

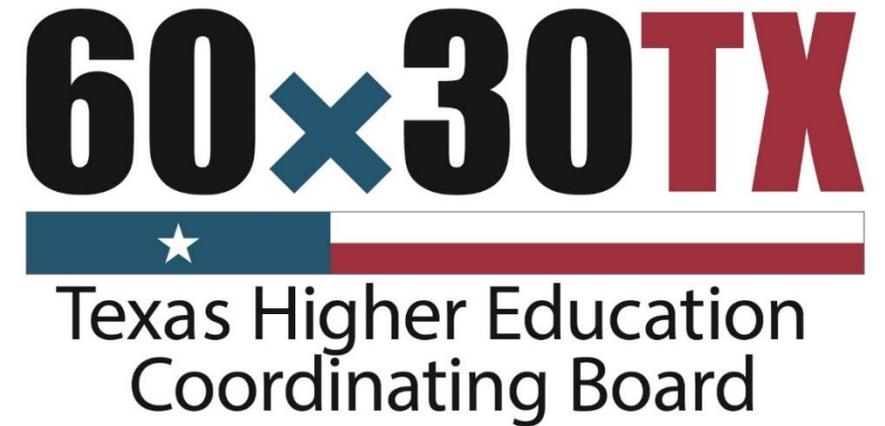
# Improving Statewide Transfer and Applicability of Credit in Texas Higher Education

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# Ensuring efficient student transfer pathways is critical to meeting the goals of *60x30TX*



**More than half** of all Texas students enter higher education through a public two-year college.



**73%** of 2017 baccalaureate graduates took courses at a two-year institution of higher education. **34%** took 30 or more semester credit hours (SCH) at a two-year institution prior to receiving a baccalaureate.



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

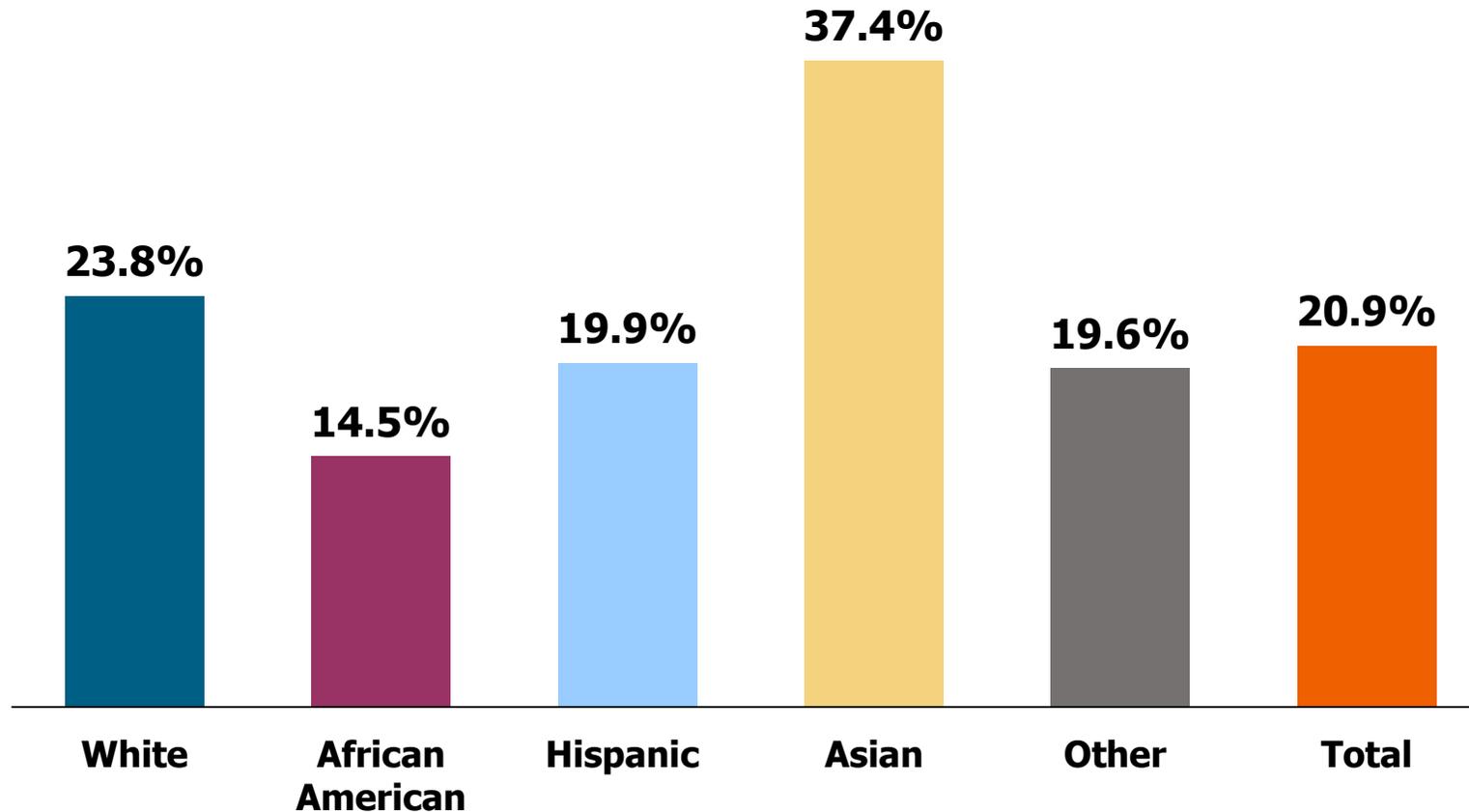
## 2018 Statewide Tuition & Fees (30 SCH)

