Creating & Facilitating Effective Statewide Transfer Pathways

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Public two-year institutions play a vital role in Texas higher education

Texas is among 9 states where community college enrollment **exceeds 50%** of total higher education enrollment and among 6 states where the **percentage of Hispanics and African Americans** enrolled at community colleges **exceeds 50%**.

One of the primary higher education goals for Texas should be to **strengthen state transfer policies** so that students who begin at community colleges **complete at the same rates** compared to students who begin at four-year colleges.

Source: *The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education*, June 2011.

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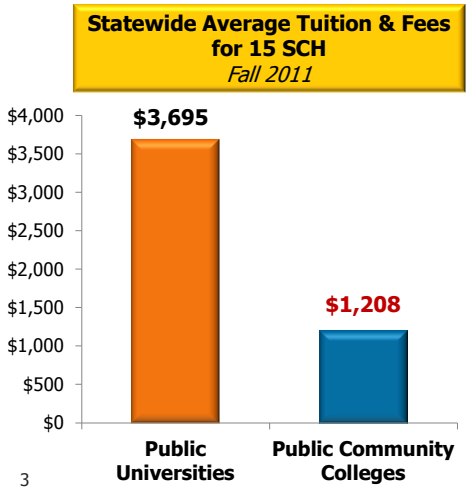
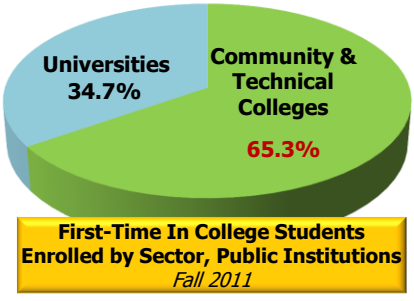
Cost is one factor that increasingly attracts students to public two-year institutions





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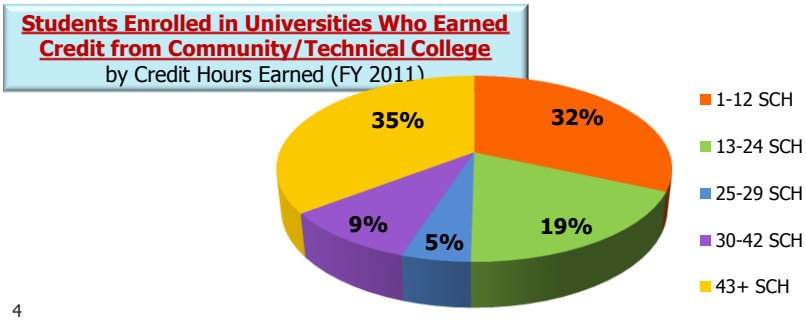
More than 1/3 of baccalaureate graduates earned 30 or more credit hours at Texas public two-year colleges

Statewide Total of **University Students Who Earned Credit at Two-year Colleges** (FY 2011)

294,581 Students
(Total University Enrollment: 568,000)



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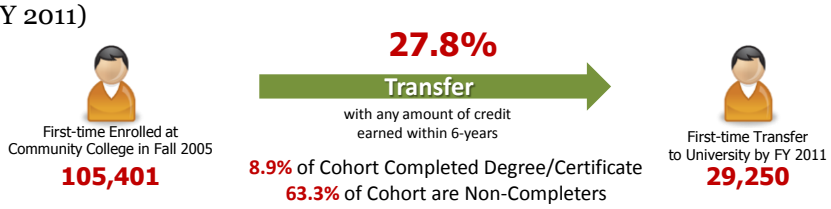
Statewide Total Transfer Rate
(FY 2011)



Ethnicity	Cohort	Transfer	Transfer Rate
White	53,071	17,547	33.1%
African Am.	12,237	2,429	19.8%
Hispanic	33,822	7,221	21.3%
Asian	3,401	1,293	38.0%
Other	2870	770	26.8%
Statewide	**105,401**	**29,250**	**27.8%**

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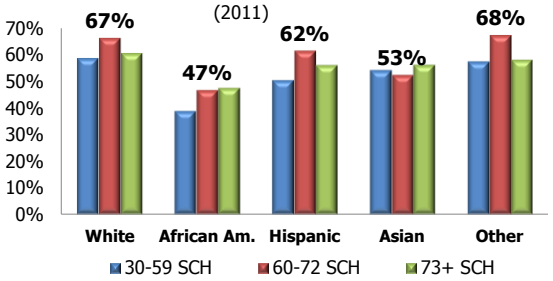
Statewide Transfer Graduation Rate
(FY 2011)

Transfer Graduation Rate by Ethnicity and Credit Earned
(2011)



SCH Earned	Cohort	Graduate	Grad Rate
30-59 SCH	9,288	5,068	54.6%
60-72 SCH	5,712	3,595	62.9%
73+	10,561	6,082	57.6%
TOTAL	**25,561**	**14,745**	**57.7%**

First-time Transfers to University in Fall 2007 Who Graduated by FY 2011

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Building a more efficient transfer system

HB 3025, 82nd Texas Legislature, Regular Session initially proposed a variety of mechanisms designed to improve student transfer pathways.

Proposed in HB 3025	THECB Implementing	Requires Statutory Change
Statewide Transfer Compacts	✔	
Transferable Core Curriculum in Key Disciplines	✔	
Semester Credit Hours Cap for Associates' Degrees		✔

Faculty-led effort eases transfer and sets consistent learning outcomes

THECB's Tuning Councils will have adopted a total of **12 Statewide Voluntary Transfer Compacts** by 2013.

2010 Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

2011 Engineering
- Industrial, Civil, & Electrical Engineering

2012 Engineering & Science
- Biomedical & Chemical Engineering, Biology, Chemistry

2013 Math, Business, & Information Systems
- Math, Business, Computer Info. Systems, Management Info. Systems

Revisions to the Texas Core Curriculum will improve consistency in transfer practices

The THECB's modifications to the Core Curriculum will **align** the core with **best practices across the U.S**. and **increase student opportunities** for **success.**

New Core Curriculum
Implementation Fall 2014

- ✓ **6** Core Objectives
- ✓ **3-4** Core Objectives mapped to each course

- ✓ No more than **42** SCH in the Core

Creating statewide consistency in Associate degree credit requirements will reduce student confusion

Legislative Recommendation

- ✓ Require a cap of **60** SCH for Associates' degrees unless accreditation or licensure requirements demand more.

This table shows an example of the disparity between semester credit hours required for a Paralegal Studies program across community colleges.

AAS Paralegal Studies – 22.0302	
72 SCH	66 SCH
72 SCH	66 SCH
68 SCH	65 SCH
65 SCH	63 SCH
61 SCH	

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