



NISTS 2020

REIMAGINING THE TRANSFER STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEBRUARY 5-7, 2020 • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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Research Spotlight

SUNY Seamless Transfer Assessment: A Quantitative Cohort Study of Transfer Student Outcomes

Curricular Alignment or Degree Pathways

This session will present the data, methods, and findings of the State University of New York's assessment of its university-wide Seamless Transfer Policy. The study is the largest assessment of student outcomes undertaken by SUNY to date. The presentation will be of interest to participants tasked with developing the data infrastructure and methods needed to study the complexity of transfer student success at scale across multiple institutions and sectors.

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**SUNY SEAMLESS TRANSFER ASSESSMENT:
A QUANTITATIVE COHORT STUDY OF TRANSFER STUDENT OUTCOMES**

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OFFICE OF THE PROVOST**

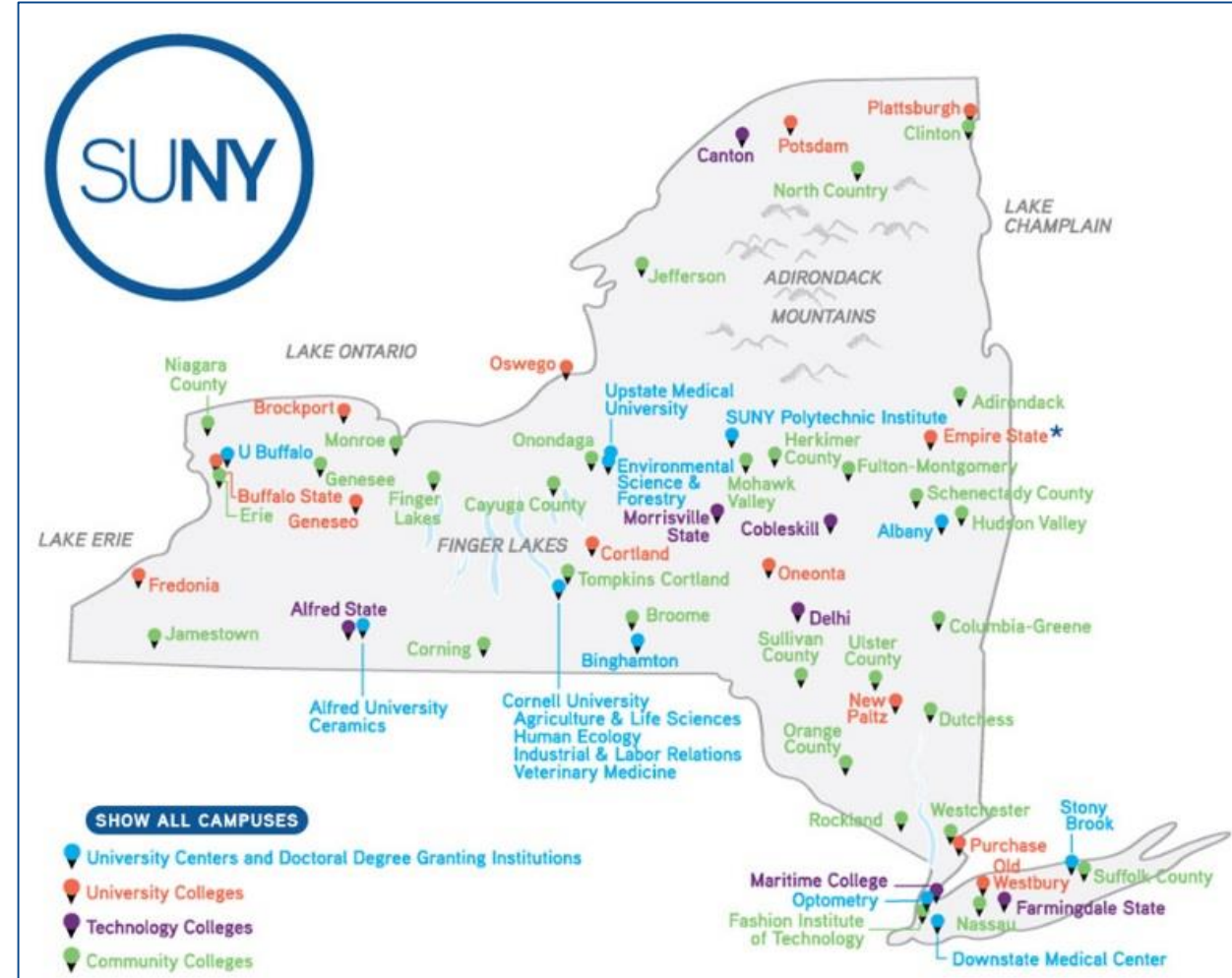
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AGENDA

- **The SUNY Context**
 - Institutional
 - Transfer student snapshot
- **Seamless Transfer Policy**
 - History
 - Policy development analytics
 - Seamless Transfer Policy Framework
- **Interim Assessment Outcomes**
 - Faculty survey
 - Student outcomes
- **Conclusion & Discussion**

