

TRANSFERS FROM COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
TO CU-BOULDER -- SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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We looked at performance of all new undergraduate transfers entering CU-Boulder from summer 1999 through spring 2001, divided into those from Colorado community colleges (Colo. CCs) and all other transfers. Over 95% of other transfers came from four-year colleges and universities; 61% came from schools outside Colorado. New freshmen entering during the same time period were also included for comparison. Transfers into the School of Education were excluded, because the school does not award bachelor's degrees. This is a follow-up to a similar study done in 2002. [See the summary of the 2002 study here.](#)

The majority of transfers from Colo. CCs (58%) came from Front Range CC. Another 11% came from Colorado Mountain College, 9% from Red Rocks CC, and 8% from Arapahoe CC. The remaining 15% came from 11 other community colleges.

Transfers from Colorado community colleges entered CU-Boulder with somewhat higher college GPAs and slightly more credits than other transfers, but attained lower first term and cumulative GPAs at CU-Boulder, and have graduated at a slightly lower rate. Colo. CC transfer performance was also a bit lower than that of CU-Boulder students who entered as freshmen, in terms of both grades and graduation rate.

**However, both groups of transfers earned higher GPAs and graduated at a much higher rate than transfers in a similar study done five years ago.**

Among community colleges, students from Colorado Mountain College outperformed those from the other three main source community colleges.

The table below compares the three groups.

Group	N	Transfer GPA	Transfer Hours	Grad through Sp 06	CU-Boulder GPA		Degree GPA, Grads only
					First Term	Final Cum	
Colo CC Transfers from:							
Front Range	442	3.10	55	61%	2.70	2.72	3.07
Colo.Mtn. College	85	3.25	57	74%	2.88	2.91	3.12
Red Rocks	65	3.24	55	62%	2.64	2.64	3.05
Arapahoe	59	3.18	52	59%	2.55	2.66	3.02
Other	112	3.33	54	63%	2.70	2.66	3.08
<b>Total Colo CC Transfers</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>3.17</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>3.07</b>
<b>Other Transfers</b>	<b>2,978</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>2.93</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>3.14</b>
<b>Freshmen</b>	<b>9,824</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>2.79</b>	<b>2.88</b>	<b>3.14</b>

First-term GPA is a moderate predictor of eventual graduation (point-biserial correlation = .28 for Colo. CC transfers, .26 for other transfers). The effect appears to be particularly strong for first-term GPAs below 2.0. Transfer GPA correlates .38 with first-term GPA, but is virtually unrelated to whether or not the student graduates (correlation = .12 for Colo. CC transfers, .07 for other transfers). The tables below illustrate these relationships:

Source	1 <sup>st</sup> Term GPA	N	Trans GPA	Grad through Spring '06
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Colo. CC	below 2.0	139	2.89	29%
	2.0-2.49	116	3.00	58%
	2.5-2.99	177	3.08	65%
	3.0 or above	317	3.39	80%
Other Trans	below 2.0	328	2.85	34%
	2.0-2.49	406	2.84	60%
	2.5-2.99	597	3.00	70%
	3.0 or above	1,616	3.24	74%

Source	Transfer GPA	N	1 <sup>st</sup> -Term GPA	Grad through Spring '02
Colo. CC	below 2.0	2	1.27	50%
	2.0-2.49	72	2.40	64%
	2.5-2.99	218	2.40	56%
	3.0 or above	460	2.91	67%
Other Trans	below 2.0	12	2.34	50%
	2.0-2.49	242	2.58	67%
	2.5-2.99	934	2.63	63%
	3.0 or above	1,640	3.14	69%

More than 40% of the 763 Colo. CC transfers entered as open option majors in the college of Arts and Sciences. The most popular declared major was psychology, with 46 (6%). Others with more than 20 were:

- molecular, cellular, and developmental biology
- environmental, population, and organismic biology
- computer science
- architecture
- communications
- pre-journalism
- information systems

#### Performance of transfers by ethnicity/citizenship

African-American and International transfers from Colorado CCs have graduated at a much higher rate than transfers from other schools, despite lower CU-Boulder first-term grades. This is not the case for Asian-Americans from Colorado CCs, who have a markedly lower graduation rate than other transfers. (See the table at the top of the following page.)

