



PPIC

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INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

Strengthening California's Transfer Pathway

Technical Appendices

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Appendix A. Data

Student Longitudinal Data

The analysis in the second part of the report relies on longitudinal student-level administrative data from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Management Information System (MIS) together with its “Transfer Bucket,” which contains data reported by CSU, UC, and the National Student Clearinghouse. We focus on community college students who transferred to a four-year institution between academic years 2015–16 and 2021–22. We restrict our sample to students who earned at least 12 units as a non-special admit student at any community college (and at any time) and who were enrolled in any community college the year prior to transferring. We are able to observe these students’ course-taking behavior, unit accumulation, and degree attainment through their entire journey through community college. In addition, the MIS data provides detailed information on student demographics, financial aid, and special program participation. Our data includes 115 colleges in the system (There are 116 community colleges in the system including Calbright College, California’s online college).

Among those students who transfer, we identify students reaching three milestones before transferring:

- Earned an Associate Degree For Transfer
- Earning a local associate degree
- Achieving “Transfer-Ready” status (no degree), which we define as completing 60 transferable units with a GPA of at least 2.0 including one transfer-level in mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning and two transfer-level courses in English composition. However, to be eligible for junior standing students must also complete four transferable college courses chosen from at least two of the following subject areas: arts and humanities, social and behavioral sciences, and physical and biological sciences. In addition, students must complete the required/recommended courses needed for their intended major with the minimum grades. So, this measure is just a proxy to identify those students who could potentially be a junior-level transfer.

Important definitions:

Entering community college students are those who enrolled for the first time in a credit course and who were not part of dual enrollment program in a California community college in the fall of the selected year. To identify degree/transfer-intending students, we use the informed goal that students declare in their first term of enrollment after having reviewed assessment results, gone through orientation, or received other services that help them understand what it would take to achieve the goal (SS01 in the MIS data).

Our transfer count is an unduplicated count. For students enrolling in multiple colleges in the year before transferring, we assign the student to the college where they earned to most units.

Student Success Metrics

The California Community College system in its Students Success Metrics (SSM) dashboard provides information on the number of transfers to various types of postsecondary institutions. According to the SSM, 142,583 students transferred to a four-year postsecondary institution in 2021–22. Of those, 98,909 students went to one of the state’s public universities, 19,468 students transferred to an in-state private institution (ISP), and 25,334 students to an out-of-state institution (OOS).

The SSM counts as a successful transfer in a given year, any community college student who earned 12 or more units at any time and at any college up to and including the selected year, who exited the community college

system and who enrolled in any four-year postsecondary institution in the subsequent year. Transfer data is not displayed in the SSM until two years after a student exits the system, which is why the last year available is 2020–21. A student is included in a transfer count for a college if that student had any enrollment value in the college the selected year before they transferred to a four-year institution. The transfer count in the SSM is the number that the Chancellor’s Office uses in the State of the System report and in tracking the Vision for Success transfer goal. In the table below we show how our sample compares with the numbers reported in the SSM (as of August 8, 2023). It is important to note that we only account for the first academic year that a transfer student attends a four-year institution, and we do not account for students who “swirl” (i.e., students who move back and forth between multiple institutions).

	PPIC match				SSM				Share (%)			
	CSU_UC	ISP	OOS	Total	CSU_UC	ISP	OOS	Total	CSU + UC	ISP	OOS	Total
2015-16	59,716	9,086	12,614	81,416	83,768	16,877	20,411	120,121	71	54	62	68
2016-17	64,592	8,922	12,341	85,855	86,485	17,749	20,952	124,262	75	50	59	69
2017-18	64,323	9,136	12,661	86,120	88,950	18,546	22,200	128,728	72	49	57	67
2018-19	67,197	9,481	13,240	89,918	92,545	18,977	23,042	133,558	73	50	57	67
2019-20	70,674	9,546	13,819	94,039	96,983	18,201	22,647	136,944	73	52	61	69
2020-21	77,641	8,848	13,254	99,743	98,909	19,468	25,334	142,583	78	45	52	70
2021-22	69,785	8,380	14,519	92,684								

