



**Measures of Transfer Activity in Ohio Public Higher  
Education for Students Enrolled in FY 2001, with Transfer  
Activity Tracked from FY 2002 through FY 2004**

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This report summarizes the transfer activity of undergraduate students who were enrolled at Ohio's public institutions in 2000-2001 (FY2001). Transfer activity was tracked over the three years from FY 2002 to FY 2004. Results are presented separately for all undergraduates and for those who were first-time students in FY 2001.

### **Defining Transfer**

There are many ways to define "transfer." Our view is that there is no single correct method of determining when and if a transfer has occurred. The appropriate rule depends on the questions being addressed. The purpose here is to get a rough idea of:

- 1) the volume and directions of total student mobility
- 2) how transfer rates vary by student characteristics and enrollment choices and
- 3) the timing of transfer decisions.

Our rule: A transfer student is one who A) transfers credits to another institution in FY 2002 – FY 2004, or B) earns the majority of credits in FY 2002, FY 2003, or FY 2004 at an institution other than the one where they earned the majority of their credits in FY 2001.

### **Transfer Rates by Sector (Table 1)**

Fourteen percent, or 67,055, of the 467,055 undergraduates enrolled in FY 2001 transferred to a different institution from FY 2002 to FY 2004. Transfer rates for first-time students were slightly higher, with

18% (18,588) of the 102,139 first-time students transferring. Transfer rates were highest among students enrolled in university regional campuses, with 29% of all undergraduates and 32% of first-time students transferring.

### **Transfer Rates by Sector and Students' Academic Goals (Table 2)**

Transfer rates vary depending on the declared academic objectives of students. Among first-time students, 12% of students with an intention of earning a certificate or associate degree transferred, compared to 15% of students who had no degree or transfer intention and 28% of those whose intention was to transfer or earn a bachelor's degree.

Among first-time students whose degree intention was a certificate or associate degree, the 12% transfer rate was the same for those attending community/technical colleges and those attending university regional campuses. For other academic intentions, transfer rates were higher among students enrolled at university regional campuses.

While transfer rates are highest among students whose declared intent was to transfer, those students accounted for just 28% of all first-time students in FY 2001. Among all first-time students who transferred from a two-year institution, 56% (or 6,142 out of 10,873) transferred despite having no declared intent to do so.

**Direction of Transfer (Table 3)**

Transfer activity is not limited to moves from two-year schools to four-year schools. In fact, among first-time students, only 33% of transfer activity fit this traditional description. Surprisingly, 52% of transfer activity involved a move to a two-year school (28% from other two-year schools and 24% from four-year schools). Fifteen percent of transfers were lateral transfers from one four-year school to another.

**Characteristics of Transfer Students versus Non-Transfers (Table 4)**

Students who transfer tend to be younger and tend to take heavier first-year course-loads than non-transfer students. This result is accentuated for transfer students who transfer to university main campuses, regardless of their sector of origin.

Among first-time students who begin at community/technical colleges, those who transfer out are five years younger on average than their peers who do not transfer (22 versus 27). Transfer students also attempt more credit hours in their first year of college compared to their non-transfer peers (16 versus 12). Differences in age and credit-hours attempted are even more pronounced among students who transfer to four-year schools; on average, these students are 20 years old and attempt 18 credits hours in their first year of college.

Among students beginning at university regional campuses, differences in age and credit-hours

attempted between transfer and non-transfer students exist, but are not as pronounced as those for the community/technical college students. On average, students who transfer from a university regional campus are 20 years old and attempt 22 credit hours in their first year of college. By comparison, non-transfer, first-year students at university regional campuses are 24 years old and attempt 16 credit hours, on average. Among transfer students from university regional campuses, those who transfer to community/technical colleges are only slightly older than those who transfer to university main campuses.

The smallest differences in age and first-year credit-hours attempted between transfer and non-transfer students occur among first-year students at university main campuses. On average, first-year university students who transfer are one year younger (19 compared to 20) and attempt two fewer credit-hours (24 compared to 26) than their peers who do not transfer. Among those students who transferred from a university main campus, age differences by destination are negligible. However, students who transferred to community/technical colleges attempted slightly fewer credit-hours in their first-year than did their peers who transferred to other university main campuses (23 compared to 26).

