

# **Going to Community College**

## **High School Counselor Guide to the Transfer Process**

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# Illinois State University

- o Enrollment: 19,924
- o Illinois' First Public Institution
- o 34% of our students transfer from another institution
- o 45% of our graduating class each year transferred from another institution
- o Enroll about 2,200 transfer students each year

# University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- o Enrollment: 31,901
- o Flagship University of Illinois
- o ~1650 transfer students each academic year
- o 4 year graduation rate = 82%

# College of DuPage

- o Enrollment: 29,500
- o Largest Single Campus Community College in Illinois
- o Fall 2012 numbers:
  - o 2,262 transferred to a 4 year institution
  - o 1,267 back from a 4 year institution

# Group Activity

- o Did you ever attend a Community College?
- o What is your perception of a Community College?
- o Would you advise your students to a Community College?
  - o If not, why?

# Transfer Student Statistics

## Fall 2011

(State of Illinois Board of Higher Education)

- o Fall Enrollment Survey
  - o Transfer students within Illinois totaled **58,066**
    - o 8.4 percent of the total enrollment (689,171) in the state
  - o **25,238** transferred from a community college

# Transfer Student Numbers Fall 2011

(Mycreditstransfer.org)

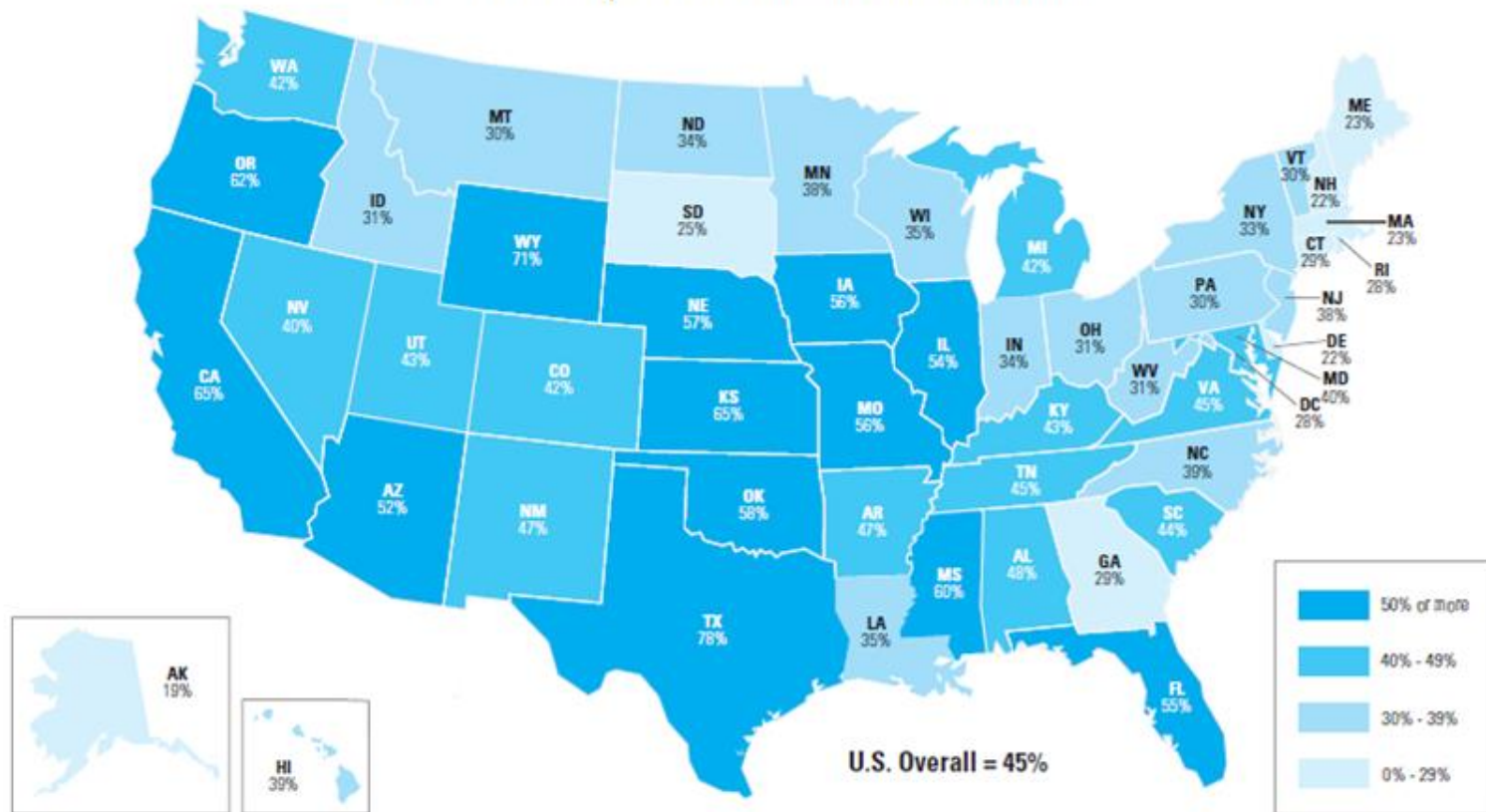
## PUBLIC

- o ISU: 1,846 (1,505 from CCs)
- o UIUC: 1,398 (681 from CCs)
- o NIU: 2,133 (1,531 from CCs)