Interviews with campus officials

We interviewed 7 admissions officials from University of California (Davis, Santa Barbara, Irvine, San Diego, Riverside, Santa Cruz) and California State University (Sacramento) about their successful practices and policies related to transfer. We asked the following questions, along with follow-ups where appropriate:

1. What are your most successful programs and practices for attracting transfer applicants and enrollees?
2. What challenges do you face in recruiting transfer students?
3. How do you address equity in the transfer processes?
4. Could the ADT work for University of California? (UC only)
5. What has changed since the pandemic?
6. Is 2:1 freshman-to-transfer ratio still a possibility? (UC only)
7. How does the new dual admissions pathway work at your campus? (UC only)

Interviews were conducted by phone or zoom between January 5, 2023, and March 1, 2023. Interviewees spoke as representatives of their campuses; we are not attributing any specific quotes to any of them. The information gleaned from the interviews has been integrated into the text of the paper.

Appendix B. Additional Tables and Figures

FIGURE B1

UC Merced, Riverside, and Santa Cruz have new CA resident freshmen-to-transfers ratios well above UC's 2:1 goal

Ratio of freshmen enrollees to CCC transfer enrollees

	Los Angeles	Davis	San Diego	Irvine	Santa Barbara	Berkeley	Santa Cruz	Riverside	Merced
2016-17	1.7	1.5	1.9	2.3	2.4	2.0	3.4	4.4	9.8
2017-18	1.6	1.4	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.8	3.6	11.6
2018-19	1.5	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.7	2.2	8.8
2019-20	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	9.1
2020-21	1.5	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.0	7.1
2021-22	1.5	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	7.3
Fall 2022	1.5	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.3	3.0	3.8	11.4

SOURCE: University of California - Information Center.
NOTES: Ratio of new California resident freshmen to new California resident transfers (including transfers from outside of the California community college system). We use academic year numbers for transfers and fall numbers for freshmen. Academic year transfers for 2022-23 are not yet available.

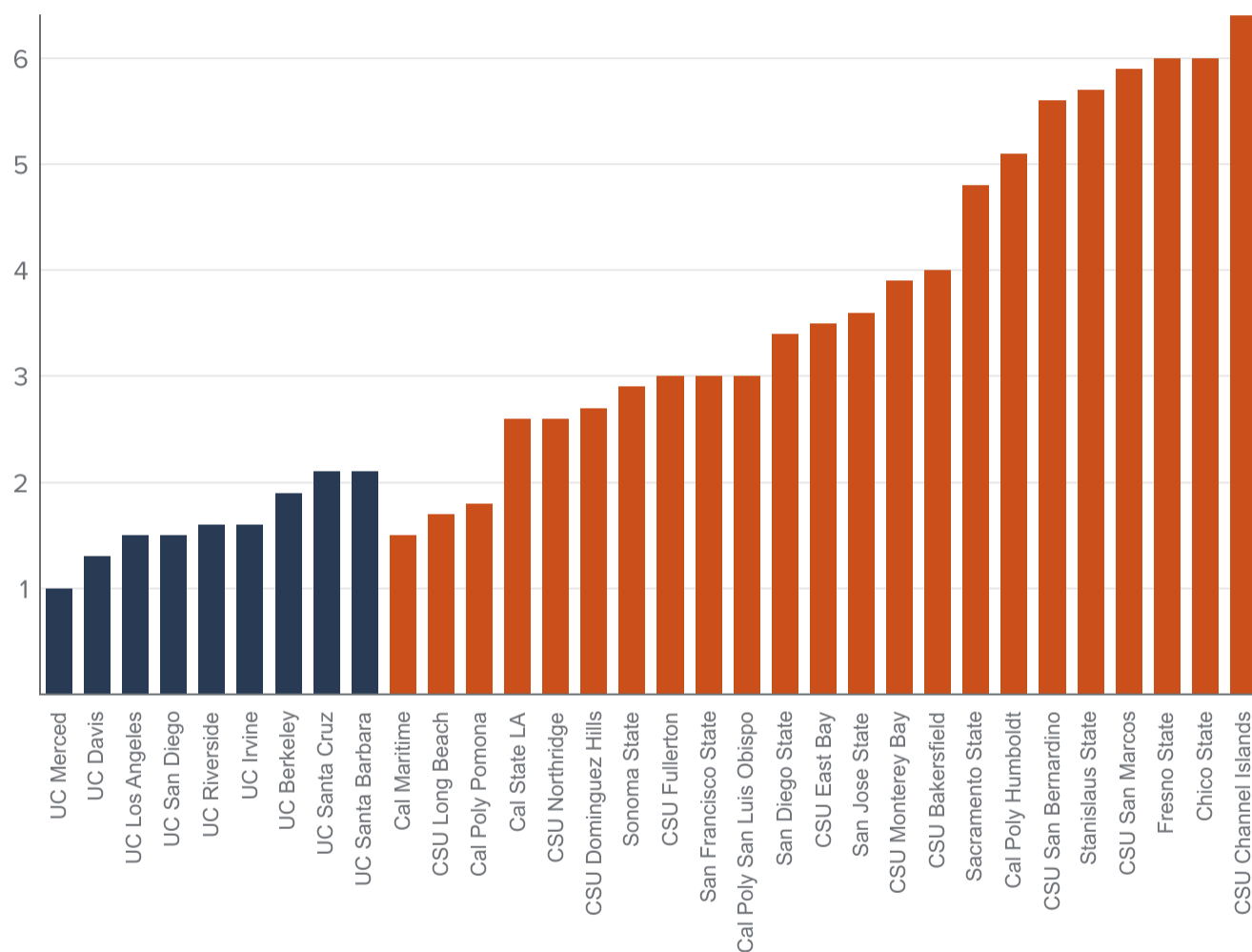
Figure B2 displays a proportionality index comparing the share of transfer applicants each campus receives from its own region and the share of the state’s community college students that attend college in the respective region. At all but one of the state’s public institutions, the proportionality index is above one, meaning the share of applicants is greater than the share of students in the campus’ own region. At two-thirds of campuses, the share of within-region transfer applicants is more than twice the share of community college students.