THE SUNY CONTEXT

- 64 campuses
 - 30 Community Colleges
 - 13 Comprehensive Colleges
 - 7 Technology Colleges
 - 14 Doctoral Institutions
- Enrollment by Headcount (Fall 2018)
 - Undergraduate Enrollment: 424k
 - Community College Enrollment: 200k
- 90,00 faculty & staff
- 7,000 degree & certificate programs
- One Board of Trustees



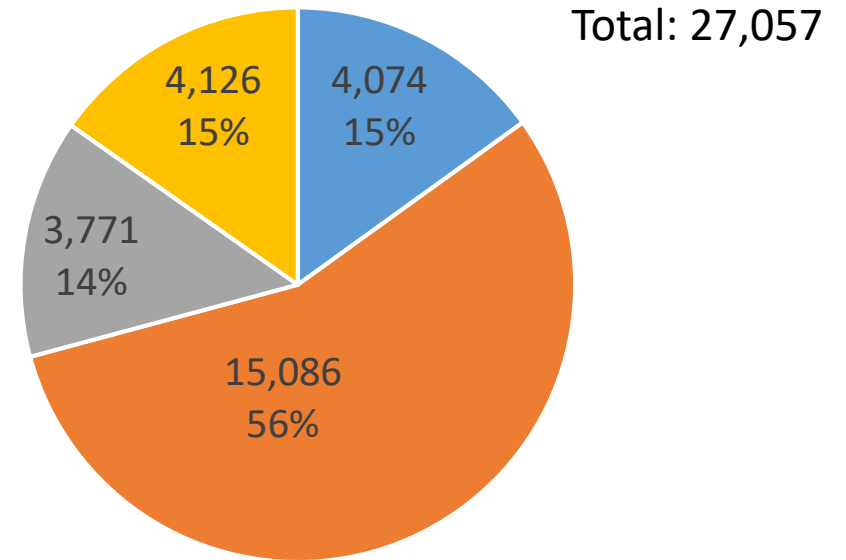


AND ONE CARGO FREIGHTER!

THE SUNY CONTEXT: TRANSFER DATA

- In 2017-18, SUNY saw nearly 51K transfers to SUNY campuses
 - ~27K between SUNY campuses
 - ~24K to SUNY from non-SUNY campuses
- In 2017-18, transfer students earned:
 - 48% of all baccalaureate degrees
 - 32% of all associate degrees

*SUNY to SUNY Transfers by Sector
AY 2017-18*



■ 2 Year- 2 Year ■ 2 Year - 4 Year ■ 4 Year - 2 Year ■ 4 Year - 4 Year



1

THE SEAMLESS TRANSFER STORY

POLICY DEVELOPMENT ANALYTICS

- **Areas of Analysis:**
 - Transfer Patterns
 - General Education Course Taking Patterns
 - Courses in the major
 - Which courses
 - Relationship between upper/lower division and course numbering
 - Credit requirements

SEAMLESS TRANSFER POLICY

- **Adopted by the BOT in 2012 for students entering fall 2015**
- **Credit caps established:**
 - Associate = 64 credits
 - Baccalaureate = 126 credits
- **Aligned the first two years of instruction**
 - SUNY General Education requirements included in all bachelor's and AA/AS degrees
 - Discipline-based faculty developed Transfer Paths
- **Policy also called for improving access to required courses**
- **Provost Office to develop an assessment plan**

CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT: GEN ED

- Adopted by the BOT in 1998, SUNY's initial general education requirement specified 30 credits in 10 categories:

