

RESEARCH SUMMARY
University Office for Academic Policy Analysis

Characteristics of Transfer Students¹
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Fall 2003

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to report enrollment and characteristics of new transfer students² at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) 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 UIUC officers involved in recruitment, admissions, and instructional services.

Summary of Results

1. A total of 1,085 new transfers with twelve or more hours of transfer credit enrolled for fall 2003, similar to the numbers entering fall 2002 (1,081), fall 2001 (1,087), fall 2000 (1,061), and fall 1999 (1,070).

Almost 70 percent of transfers (688) who entered UIUC in the fall 2003 term last attended a two-year college.

2. The top feeder institutions and the respective number of transfers to UIUC for fall 2003 were:

Parkland College	214
College of DuPage	52
W. R. Harper	50
Illinois Central	39
Rock Valley	22
Joliet	21

The top two community colleges have been the same for falls 1991-2003. The University of Illinois at Chicago has been the major four-year institution feeder every year since 1997 except 2001, when Eastern was the major four-year feeder.

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

²New 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 2003, 46 percent of all transfers entered the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; 19 percent enrolled in the College of Engineering; and the following Colleges each enrolled nearly 10 percent of transfers: Agriculture, Consumer & Environmental Sciences; Fine and Applied Arts; and Business.
4. Transfers were predominantly male (59.6%) and 20-21 years of age (65.5%).
5. The majority of all transfers reported their racial/ethnic category as white (68.7%). Approximately 11 percent were Asian/Pacific Islanders, 9 percent were International, and 6 percent were either Latino/a or African-American students.
6. By policy, junior and senior transfers made up almost all transfers. Though some students technically are categorized as sophomores (17%), 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-seven percent entered with a mean grade point average of 3.26 or above for previous college work attempted (4.0 scale).

In summary, personal and academic characteristics of the fall 2003 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 28,558 undergraduates (all students, including both students who entered as freshmen as well as students who entered as transfers) enrolled in fall 2003, 37 percent (10,495 students) earned transfer credit from other institutions.
9. UIUC students earn credit at over 800 different institutions in all. Parkland College, College of DuPage, W.R. Harper, Oakton, and Moraine Valley enrolled the highest numbers of UIUC students (duplicated headcount).
10. Most students transferred few courses; of the 7,267 students who entered as freshmen and then transferred credit to UIUC, almost 80 percent transferred fewer than 12 hours, or 1 to 3 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 2003

University Office for Academic Policy Analysis
February 2004