This concentration is most apparent among CSU campuses which cover a wide geography across 23 locations in the state. For example, while one in ten of the state’s community college students attend college in the San Joaquin Valley, more than six in ten of transfer applicants to Fresno State University and CSU Stanislaus came from this region in fall 2022. On the other hand, about two-thirds of applicants to CSU Los Angeles, Dominguez Hills, and Northridge came from Los Angeles while only 25 percent of students attend community college there. Though less pronounced, the UC system also faces a disproportionate share of applications from within-campus regions, likely due to only having nine institutions across the state.

FIGURE B2

Transfer applications to UC and CSU disproportionately come from within the campus region

Share of transfer applicants divided by the share of CCC students within main region of campus



SOURCE: Author’s calculations using publically available data from CCC, UC and CSU. Campus-level fall 2022 transfer data from UC Information Center: Admissions by Source School and CSU Data Center Institutional Research & Analyses: New Student Applications, Admissions & Enrollment. Fall 2022 California community college data from the CCCC Management Information Systems Data Mart: Enrollment Status Summary Report.

NOTES: Proportionality index is calculated by dividing the share of transfer applicants for each campus by the share of community college students from community colleges in the region in which the campus resides for the fall 2022 term. Community colleges are grouped into nine distinct regions based on their location within the state. UC campus-level shares of transfer applicants represent lower-bound estimates considering the UC Information Center omits information for colleges with less than 5 applicants.