Basic Communication

Mathematics

American History

Other World Civilizations

Foreign Language

Social Science

Humanities

The Arts

Natural Science

Western Civilization

+ *Two infused competencies*

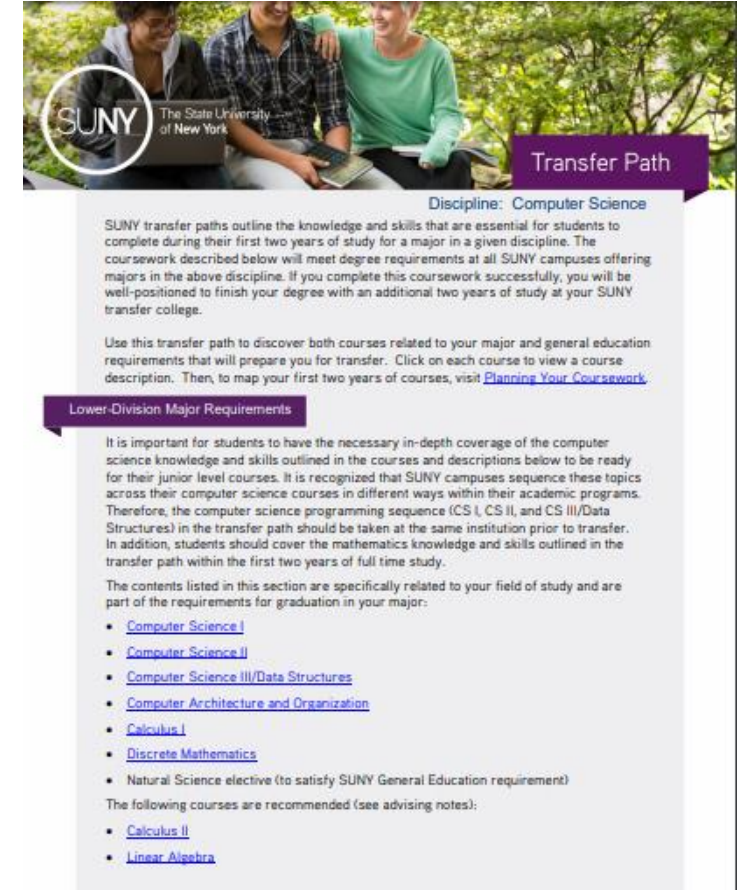
Critical Thinking

Information Management

- Revised in 2010 to specify 30 credits in 7 out of 10 categories (Basic Communication and Mathematics required)
- Extended to AA and AS programs in 2012
- Currently under review for potential revisions by AY 20/21

CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT: TRANSFER PATHS

- Lower division coursework in the major to achieve junior status after two years of full-time study.
- SUNY faculty disciplinary committees of 2-year and 4-year faculty identified core courses in each discipline and created generic descriptions for each course.
- Two rounds
 - 1.0 (2009-2010)
 - 400 faculty involved
 - 37 disciplines covering 90% of transfer students
 - 2.0 (January – April, 2014)
 - Nearly 900 faculty involved
 - 59 disciplines covering over 95% of transfer students



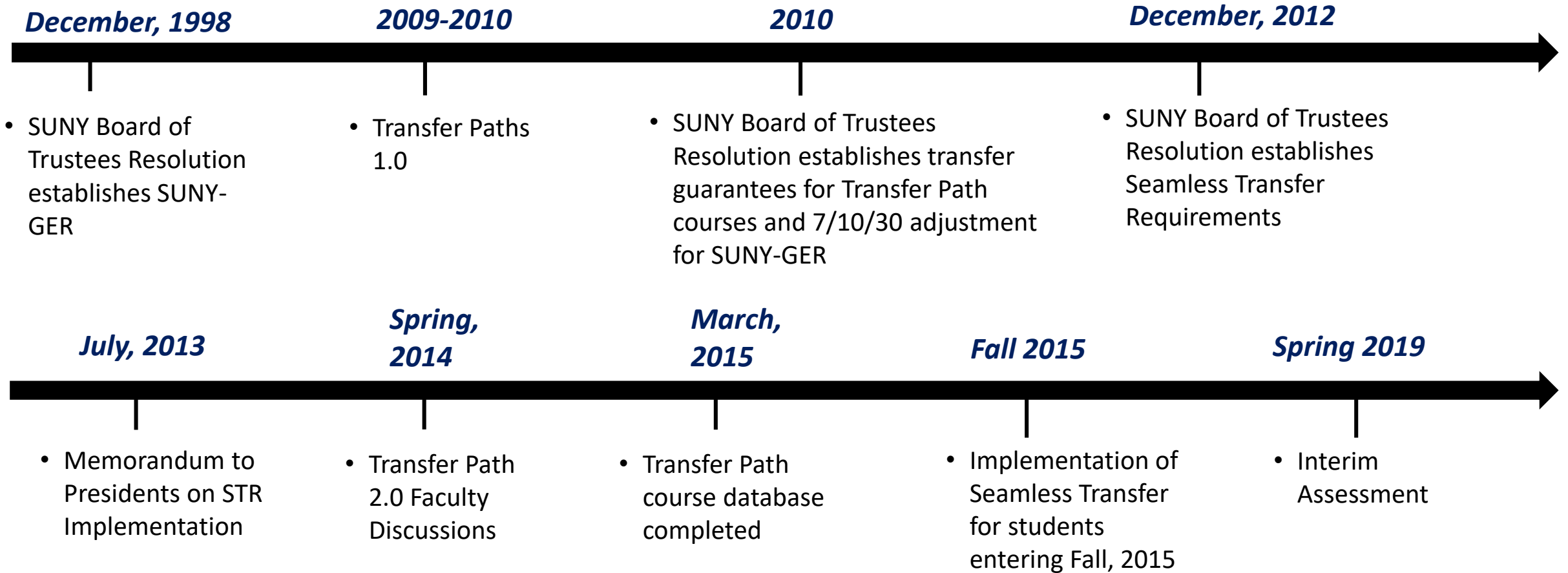
The graphic features a photograph of three students (two men and one woman) sitting outdoors and looking at a laptop. The SUNY logo is overlaid on the left. A purple banner at the top right reads "Transfer Path". Below the photo, the text reads: "Discipline: Computer Science. SUNY transfer paths outline the knowledge and skills that are essential for students to complete during their first two years of study for a major in a given discipline. The coursework described below will meet degree requirements at all SUNY campuses offering majors in the above discipline. If you complete this coursework successfully, you will be well-positioned to finish your degree with an additional two years of study at your SUNY transfer college. Use this transfer path to discover both courses related to your major and general education requirements that will prepare you for transfer. Click on each course to view a course description. Then, to map your first two years of courses, visit [Planning Your Coursework](#)." Below this is a section titled "Lower-Division Major Requirements" which states: "It is important for students to have the necessary in-depth coverage of the computer science knowledge and skills outlined in the courses and descriptions below to be ready for their junior level courses. It is recognized that SUNY campuses sequence these topics across their computer science courses in different ways within their academic programs. Therefore, the computer science programming sequence (CS I, CS II, and CS III/Data Structures) in the transfer path should be taken at the same institution prior to transfer. In addition, students should cover the mathematics knowledge and skills outlined in the transfer path within the first two years of full time study. The contents listed in this section are specifically related to your field of study and are part of the requirements for graduation in your major." A list of courses follows:

- [Computer Science I](#)
- [Computer Science II](#)
- [Computer Science III/Data Structures](#)
- [Computer Architecture and Organization](#)
- [Calculus I](#)
- [Discrete Mathematics](#)
- Natural Science elective (to satisfy SUNY General Education requirement)

The following courses are recommended (see advising notes):

- [Calculus II](#)
- [Linear Algebra](#)

SEAMLESS TRANSFER POLICY TIMELINE



INTERIM ASSESSMENT: FACULTY SURVEY

- Responses
 - 43 Campuses
 - 24 State Ops
 - 19 Community Colleges
 - 1,073 Faculty representatives in 52 Academic disciplines:
 - Largest = Business (40)
 - Smallest = Technology Education (7)
 - Average group size = 21

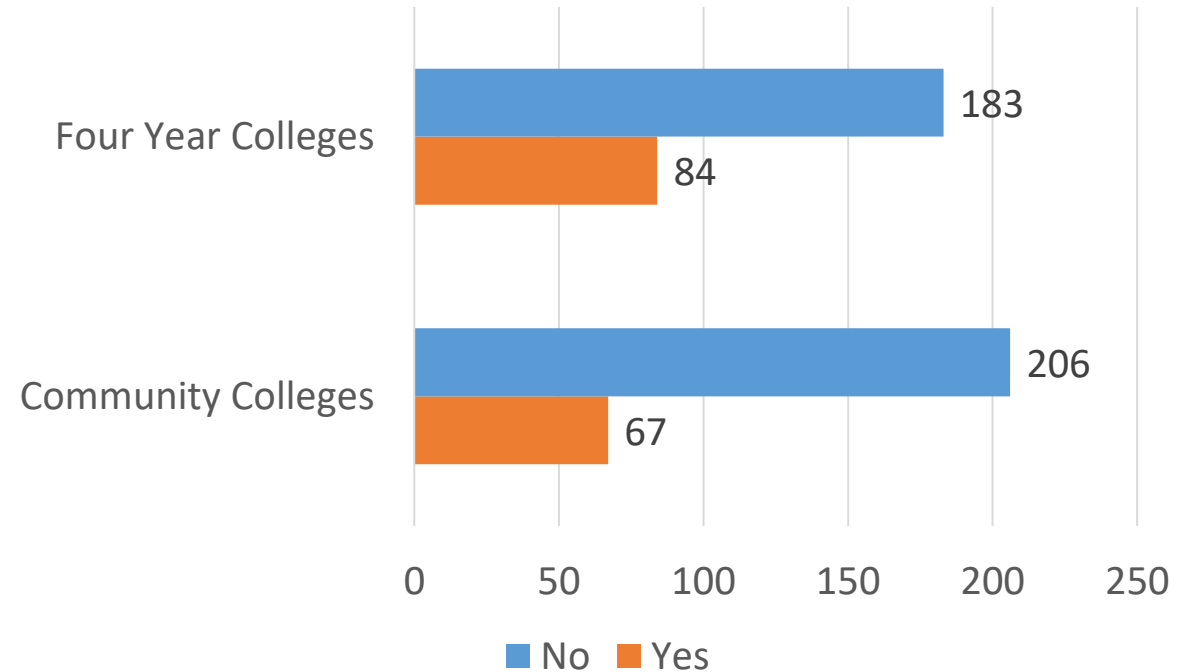
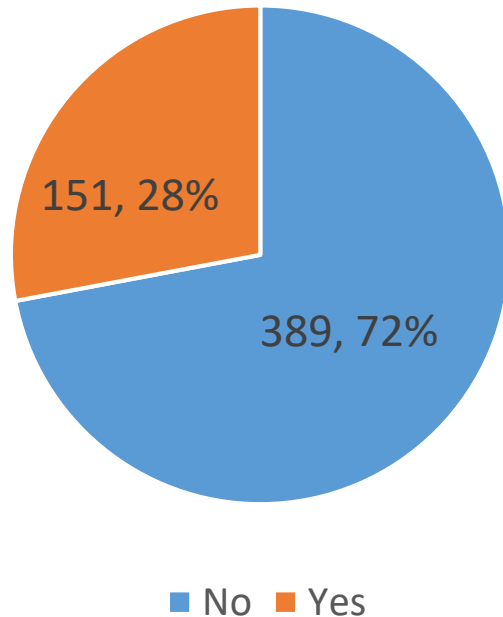
Sector	Invites	Responses	Response Rate
Community Colleges	567	287	50.6%
State Operated	506	278	54.9%
Total	1,073	565	52.7%