			CU-Boulder	Degree
		Grad	GPA	GPA,
Transfer	Transfer	through	First Final	Grads

Ethnic Group	N	GPA	Hours	Sp 06	Term	Cum	only
<b>African-American</b>							
Colo. CC	20	3.04	64	70%	2.40	2.54	2.92
Other Trans	48	2.87	56	48%	2.51	2.52	2.92
<b>Asian-American</b>							
Colo. CC	39	3.14	52	56%	2.50	2.58	3.00
Other Trans	96	3.09	53	80%	3.01	2.98	3.09
<b>Hispanic</b>							
Colo. CC	47	3.12	60	62%	2.53	2.71	2.98
Other Trans	162	3.00	52	65%	2.71	2.76	3.03
<b>Native American</b>							
Colo. CC	7	2.99	70	43%	3.04	2.63	3.05
Other Trans	28	2.96	56	57%	2.89	2.77	3.19
<b>White</b>							
Colo. CC	563	3.17	55	64%	2.73	2.74	3.10
Other Trans	2,370	3.10	52	66%	2.95	2.96	3.15
<b>International</b>							
Colo. CC	37	3.29	48	68%	2.62	2.56	2.91
Other Trans	75	3.15	46	53%	2.91	2.90	3.06
<b>Unknown</b>							
Colo. CC	50	3.20	54	54%	2.88	2.79	3.06
Other Trans	199	3.10	58	65%	2.94	2.92	3.16
<b>Total</b>							
Colo. CC	<b>763</b>	<b>3.17</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>3.07</b>
Other Trans	<b>2,978</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>2.93</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>3.14</b>

Performance of transfers by entry college

Relative to other transfer students, Colorado CC transfers did poorly in Architecture and Planning and in Engineering. In Arts & Sciences and in Business, they have graduated at a rate comparable to other transfers, but their grades have been lower. (See the table at the top of the following page.)

Performance of Colorado CC transfers vs. other transfers, by entry college:

CU-Boulder      Degree

Entry College	N	Transfer GPA	Transfer Hours	Grad through Sp 06	GPA		GPA, Grads only
					First Term	Final Cum	
<b>Arch. &amp; Planning</b>							
Colo. CC	35	3.26	54	63%	2.87	2.87	3.18
Other Trans	99	3.17	46	69%	3.06	3.14	3.24
<b>Arts &amp; Sciences</b>							
Colo. CC	600	3.13	54	62%	2.68	2.71	3.08
Other Trans	2,391	3.06	51	64%	2.91	2.91	3.13
<b>Business</b>							
Colo. CC	76	3.27	54	72%	2.64	2.69	2.93
Other Trans	245	3.16	50	77%	2.93	2.92	3.05
<b>Engineering</b>							
Colo. CC	48	3.44	68	60%	2.82	2.71	3.17
Other Trans	187	3.27	71	76%	3.05	3.07	3.23
<b>Journalism</b>							
Colo. CC	2	(not shown for groups with fewer than 5 students)					
Other Trans	17	3.20	70	76%	3.34	3.20	3.26
<b>Music</b>							
Colo. CC	2	(not shown for groups with fewer than 5 students)					
Other Trans	39	3.19	69	59%	3.34	3.27	3.45
<b>Total</b>							
<b>Colo. CC</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>3.17</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>3.07</b>
<b>Other Trans</b>	<b>2,978</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>2.93</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>3.14</b>

Notes:

“Final Cum. GPA” for each student in the population is the cumulative CU-Boulder GPA listed for the student at the end of the last term enrolled through spring 2006, whether or not the student has graduated. “Degree GPA” is the same as Final Cum. GPA if the student graduated.

“Transfer Hours” is the number of hours earned elsewhere for which the Transfer GPA was calculated. It is not necessarily the number of CU-Boulder credit hours the student was credited with at entry.

“Colorado community colleges” includes all Colorado public two-year schools, even those not technically “community colleges.” The full list is: Aims Community College, Arapahoe CC, Colorado Mountain College, Colorado Northwestern CC, CC of Denver, CC of Aurora, Front Range CC, Lamar CC, Morgan CC, Northeastern Junior College, Otero JC, Pikes Peak CC, Pueblo CC, Red Rocks CC, and Trinidad State JC.