TABLE B1

Weighted average distance in miles from community college of origin to four-year campus, by region

	Applicants	Admits	Enrollees
CSU - Total	102.7	92.3	52.3
Bay Area	146.4	107.0	70.3
Central Coast	134.0	130.7	88.0
San Joaquin Valley	106.5	87.8	53.9
Inland Empire	95.2	98.2	62.4
Los Angeles	62.5	60.9	30.7
North	187.1	149.0	83.3
Orange	73.4	74.8	37.4
Sacramento	151.2	109.7	65.3
San Diego/Imperial	122.3	138.5	49.1
UC - Total	162.4	159.6	122.8
Bay Area	209.9	206.5	168.7
Central Coast	145.8	140.8	102.5
San Joaquin Valley	172.9	167.1	137.7
Inland Empire	120.8	111.2	72.6
Los Angeles	129.8	132.0	103.9
North	322.1	297.3	200.9
Orange	130.2	126.1	91.8
Sacramento	218.5	205.4	139.2
San Diego/Imperial	171.4	160.0	110.1

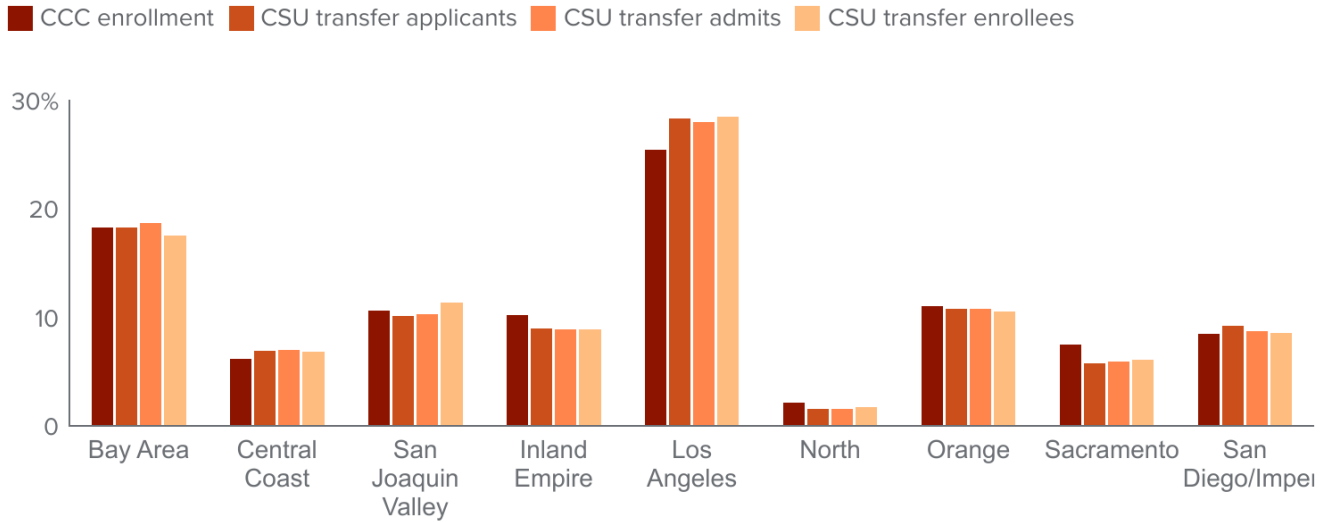
SOURCE: Author’s calculations using publicly available data from UC and CSU. Segment-level fall 2022 transfer data from UC Information Center: Admissions by Source School and CSU Data Center Institutional Research & Analyses: New Undergraduate Transfers from California Community Colleges or Other Institutions (Institution of Origin and CSU Destinations).

NOTES: Region-level estimates reflect the weighted average distance (in miles) from students’ California community college of origin and the CSU or UC campus they apply to, are admitted to, and enroll in.

FIGURE B3

The regional distribution of CSU transfer applicants reflects the distribution of community college students across the state

Share of students



SOURCE: Author calculations using publicly available data from CCC and CSU. Segment-level fall 2022 transfer data from CSU Data Center Institutional Research & Analyses: New Undergraduate Transfers from California Community Colleges or Other Institutions (Institution of Origin and CSU Destination). Fall 2022 California community college data from the CCCCO Management Information Systems Data Mart: Enrollment Status Summary Report.

NOTES: Estimates reflect the share of community college students who attended college in a given region and the share of CSU transfer applicants, admits, and enrollees in each campus from community colleges in that region for the fall 2022 term. Community colleges are grouped into nine distinct regions based on their location within the state.

