

RESEARCH SUMMARY  
University Office for Academic Policy Analysis

Characteristics of Transfer Students<sup>1</sup>  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Fall 2001

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to report enrollment and characteristics of new transfer students<sup>2</sup> at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) for the 2001 fall term. The study provides data for use by community college counselors, faculty members, and administrators in determining the mobility of their students. It also provides data for UIUC officers involved in recruitment, admissions, and instructional services.

Summary of Results

1. A total of 1,087 new transfers with twelve or more hours of transfer credit enrolled for fall 2001, a slight increase from past year enrollments of fall 1998 (1,065), fall 1999 (1,070), and fall 2000 (1,061).

Just less than two out of every three transfers (729) who entered UIUC in the fall 2001 term last attended a two-year college.

2. The top feeder institutions and the respective number of transfers to UIUC for fall 2001 were:

Parkland College	201
College of DuPage	64
W.R. Harper	40
Illinois Central	34
Lakeland	29
Eastern Illinois University	29

The top two community colleges have been the same for falls 1991-2001, while this year, Eastern Illinois University was the major four-year institution feeder. Previously, the University of Illinois at Chicago was the major four-year institution feeder.

---

<sup>1</sup>This summary presents the findings of Research Memorandum 02-3, which is available through the University Office for Academic Policy Analysis, 807 South Wright Street--Suite 370, Champaign, IL 61820; phone: (217) 333-1171.

<sup>2</sup>New transfers (including University of Illinois inter-campus transfers and students earning a second bachelor's degree) are defined as students with twelve or more semester hours earned at another institution who were not enrolled at UIUC previously.

3. In 2001, 40 percent of all transfers entered the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; 20 percent enrolled in the College of Engineering; and the Colleges of Agriculture, Consumer & Environmental Sciences; Fine and Applied Arts; and Commerce and Business Administration each enrolled approximately 10 percent of the transfers.
4. Transfers were predominantly male (61%) and 20-21 years of age (69%).
5. The majority of all transfers reported their racial/ethnic category as white (76%). Approximately 9 percent were Asian/Pacific Islanders, 6 percent were International, and 3 percent were Latino/a and African-American students.
6. By policy, junior and senior transfers make up almost all transfer students. Though some students technically are categorized as sophomores (20%), they lack just a few hours of junior class standing.
7. The quality of transfer students as measured by the transfer grade point average remains high. Sixty-two percent entered with a mean grade point average of 3.26 or above for previous college work (4.0 scale).

In summary, personal and academic characteristics of the fall 2001 transfer cohort appear similar to recent cohorts. Transfer and freshman enrollment has been managed carefully, resulting in long-term stability of total new student enrollment in the last five years.

8. Of the 28,110 undergraduates enrolled in fall 2001, over one-third earned transfer credit from other institutions, totaling over 800 different institutions in all. Students transferred credit most often from Parkland College, College of DuPage, W.R. Harper, Oakton, Moraine Valley, and Lake County. These six institutions account for nearly half of the transfer credit earned by native and transfer students.
9. Most students transferred one or two courses, with over sixty percent transferring less than 12 hours, or 3 to 4 courses.

Transfer of credit is vital to the academic careers not only of students admitted as transfers but also UIUC native students. Students choose to enroll and transfer credit from many different institutions, although most students earn the majority of their credit from UIUC. Articulation services are important to many UIUC students, and the University will continue to support and promote transfer opportunities.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF TRANSFER STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

FALL 2001

University Office for Academic Policy Analysis  
Research Memorandum 02-3  
January 2002