<b>Public Universities</b>	<b>\$8,875</b>
<b>Lamar State Colleges</b>	<b>\$5,521</b>
<b>Texas State Technical Colleges</b>	<b>\$5,208</b>
<b>Community Colleges</b>	<b>\$2,419</b>

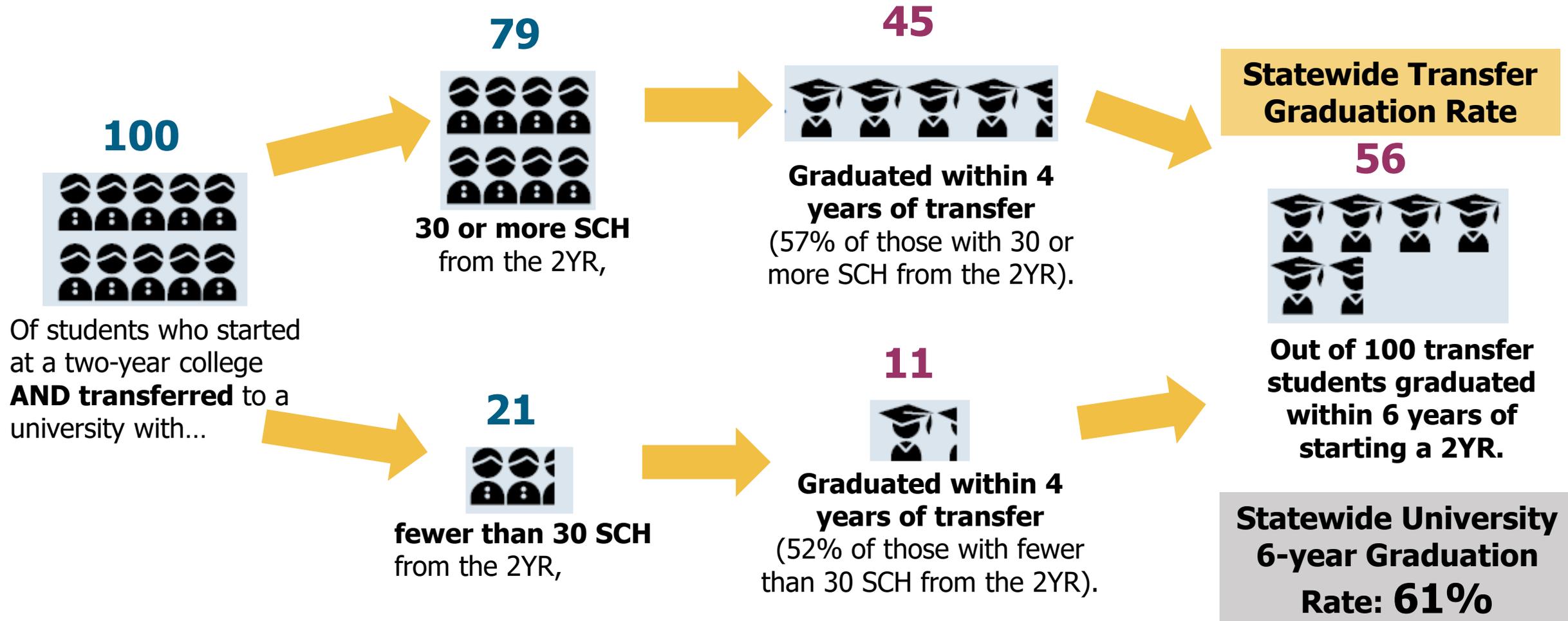
# Transfer rates from two-year institutions vary by ethnicity