TABLE B2

California community college transfer admission rates, fall 2022

	CSU Transfer Applicant Counts	CSU Transfer Admit Counts	CSU Transfer Admission Rates	UC Transfer Applicant Counts	UC Transfer Admit Counts	UC Transfer Admission Rates
Bay Area	15,915	14,410	91	8,673	6,947	80
Central Coast	5,970	5,388	90	2,778	2,135	77
San Joaquin Valley	8,758	7,933	91	1,167	827	71
Inland Empire	7,849	6,860	87	2,397	1,626	68
Los Angeles	24,581	21,587	88	9,555	7,127	75
North	1,433	1,217	85	227	172	76
Orange	9,372	8,300	89	4,206	3,103	74
Sacramento	5,050	4,561	90	1,684	1,267	75
San Diego/Imperial	8,022	6,736	84	2,726	2,014	74
Non-SJV/Inland	70,343	62,199	88	29,849	22,765	76
TOTAL	86,950	76,992	89	33,413	25,218	75

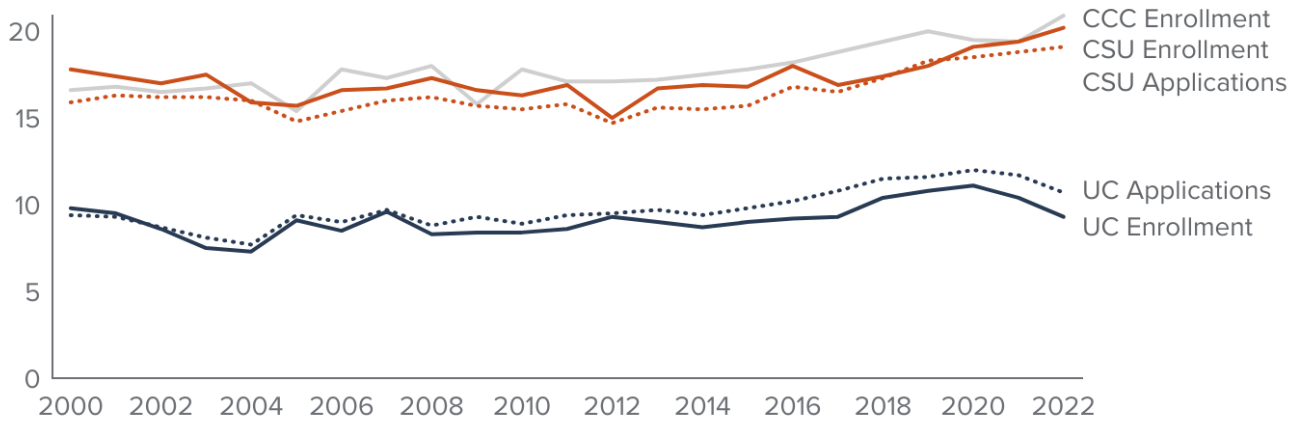
SOURCE: Author calculations using publicly available data from UC and CSU. Segment-level fall 2022 transfer data from UC Information Center: Admissions by Source School and CSU Data Center Institutional Research & Analyses: New Undergraduate Transfers from California Community Colleges or Other Institutions (Institution of Origin and CSU Destinations).

NOTES: Community colleges are grouped into nine distinct regions based on their location within the state.

FIGURE B4

Regional underrepresentation of the San Joaquin Valley and Inland Empire among UC transfers is longstanding

Share of community college and transfer students from the San Joaquin Valley and Inland Empire



SOURCE: Author's calculations using publicly available data from CCC, UC and CSU. Segment-level academic year transfer data from UC Information Center: Admissions by Source School and fall transfer data from CSU Data Center Institutional Research & Analyses: New Undergraduate Transfers from California Community Colleges or Other Institutions (Institution of Origin and CSU Destinations). Fall California community college data from the CCCCO Management Information Systems Data Mart: Enrollment Status Summary Report.

NOTES: Estimates reflect the share of community college students that attended college in the San Joaquin Valley or Inland Empire and the share of CSU and UC transfer applicants and enrollees in each campus from community colleges in those region for each fall term or academic year, respectively. Community colleges are grouped into nine distinct regions based on their location within the state.



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