INTERIM ASSESSMENT: FACULTY SURVEY

- Global Responses

- Does the transfer path for your discipline need to be reviewed?

Community Colleges vs. Four Year Colleges



STUDENT OUTCOMES

FOUR YEARS OF POST-IMPLEMENTATION DATA:

- What can we analyze?
 - Three-year associate degree outcomes
 - Four-year baccalaureate outcomes
- What will take more time?
 - Full baccalaureate outcomes (six-year)
 - Course repeats

POST-IMPLEMENTATION STUDENT OUTCOMES

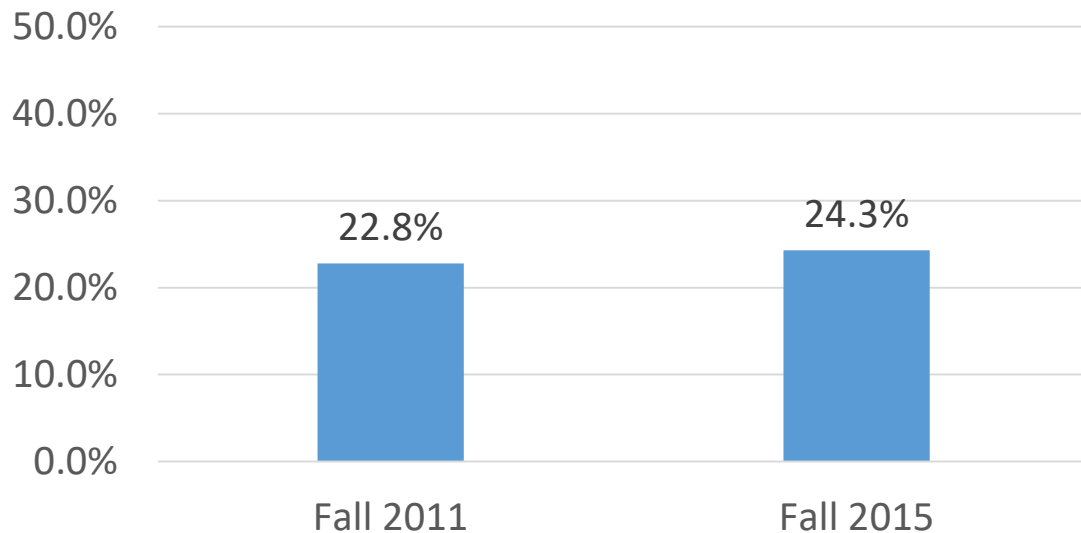
- 2011 Baseline Study Student Cohort:
 - All undergraduate, first time students during the fall 2011 term derived from the term section SIRIS submission (n=87,654).
 - Exclusions:
 - Students not in a program
 - Students with prior SUNY enrollment
 - Students transferring more than one time.
 - Graduate student records.
 - Transferred after during or after Fall 2014
 - Analytical n = 69,553
 - Transfers n= 8,108
 - Transfer Rate = 11.7%
- 2015 Post-Implementation Student Cohort
 - All undergraduate, first time students during the fall 2015 term derived from term section SIRIS submission (n=80,699)
 - Exclusions: Same as above for F2011 cohort
 - Analytical n = 52,624
 - Transfers n = 6,237
 - Transfer Rate = 11.9%