**Transfer Rates and Destinations by Sector, Age, and First-Year Credits (Table 5)**

Among first-time students beginning at community/technical colleges, 25% of students age 24

and younger who attempted 24 or more credits transferred, compared to 8% of students age 25 and older who attempted less than 12 credits. Younger transfers are more likely to transfer to four-year schools, as 73% of transfers age 24 and younger with 24 or more credits attempted transferred to university main campuses. In contrast, only 20% of transfers age 25 and older with less than 12 credits attempted transferred to university main campuses.

Among students beginning at university regional campuses, 47% of students age 24 and younger who attempted 24 or more credits transferred, compared to 8% of students age 25 and older who attempted less than 12 credits. Younger transfers are more likely to transfer to four-year schools, as 71% of transfers age 24 and younger with 24 or more credits attempted transferred to university main campuses. In contrast, only 34% of transfers age 25 and older with less than 12 credits attempted transferred to university main campuses.

First-time students beginning at university main campuses had different patterns of transfer than the students who began at two-year schools. Among students age 24 and younger (who make up nearly all of the first-time students at the four-year schools), students who took 24 or more hours in their first year had the lowest transfer rates, at 16%. Thirty-one percent of students who took between 12 and 23 credits transferred, while 23% of those who took less than 12 hours transferred.

Sixty percent of transfers out of university regional campuses went to university main campuses, compared to 51% of transfers from community/technical colleges and 38% of transfers from university main campuses.

### **Timing of Transfers (Table 6)**

The likelihood that students will transfer in any given year declines over time. For all sectors, regardless of whether the cohort includes all FY 2001 undergraduates or just those who were first-time students in FY 2001, about half of transfers occurred in FY 2002, 30% occurred in FY 2003, and 20% occurred in FY 2004.

### **Success of Transfers (Table 7)**

A great deal of work needs to be done to fully develop outcome measures for the transfer process. However, a simple approach involves analyzing students' pre-transfer and post-transfer GPAs. If a student's GPA holds steady or rises after a transfer takes place, the initial conclusion might be that transfer is "seamless." If however, the student's GPA falls after changing schools, this indicates a potential "bump in the road."

We find that GPA shifts for transfer students vary depending on the sector in which they start and the destination sector. Generally, when students make a lateral transfer to a school in a similar sector, GPAs change very little. Students from two-year schools (both community/technical colleges and regional campuses) generally experience GPA declines after transferring to university main campuses.

As might be expected, for each sector, students who transfer to university main campuses have higher pre-transfer GPAs than students who transfer to two-year schools.

**Table 1. Transfer Rates by First-Time Status and Sector  
Initial Enrollment in FY2001, Transfer Activity from FY 2002 through FY 2004**

<b>Start Sector</b>	<b>All Undergraduates</b>			<b>First-Time Students</b>		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Transfer Rate</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Transfer Rate</b>
Community and Technical Colleges	204,610	28,597	14%	50,139	7,470	15%
University Regional Campuses	45,999	13,336	29%	12,148	3,907	32%
University Main Campuses	216,446	25,089	12%	39,852	7,211	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>467,055</b>	<b>67,022</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>102,139</b>	<b>18,588</b>	<b>18%</b>

**Table 2. Transfer Rates by First-Time Status and Sector  
Initial Enrollment in FY2001, Transfer Activity from FY 2002 through FY 2004**

Note: University main campuses are omitted because they do not use the Degree Intent Field

