### The UTRN Project is Expanding

- Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon, has joined the project. Doug Moxley, Director of Institutional Effectiveness at Chemeketa Community College will join the Policy Advisory Committee.
- Clackamas Community College in Clackamas, Oregon, has joined the project. Judy Redder, Operations Manager of Curriculum and Reporting at Clackamas Community College, will join the Data Advisory Committee.
- Masami Nishishiba, Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration at Portland State University, has joined the Data Advisory Committee.



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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.

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