POST-IMPLEMENTATION STUDENT OUTCOMES

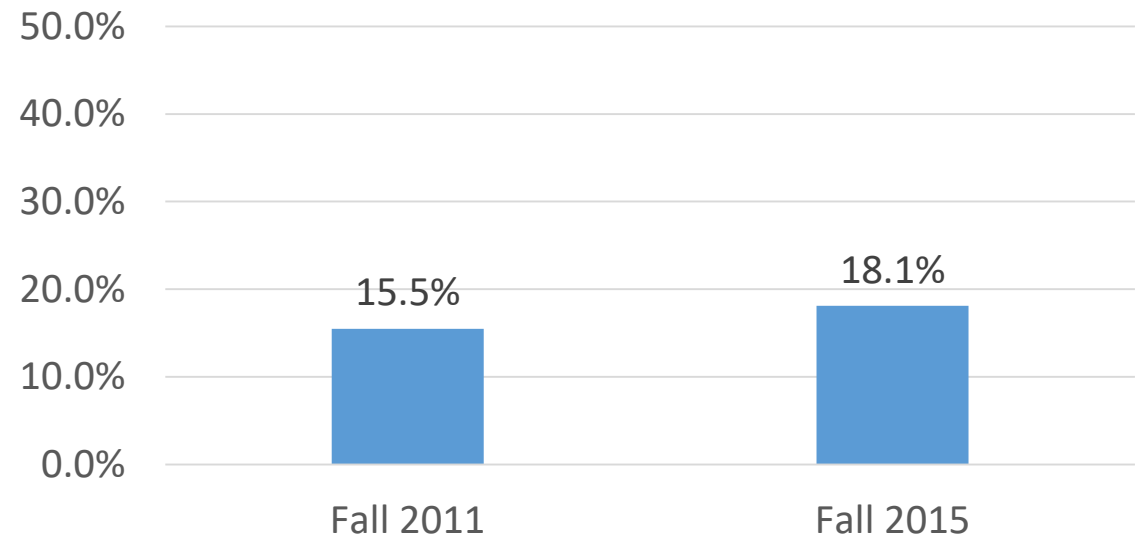
- Since implementing Seamless Transfer in 2015:
 - The percentage of two-year to four-year transfers increased by 7% (49% to 56%).
 - Comparing the 2011 and 2015 cohorts:
 - The percentage of underrepresented minority (URM) students increased by 6.9%
 - The percentage of students transferring with associate degrees completed increased by 2% (41% to 43%).
 - *(Preliminary finding)* The percentage of transfer students completing a baccalaureate degree within four years of initial enrollment increased by 2% (32% to 34%).
 - ❑ Estimated tuition & fee savings for students completing within four years vs. six years:
 - \$15k per student
 - \$6.3 million system-wide

INTERIM ASSESSMENT: ASSOCIATE DEGREE COMPLETION

3 Year Associate Degree Completion Rates:
All Students



3 Year Associate Degree Completion Rates:
URM Students

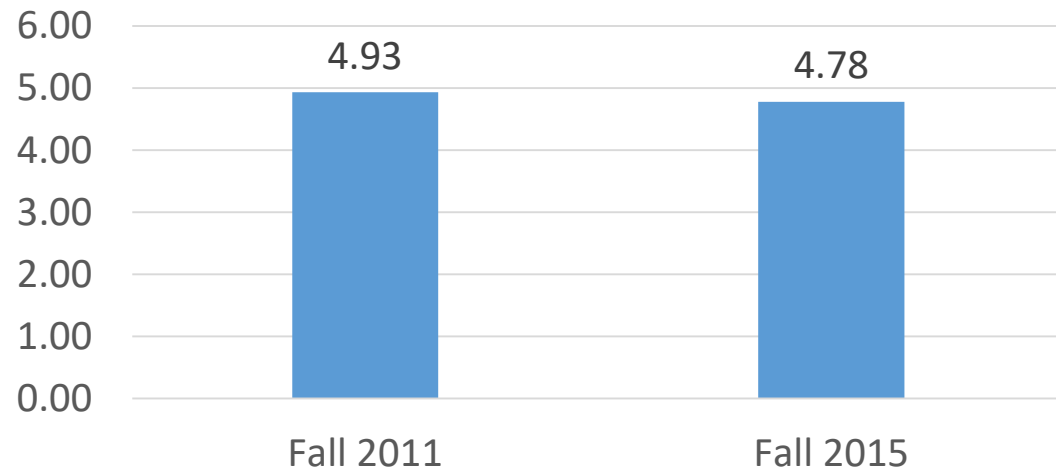


- **Completion rates increased:**

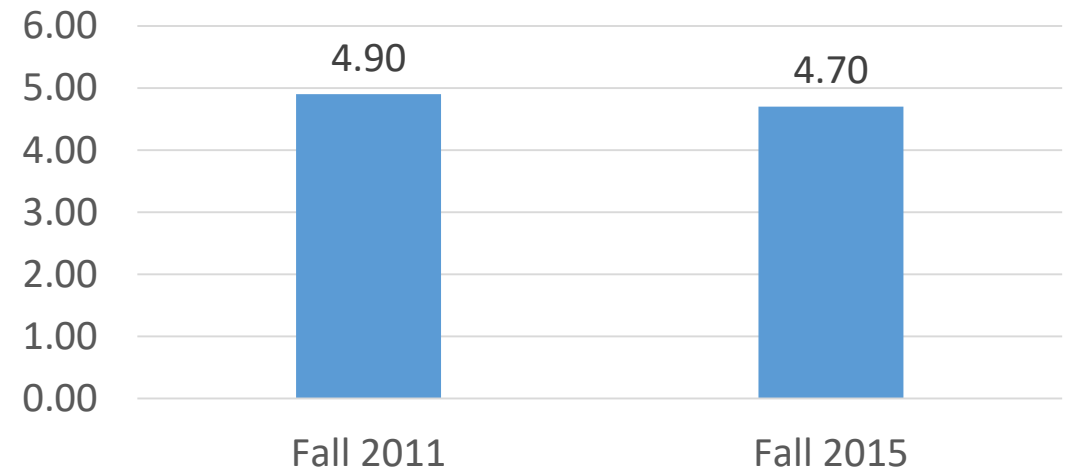
- Completion rates for all students increased by 1.5%.
- Completion rates for underrepresented (URM) students increased by 2.6%.