Start Sector	Intention	All Undergraduates			First-Time Student		
		Total	Transfers	Transfer Rate	Total	Transfers	Transfer Rate
Community and Technical College	Certificate or associate	75,550	8,750	12%	19,995	2,470	12%
	No Degree/Transfer Intent	82,926	9,806	12%	17,742	2,130	12%
	Transfer or Bachelor's Degree	46,134	10,041	22%	12,402	2,870	23%
University Regional Campuses	Certificate or associate	1,554	289	19%	334	40	12%
	No Degree/Transfer Intent	25,363	6,422	25%	6,061	1,502	25%
	Transfer or Bachelor's Degree	15,646	5,327	34%	4,384	1,861	42%
Total	Certificate or associate	77,104	9,039	12%	20,329	2,510	12%
	No Degree/Transfer Intent	108,289	16,228	15%	23,803	3,632	15%
	Transfer or Bachelor's Degree	61,780	15,368	25%	16,786	4,731	28%

**Table 3. Transfer Rates by First-Time Status and Sector  
Initial Enrollment in FY 2001, Transfer Activity from FY 2002 to FY 2004**

**All Undergraduates**

Start Campus	Enrollments and Total Transfers			Two-Year (Community and Technical Colleges, University Branches)		University Main Campuses	
	Total Enrollments	Number Transferred	Total Transfer Rate	#	% of Total Transfers	#	% of Total Transfers
Two-Year (Community and Technical Colleges, University Branches)	250,609	41,933	17%	17,387	26%	24,546	37%
University Main Campuses	216,446	25,089	12%	17,483	26%	7,606	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>467,055</b>	<b>67,022</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>34,870</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>32,152</b>	<b>48%</b>

**First-Time Students**

Start Campus	Enrollments and Total Transfers			Two-Year (Community and Technical Colleges, University Branches)		University Main Campuses	
	Total Enrollments	Number Transferred	Total Transfer Rate	#	% of Total Transfers	#	% of Total Transfers
Two-Year (Community and Technical Colleges, University Branches)	62,287	11,377	18%	5,208	28%	6,169	33%
University Main Campuses	39,852	7,211	18%	4,487	24%	2,724	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,139</b>	<b>18,588</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>9,695</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>8,893</b>	<b>48%</b>

**Table 4. Transfer Rates by First-Time Status and Sector  
Initial Enrollment in FY 2001, Transfer Activity from FY 2002 to FY 2004**

Start Sector and Transfer Outcome		All Undergraduates			First-Time Students		
		Number	Average Age	SCH at start institution in FY 2001	Number	Average Age	SCH at start institution in FY 2001
Community and Technical College	All	204,610	30	12	50,139	26	13
	<i>Transferred</i>	28,597	25	16	7,470	22	16
	<i>Non-Transfer</i>	176,013	30	12	42,669	27	12
	Destination:						
	<i>2YR</i>	11,481	28	12	3,332	25	13
	<i>UB</i>	1,067	26	12	313	22	12
	<i>UM</i>	16,049	24	18	3,825	20	18
University Regional Campuses	All	45,999	27	16	12,148	23	18
	<i>Transferred</i>	13,336	24	20	3,907	20	22
	<i>Non-Transfer</i>	32,663	28	15	8,241	24	16
	Destination:						
	<i>2YR</i>	3,217	24	16	1,239	20	19
	<i>UB</i>	1,622	27	17	324	22	20
	<i>UM</i>	8,497	23	22	2,344	19	24
University Main Campuses	All	216,446	23	24	39,852	20	26
	<i>Transferred</i>	25,089	22	22	7,211	19	24
	<i>Non-Transfer</i>	191,357	24	24	32,641	20	26
	Destination:						
	<i>2YR</i>	14,210	23	21	3,750	19	23
	<i>UB</i>	3,273	24	21	737	19	23
	<i>UM</i>	7,606	21	24	2,724	19	26

**Table 5. Transfer Rates by First-Time Status and Sector  
Initial Enrollment in FY 2001, Transfer Activity from FY 2002 to FY 2004**