## PRIVATE

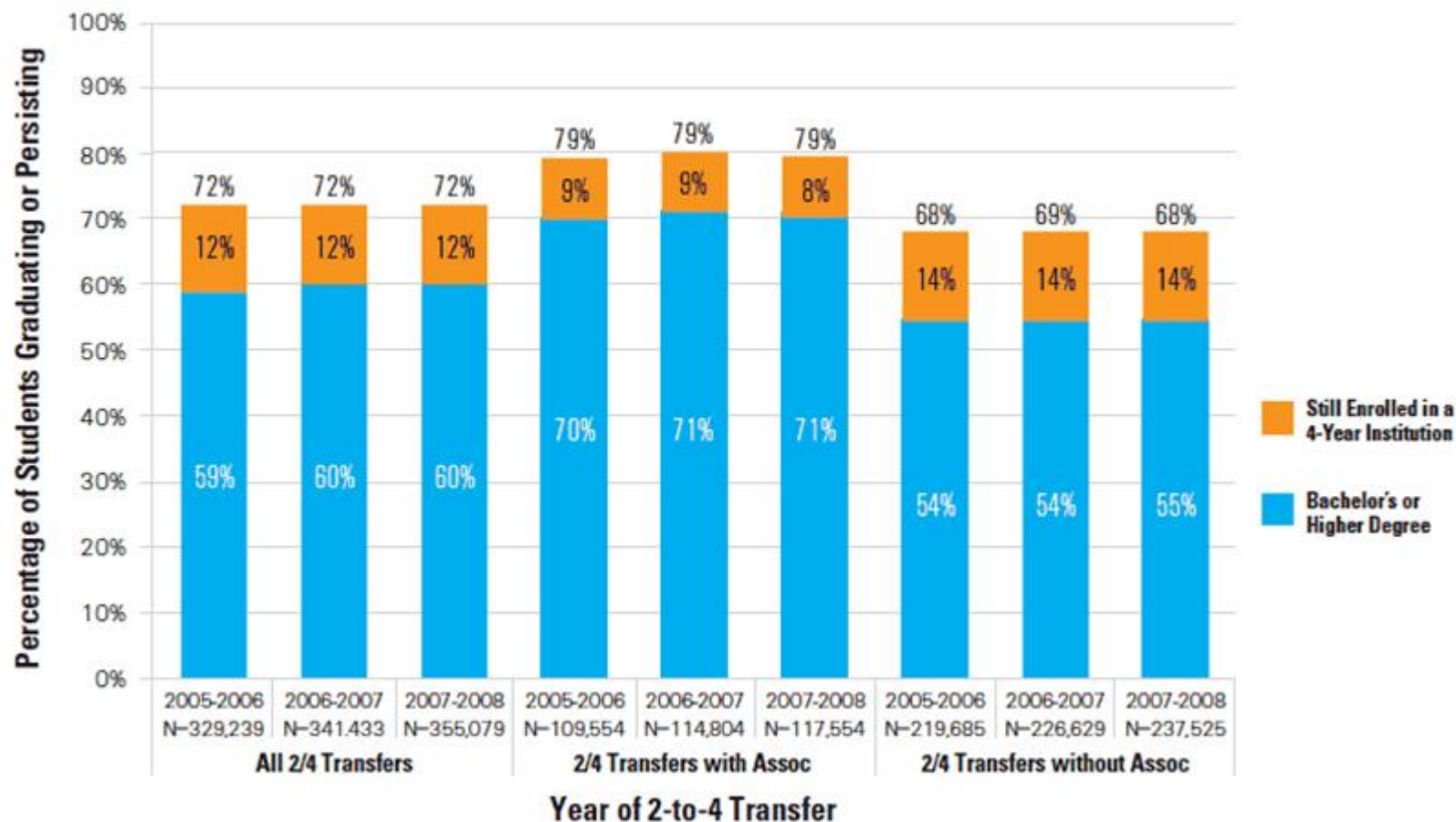
- o DePaul: 1,768 (993 from CCs)
- o Lewis University: 582 (400 from CCs)
- o University of St. Francis: 291 (219 from CCs)

## Percentage of Students Completing Degrees at Four-Year Institutions Who Previously Enrolled at Two-Year Institutions\*



- 54% of Students completing a 4 year degree had previously enrolled in a 2 year institution.
  - 24% for only 1 semester
  - 60% with 4 or more semesters

## Outcomes of Students Who Transferred from Two-Year to Four-Year Institutions (Four Years After Transfer)



*Note: The cohort for any given year consists of students who had a two-year enrollment in the year prior to the year of transfer (or during the year of transfer), which was followed by a four-year enrollment during the year of transfer (with no concurrency). To be included, students had to have been 18 years of age or older when enrolled at the two-year institution. Students who enrolled at a four-year institution only during summer terms (defined as terms that begin and end between May 1 and August 31 of a given year) are not counted as transfers in this analysis. Percentages may not sum to total due to rounding.*

# Community College Stigma

- o Lower quality education
- o Continuation of High School
- o Only for “Gen Eds”
- o Transferring problems
- o Cheap

“My kid is too good for a Community College!”

