

Through the Gate

African-American Students' Transfer Journey: Identifying Opportunities to Increase Transfer

Umoja Conference
November 9, 2018

Darla Cooper, EdD
Executive Director

The RP Group

www.rpgroup.org

Mission

- Strengthen CCCs' ability to gather, analyze, and act on information in order to enhance student equity and success

Services

- Research, evaluation, planning, professional development, and technical assistance—designed and conducted by CCC practitioners

Organization

- 501(c)3 with roots as membership organization

College Futures Foundation

www.collegefutures.org

Vision

- More graduates for a thriving California

Mission

- Removing barriers so more low-income and underrepresented students attain bachelor's degrees

Funder

Partner

Connector

Today's Presentation Outcomes

Participants will...

- Learn what factors influence students' transfer progress and how these factors differ by region and student group
- Explore specific findings, especially those that apply to Black/African-American students
- Respond to transfer decision-making framework
- Know specific next steps in this transfer research

Today's Presentation Outline

- Provide Overview of Through the Gate Study
- Discuss Factors Determining whether Students Achieve Transfer or Get Stuck At or Near the Gate
- Share Transfer Decision-Making Framework
- Preview Phase II Research: Getting Better Directions

Through the Gate Transfer Study

A Fresh Take on the Transfer Challenge



Through the Gate Aims to...

Identify individuals who have **completed all or most of their transfer requirements, but who do not make it “through the gate” to university**

Identify strategies for **increasing transfer, boosting baccalaureate production, and enhancing students’ social and economic mobility--especially for underrepresented populations**

A Fresh Take on the Transfer Continuum

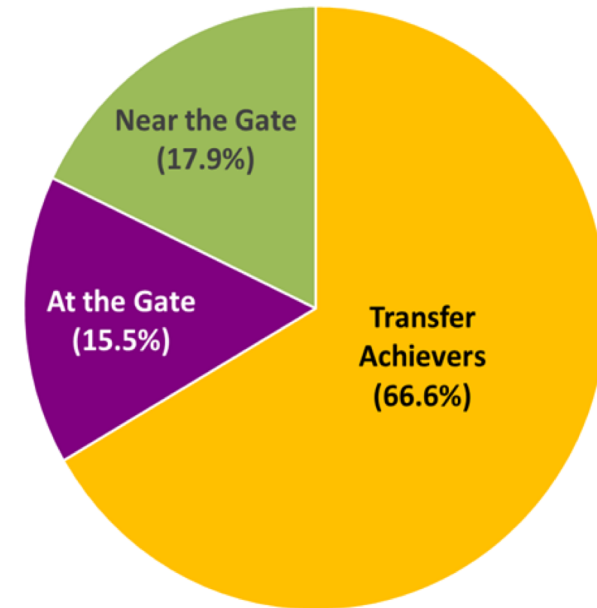


Study Sample

- 875,630 CCC students
- Enrolled between 2010-2011 and 2014-2015
- Outcomes through spring 2016

Three subgroups:

1. Transfer Achievers (583,074)
2. Students At the Gate (135,557)
3. Students Near the Gate (156,999)



Students Leave without Credentials

- Many students exit without securing a degree and/or certificate to document their academic achievements
 - Transfer Achievers: 69%
 - Students At the Gate: 54%
 - Students Near the Gate: 49%

Math Is A Barrier

- 92% of Near the Gate students need to complete math transfer requirement
- African Americans are least likely to complete transfer-level math

Time Is The Enemy

- Students who do not transfer within a year of becoming transfer ready (at the gate) are less likely to transfer

Discussion: Deeper Dive into the Findings

Once African Americans Reach Key Milestones, They Are Most Likely to Transfer...But Too Few Get This Far

Findings:

- 75% African-American students who make it near or at the gate ultimately transfer -- *highest among any ethnic group*
- Yet, many African Americans do not make it past 30 units in six years

Discussion Questions:

- What can colleges do to get more African Americans near or at the gate?
- What can African-American students do to help increase their chances of getting near or at the gate?

Transfer Decision-Making Framework



Student Factors

- ☐ Academic (e.g., GPA, transfer units completed)
- ☐ Demographics (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity)
- ☐ Psychological (e.g., confidence, fear of unknown)
- ☐ Sociocultural (e.g., family expectations)
- ☐ Financial (e.g., college affordability)

College Factors

- ☐ Transfer Support (e.g., robustness of Transfer Center)
- ☐ Culture (e.g., intersegmental alignment, messaging)
- ☐ Policy (e.g., # of AD-Ts available)
- ☐ Regional (e.g., proximity to university, population density)

Group Discussion

- What about this framework resonates with you?
- What, if any, factors/concepts are missing/unclear/unnecessary?

Getting Better Directions

Phase II Research



Phase II Research Questions

- **Why** do so many students who are close to achieving their transfer goal stop short of making this transition?
- **What can we do** to help students who are at or near the gate transfer?
- **What is holding back different student groups, and how can we help** them continue their journey?
- **What is impacting IE and CV students' transfer progress**, and what strategies can be pursued to increase their success?

Phase II Methodology

- Engagement of students who are near or at the gate
- Exploration of the obstacles that prevented or dissuaded these students from transferring
- Identification of strategies and supports that could bring them back onto the transfer path
- Recruiting 34 colleges to participate by region in:
 - Online Survey
 - Telephone Interviews

What Colleges Can Do

- Use the Through the Gate methodology to...
 - Identify how many students are at or near the gate
 - Determine if certain student groups are more likely to be at or near the gate
- Reach out to these students to explore barriers and identify needs
- Develop plans to help address emerging barriers and needs

Questions?

For more information on the Through the Gate Study

Project Directors:

Dr. Darla Cooper

dcooper@rpgroup.org

Dr. Kristen Fong

kfong@rpgroup.org



THROUGH THE GATE

www.rpgroup.org/through-the-gate

#StudentsThroughtheGate

Thank you!