Sector, Age and Course Credit Load:		Total	Transfers	Total Transfer Rate	Destination of Transfer					
					Community and Technical Colleges		University Regional Campuses		University Main Campuses	
					#	% of Transfers	#	% of Transfers	#	% of Transfers
<b>Community and Technical Colleges</b>										
All First-Time Students		50,139	7,470	15%	3,332	45%	313	4%	3,825	51%
24 and Younger	>= 24 Credits	8,815	2,184	25%	541	25%	40	2%	1,603	73%
	12 to 23 Credits	9,207	1,626	18%	702	43%	84	5%	840	52%
	Under 12 Credits	13,166	2,070	16%	931	45%	132	6%	1,007	49%
25 and Older	>= 24 Credits	1,340	128	10%	75	59%	1	1%	52	41%
	12 to 23 Credits	3,605	374	10%	261	70%	4	1%	109	29%
	Under 12 Credits	13,816	1,059	8%	799	75%	52	5%	208	20%
<b>University Regional Campuses</b>										
All First-Time Students		12,148	3,907	32%	1,239	32%	324	8%	2,344	60%
24 and Younger	>= 24 Credits	4,662	2,184	47%	493	23%	142	7%	1,549	71%
	12 to 23 Credits	2,583	935	36%	392	42%	68	7%	475	51%
	Under 12 Credits	2,198	484	22%	227	47%	46	10%	211	44%
25 and Older	>= 24 Credits	280	62	22%	18	29%	12	19%	32	52%
	12 to 23 Credits	581	87	15%	31	36%	31	36%	25	29%
	Under 12 Credits	1,844	155	8%	78	50%	25	16%	52	34%
<b>University Main Campuses</b>										
All First-Time Students		39,852	7,211	18%	3,750	52%	737	10%	2,724	38%
24 and Younger	>= 24 Credits	29,192	4,714	16%	2204	47%	420	9%	2,090	44%
	12 to 23 Credits	5,159	1,581	31%	989	63%	193	12%	399	25%
	Under 12 Credits	2,930	688	23%	405	59%	85	12%	198	29%
25 and Older	>= 24 Credits	313	29	9%	14	48%	6	21%	9	31%
	12 to 23 Credits	590	58	10%	48	83%	7	12%	3	5%
	Under 12 Credits	1,653	136	8%	87	64%	26	19%	23	17%

**Table 6. Transfer Rates by First-Time Status and Sector  
Initial Enrollment in FY 2001, Transfer Activity from FY 2002 to FY 2004**

Sector and First-Time Status		Total	Transferred in Any Year		Transferred in FY2002		Transferred in FY2003		Transferred in FY2004	
			#	%	#	% of Transfers	#	% of Transfers	#	% of Transfers
Community and Technical Colleges	All	204,610	28,597	14%	13,919	49%	8,668	30%	6,010	21%
	First-Time Student	50,139	7,470	15%	3,182	43%	2,496	33%	1,792	24%
University Regional Campuses	All	45,999	13,336	29%	7,029	53%	4,100	31%	2,207	17%
	First-Time Student	12,148	3,907	32%	1,871	48%	1,337	34%	699	18%
University Main Campuses	All	216,446	25,089	12%	11,866	47%	7,677	31%	5,546	22%
	First-Time Student	39,852	7,211	18%	3,737	52%	2,231	31%	1,243	17%
All Sectors	All	467,055	67,022	14%	32,814	49%	20,445	31%	13,763	21%
	First-Time Student	102,139	18,588	18%	8,790	47%	6,064	33%	3,734	20%

**Table 7. Transfer Rates by First-Time Status and Sector  
First-Time Students in FY2001, Transfer Activity from FY 2002 through FY 2004**

	Enrollment	Transfers to Community and Technical Colleges			Transfers to University Regional Campuses			Transfers to University Main Campuses		
		#	Pre-Transfer Cumulative GPA	First Transfer Term GPA	#	Pre-Transfer Cumulative GPA	First Transfer Term GPA	#	Pre-Transfer Cumulative GPA	First Transfer Term GPA
Community and Technical Colleges	50,139	3,332	2.31	2.24	313	1.69	1.89	3,825	2.63	2.38
University Regional Campuses	12,148	1,239	1.78	2.08	324	2.38	2.53	2,344	2.76	2.51
University Main Campuses	39,852	3,750	1.67	1.91	737	2.09	2.29	2,724	2.43	2.49
Total	102,139	8,321	1.94	2.07	1,374	2.06	2.25	8,893	2.6	2.45