- o What is that saying about Community College students?

# Community College Reality

- o Lower Quality Education
  - o Same quality, same course
  - o ENG 101 the same regardless where taken
- o Continuation of High School
  - o Draw from multiple high schools, and adult populations.
  - o At COD, over 40% are adult students (21 and older)
- o Only for “Gen Eds”
  - o Offer many technical programs, certificates, electives along side the Gen Eds.

# Community College Reality

- o Transferring problems
  - o Implementation of Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) and other 2+2 agreements
  - o Communication is key
- o Cheap
  - o Costs are offset by property taxes
  - o We prefer the term “less expensive”

# Starting at a Community College

- o Community Colleges are “Open Enrollment”
  - o Anyone who graduated high school, has their GED, or is 18 is able to take classes
  - o Only those with high school diploma or GED are eligible for Financial Aid
- o Application is very different from 4 year schools
  - o No essay, letter of recommendation, etc.
- o Can apply at any time and become a student, but can't take classes until they meet previous requirements.

# Benefits of a Community College

- Helps undecided students determine future goals
- Close to home
- Flexible scheduling
  - Day, Night, Weekend, Online, Hybrid.
- Cost savings
  - Living at home is an option
  - Lower tuition

## Traditional 4 Year Costs at UIUC and ISU

4 Year Institution	4 year tuition - base rate	Room and Board	Total Costs for 4 Years
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	\$15,602	\$10,848	\$105,800
Illinois State University	\$13,009	\$9,624	\$90,532

### What a Transfer Student Pays

<b>2 Years at College of DuPage</b> \$140 per credit hour (107.15 tuition, plus \$32.85 fee)	<b>2 Years at Four Year Institution (Tuition and Fees + Room and Board)</b>	<b>Total Costs for 4 Years</b>
\$8,960 (for 15 credit hours)	\$52,900 (UIUC)	\$61,860
\$8,960 (for 15 credit hours)	\$45,266 (ISU)	\$54,226

# Working with 4 Year Institutions

- o Articulations in place to help students choose classes
- o Resources to help with transfer information:  
[itransfer.org](http://itransfer.org) or [MyCreditsTransfer.com](http://MyCreditsTransfer.com)
  - o Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI)
- o Many schools offer direct course by course guides to community colleges:
  - o Search “Transfer Equivalencies”

“...Community college students earn degrees at rates similar to those students who begin at four-year institutions, but the number of community college students who transfer **successfully** is distressingly small...”

(Handel, S. J. (2013). Community College Students Earning the Baccalaureate Degree. *College and University*, 89 (2), 22-30.)

# Common Myths

- o 2 + 2 Always = 4 years
- o Having an Associate's automatically means 2 years left to my degree.
- o It is easier to be admitted as a transfer student to \_\_\_\_\_.
- o I'll automatically be accepted since I have my Associates.
- o I should take or avoid certain classes (math or science) before I transfer because it is harder or easier at \_\_\_\_\_.
- o I have plenty of time to apply.
- o My friend got in so I will too.

# Pathway Programs and 2+2's

- Some community colleges have ties to universities
- Earn associate's degree and finish at a 4 year institution
- "Guaranteed" admission
- Work with advisors on both campuses
- Gain access to specific university resources



# **NEXT STEPS**

Eliminate the negative expectations!

# What High School Counselors Can Do!

- o Inform the student of the community college option and the benefits
  - o Be realistic about admissions requirements
  - o Often, you know their reality. Don't crush their dreams, but encourage them to go about them in a different way
- o Have the student talk to BOTH community college and 4 year institution
  - o When talking to each, the student should not be afraid to say exactly what they plan. Schools will work with each other, not in competition
  - o Students can receive assistance on course selection at the community college from advisors at both schools

# What High School Counselors Can Do!

- o High School recruitment fairs
- o Visit different campuses, including community colleges
- o Student and family workshops
- o Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment
- o Discover students interests/major and help research for the right fit
- o Ask questions about transfer options and requirements for majors from schools of interest

# Reassure the Student

- o Students afraid of “missing out” on the college experience by starting at Community College
  - o Encourage to get involved wherever they are
  - o Student housing is still available junior year
- o Students can explore variety of options while at the Community College, to ensure their major choice.



**QUESTIONS/  
Group Discussion**