

RESEARCH SUMMARY  
University Office for Academic Policy Analysis

Characteristics of Transfer Students<sup>1</sup>  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Fall 2003

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to report enrollment and characteristics of new transfer students<sup>2</sup> to the University of Illinois at Chicago for the 2003 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 UIC officers involved in recruitment, admissions, and instructional services.

Summary of Results

1. A total of 1,245 new students enrolled as transfer students fall 2003, down significantly from last year's unusually high number (at 1,973, fall 2002 enrollment of transfer students was the highest since 1994) and a new ten-year low. Particularly for fall 2003, the number of new transfer students accepted was reduced in order to balance the large freshman class of 2002 and the large number of continuing students re-enrolling in 2003. A large proportion of the decrease came from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which enrolled about one-half as many new transfer students compared to last year. In addition, ACT scores and high school rank is now required for students transferring fewer than 36 hours, up from 24 last year.

More than two out of every three transfers who entered UIC in the fall 2003 term last attended a two-year institution (812).

2. The top six feeder institutions and the number of transfers to UIC for fall 2003 are:

College of DuPage	121	W.R. Harper	67
Oakton	77	CCC—H. Washington	50
Moraine Valley	72	UI at Urbana-Champaign	49

The top five feeder institutions in 2003 were community colleges, and three of these have been top feeders since fall 1990. UIUC has been the major four-year institution feeder for each of the last twelve years.

3. Although lower this year than previous years, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences still enrolls the largest number of transfer students (556, or 45 percent). The College of Business Administration also enrolls large numbers (254, or 20 percent). The Colleges

---

<sup>1</sup>This summary is available on the Internet at [www.pb.uillinois.edu](http://www.pb.uillinois.edu) or in print form from the University Office for Planning and Budgeting, 506 South Wright--Suite 338, Urbana, IL 61801; phone: (217) 333-8313.

<sup>2</sup>New transfers (including University of Illinois inter-campus transfers and non-degree students) are defined as students with credit earned at another institution who did not earn credit at UIC previously. These data may differ from other reports.

of Engineering; Architecture and the Arts; Nursing; and Applied Health Sciences each enrolls from 7 to 10 percent of transfer students, while the Colleges of Education and Social Work each enroll less than 2 percent.

4. More than one-half of the transfers were female (56%), and just over half were under 22 years of age (51%).
5. Over half of the transfers reported their racial/ethnic category as white (52%). Fifteen percent were Asian/Pacific Islander, 11 percent were Latino/a, and 10 percent were African American.
6. In 2003, 49 percent of all students transferred as juniors or above, significantly higher than last year's rate of 38 percent. In fall 2003, the campus raised the minimum number of hours required to transfer without reliance on test scores and high school rank to 36 from 24 hours.
7. More than three in four transfer students entered with a mean grade point average of 3.76 or above, and over one-third entered with a mean grade point average of 4.26 and above for previous college work attempted (5.0 scale).
8. Overall, of the 16,012 undergraduates enrolled in fall 2003 as native or transfer students, just over 60 percent earned transfer credit from another institution. Out of the student body, almost as many native students earn transfer credit after enrolling at UIC (27%) as students entering as transfers (34 %).
9. The students enrolled at over 1,100 different institutions with some students attending several institutions throughout their academic career. The five largest feeder institutions fall in the same order for all students as for transfer students.
10. Forty-four percent of all the students transferred more than one semester of credit (12 hours).

Transfer of credit is vital to the academic careers not only of students admitted as transfers but also UIC native students: in fall 2003 over sixty percent of the student body transferred credit to UIC. Articulation services are important to most UIC students and the University will continue to support and promote transfer opportunities.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF TRANSFER STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

FALL 2003

University Office for Planning and Budgeting  
February 2004