INTERIM ASSESSMENT: TIME-TO-DEGREE

3 Year Associate Active Terms-to-Degree:
All Students

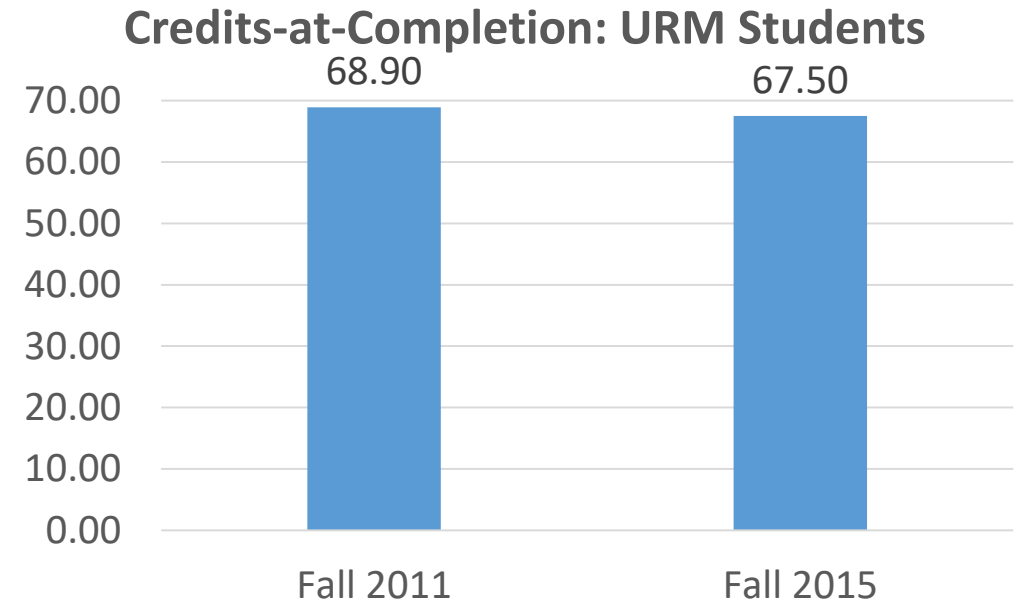
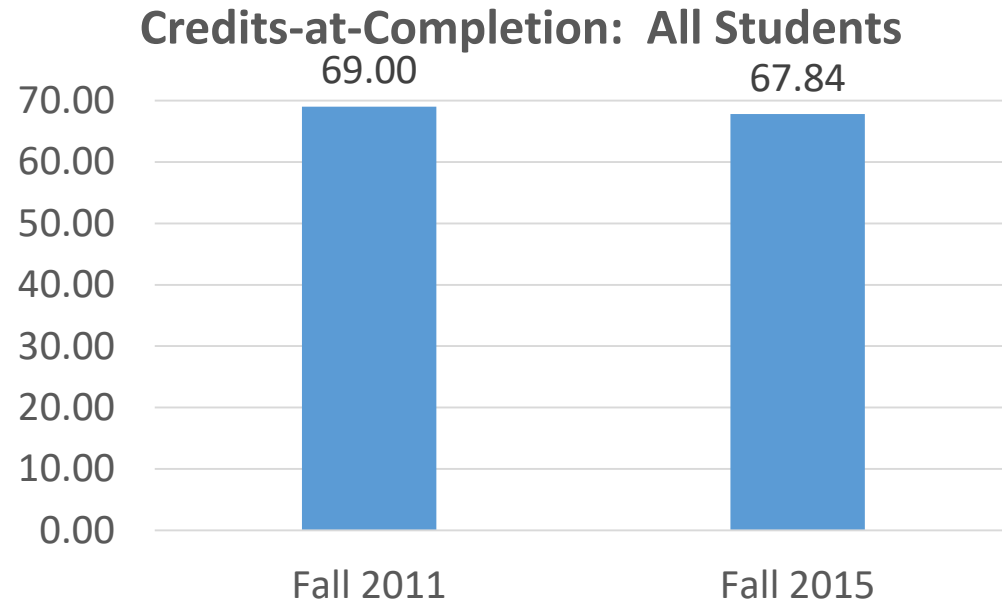


3 Year Associate Active Terms-to-Degree:
URM Students



- **Time-to-degree decreased:**
 - Average active terms-to-degree for all students decreased by .15 terms.
 - Average active terms-to-degree for URM students decreased .20 terms.