## Two-Year College Transfer Rate by Ethnicity

Percentage of the entering students in 2011 cohort who transferred within six years



# Transfer students are successful once they make the leap to a four-year institution



# The large and diverse higher education landscape in Texas complicates student transfer

- There are many variables in student transfer. Students have many options and pathways to a degree which can make transferring from one institution to another complex.
- The complexity of transfer in Texas often leads to students accumulating unnecessary excess hours which costs students and the state, money.
- All students accumulate excess hours but transfer students accumulate, on average, **7** more hours to degree than non-transfer students. This amounts to an estimated combined (General Revenue and tuition and fees) annual cost of **\$59M**.

# Statewide strategies will ease student transfer and applicability of credit to degree

- ✓ With legislative support, the Coordinating Board, through advisory committees comprised of institutional representatives, is developing **Field of Study Curriculum (FOSC)** for the top 25 majors.
- ✓ FOSCs **are guaranteed to transfer and be applicable to a student's degree** at any public college or university in Texas.

FOSC is a **set of courses that fulfill lower-division (freshman and sophomore) requirements for a specific major.**

## Next Steps

- The Coordinating Board will bolster FOSC implementation by developing uniform public outreach materials, including online tools, that explain the importance and outline the details of FOSC targeting students and advisors in particular.

# Statewide strategies will simplify student transfer and applicability of credit to degree

## Recommendations to the 86th Texas Legislature

- Restructure the **core curriculum** to help ensure students take courses that count toward their degrees. The more standardized the core is across institutions the easier it is to ensure the courses will apply to majors.
  - Create statewide **specialized cores** to narrow student choices to field of interest and get students on a general path to degree.
  - Consider reducing the number of hours in the core curriculum.
- Require institutions of higher education to embed information about FOSC courses in degree programs posted on their websites and verify use of FOSC.

# Statewide strategies will simplify student transfer and applicability of credit to degree

## Recommendations to the 86th Texas Legislature

- Support an **interactive online degree site** that allows students to input their majors and receive a list of the required courses needed to complete a specific degree in four years.
- Require institutions to provide program course requirements to THECB, including indicators of which courses satisfy the core curriculum and field of study curriculum.
- Study the feasibility of a **transfer admissions guarantee** and make recommendations to the Legislature about student and institutional criteria for such a system.
- Require all types of dual credit students to file a degree plan at 30 semester credit hours. All other students are already required to file a degree plan. Require institutions document compliance.