INTERIM ASSESSMENT: CREDITS AT COMPLETION

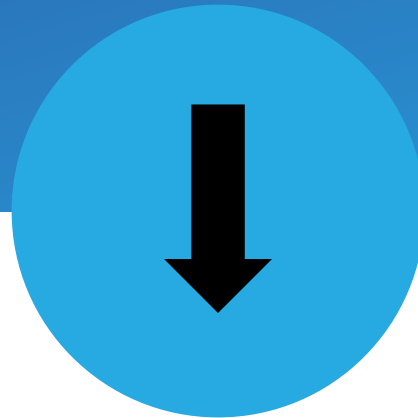


- **Credits at completion decreased:**
 - Average credits-at-completion for all students decreased by 1.16 credits.
 - Collective credit reduction estimated at over = 9,000 credits.
 - Average credits-at-completion for URM students decreased by 1.40 credits.

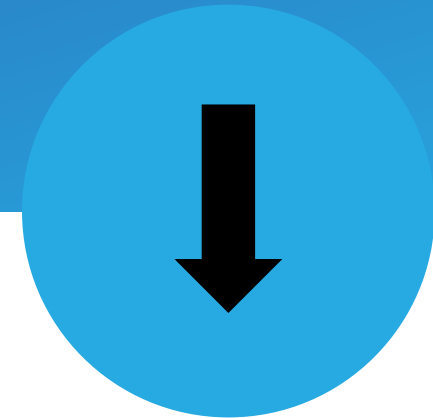
INTERIM ASSESSMENT SUMMARY



COMPLETION
RATES
INCREASED



TIME-TO-
DEGREE
DECREASED



CREDITS AT
COMPLETION
DECREASED

BASELINE STUDY RESULTS: COURSE REPEATS

- 1.1% of successfully completed (C or better) transfer path courses were retaken at the receiving campus
- 10.3% of the transfer students in the analytical sample retook at least one transfer path course.
- The most frequently retaken transfer path course was Composition I
- At the individual campus level, the number of incoming transfer students retaking transfer path courses varied substantially from a high of 32.3%% to a low of 0%.

Ten Most Frequently Retaken Transfer Path Courses	
Course	Retakes
Composition I	186
Composition II (or equivalent)	158
Computer Competency	40
Developmental Psychology	39
Introduction to Psychology	35
Introduction to Statistics (Introduction to Statistical Methods)	35
General Biology I (with lab)	33
Introduction to Financial Accounting	31
The Corrections Process	30
Introduction to Business	29

Course don't tell stories; students do!

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES: CROSS REGISTRATION

- Students coded as cross registered: ~300
- Students taking a course at another SUNY campus while matriculated at home campus:
 - ~ 9k (12% of analytical sample) Yikes!

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES: CROSS REGISTRATION

- Adopted in November 2016, the SUNY cross registration policy supports timely degree completion by allowing students to access required courses at other SUNY campuses if they aren't available at their home campus.
- Established a u-wide financial aid consortium so students can combine their credits across campuses to package their financial aid at the home campus.
- SUNY developed and implemented a university wide electronic application this past year to replace the burdensome paper based processes previously used.

The screenshot shows the SUNY Cross Register web application. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the SUNY SECURE logo and a yellow bar with the text "Welcome: KNOXDA Campus: Sys Admin". Below this is a light blue navigation bar with the title "SUNY Cross Register" and three menu items: "Home", "Requests", and "FAQs". A vertical "Admin" sidebar is visible on the left. The main content area is titled "Home" and contains a message box with the following text:

Thank you for your interest in the SUNY Cross-Registration process.

Please be advised: By submitting a request you are granting permissions to the applicable Home and Host campuses to exchange information regarding your academic and financial records.

If you have questions regarding the cross-registration process please contact the Registrar's Office at your Home Campus or refer to the FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) above.

TOP 10 LESSONS LEARNED

1. Prioritize and pace the work
2. Persist
3. Iterate
4. Listen and adjust
5. Celebrate academic diversity
6. Design processes and assessments through shared governance
7. Remember the why
8. Remember to laugh
9. Mind your unintended consequences
10. Tell stories



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Student Mobility

[Transfer Information for Students](#)

The SUNY Office of Enrollment Management Services maintains comprehensive information for transfer students on transfer policies, programs, course equivalencies, and web-based tools for academic planning.

In an effort to improve Student Mobility, the Office of the Provost is continually developing policies, procedures, systems and services to make SUNY the most transfer friendly higher education system in the country. This web page is intended to provide campus staff and administrators with information pertinent to student mobility and transfer.

- Transfer Paths
- Course Information
- Policies
- Student Appeals Process
- Campus Appeals
- Contacts
- Report an Issue
- Cross-Registration Resources

<https://system.suny.edu/academic-affairs/student-mobility/>