Through the Gate:

What Students Say They Need To Transfer

Strengthening Student Success Conference
October 9, 2019

Dr. Darla Cooper
Alyssa Nguyen
Kelley Karandjeff
Vanessa Roman
Leonardo Diaz
Sydney Farwell
The RP Group
www.rpgroup.org

Mission
• Strengthen CCCs’ ability to gather, analyze, and act on information in order to enhance student equity and success

Services
• Research, evaluation, planning, professional development, and technical assistance—designed and conducted by CCC practitioners

Organization
• 501(c)3 with roots as membership organization
Vision

• More graduates for a thriving California

Mission

• Removing barriers so more low-income and underrepresented students attain bachelor’s degrees
Today’s Presentation Outcomes

Participants will…

• Hear directly factors that influence whether students transfer or stop at or near the transfer gate
• Understand what colleges can do to identify these students on their own campus and how to support their transfer journey.
• Know next steps in this research that will inform practitioners and policymakers on how to address practices and policies hindering students’ transition to a university.
Today’s Presentation Outline

• Through the Gate Study: Phase 1 Recap
• Getting Better Directions: Phase 2 Early Findings
• Student Panel
• Looking ahead and resources for colleges
Through the Gate Transfer Study
A Fresh Take on the Transfer Challenge

Phase I Recap
Through the Gate Aims to…

Identify individuals who have completed all or most of their transfer requirements, but who do not make it “through the gate” to university.

Identify strategies for increasing transfer, boosting baccalaureate production, and enhancing students’ social and economic mobility—especially for underrepresented populations.
Research Approach

Phase I: Mapping the Transfer Landscape
Quantitative research to better understand the transfer landscape focusing on students who met all or most of their requirements but have not transferred

Phase II: Getting Better Directions
Mixed-methods research to understand what factors impact these students’ journeys and how policy and practice might change to propel them through the gate
Phase 1: A Fresh Take on the Transfer Continuum

- 875,630 CCC students
- Enrolled between 2010-2011 and 2014-2015
- Outcomes through spring 2016

Three subgroups:

1. 67% Transfer Achievers (583,074)
2. 16% Students At the Gate (135,557)
3. 18% Students Near the Gate (156,999)
Phase 1 Key Findings

• More than half of these students exit without credentials
• Math is a barrier
• Time is the enemy
• Once African Americans reach key milestones, they are most likely to transfer…but too few get this far
• Latinx students more likely to be At or Near the Gate than to have transferred
Getting Better Directions
Phase II Research - Preliminary Findings
Phase II Research Questions

• **Why** do so many students who are close to achieving their transfer goal stop short of making this transition?

• **What can we do** to help students who are at or near the gate transfer?

• **What is holding back different student groups, and how can we help them continue their journey?**

• **What is impacting IE and CV students’ transfer progress, and what strategies can be pursued to increase their success?**
Phase II Methodology

ATG-NTG at 31 CCC (Enrolled and Exited Students)
N = 39,652

Online Student Survey
N = 809

Student Interviews
N = 39
Who Are the Students in Phase 2?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Survey N = 809</th>
<th>Interviews N = 39</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>59.9%</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian-Filipino</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American/Black</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latinx</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Ethnic Group</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Age</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Early Findings from Phase 2

Key themes emerging and student perspectives
Key themes and students’ perspectives

• Key themes from Phase 2
• Introduction of students and their transfer experiences
• Q&A with students
## Transfer Decision-Making Framework

### Student Factors
- Academic (e.g., GPA, transfer units completed)
- Demographics (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity)
- Psychological (e.g., confidence, fear of unknown)
- Sociocultural (e.g., family expectations)
- Financial (e.g., college affordability)

### College Factors
- Transfer Support (e.g., robustness of Transfer Center)
- Culture (e.g., intersegmental alignment, messaging)
- Policy (e.g., # of AD-Ts available)
- Regional (e.g., proximity to university, population density)
Factors influencing students’ decision to transfer

- Financial Awareness: Helping students understand true university cost and available assistance
- School-Life Balance: Supporting students’ effort to balance work, family, and school responsibilities
- Transfer Navigation: Providing students clear and efficient pathways from program selection to transfer + timely and accurate information
- External Encouragement: Connecting students with caring, encouraging, and supportive individuals
- University Readiness: Fostering students’ strong sense of readiness for university-level work and environment
Student Panel - Introductions

Name / College

- Where are you in your transfer journey?
- What is your major and/or career goal?
- What is motivating your transfer / bachelor's degree goal?
Student Recommendations

Given your experience, what is one piece of advice you have for community colleges to help students move successfully through the transfer gate?
Group Discussion

Given what you’re hearing so far…

• What questions does this information bring up for you? Make you wonder about?
• Where are the opportunities for your college to help students successfully make it through the transfer gate?
• What additional information could help inform how you might act on these findings?
In the Meantime, Colleges Can...

• Figure out who these students are at your college
  – Identify how many students are at or near the gate
  – Analyze to see if certain student groups are more likely to be at or near the gate
• Reach out to these students to explore barriers and identify needs
• Develop plans to help address emerging barriers and needs
Timeline: 2016-2019

Research aimed at identifying strategies for increasing transfer among "high-leverage learners" in California Community Colleges — individuals who have completed all or most of their transfer requirements, but who do not make it "through the gate" to a university.

View this short video to hear more about the project’s purpose and goals.

Read the Through the Gate Transfer Study Project Description to learn more about the research purpose and approach.
Tell us your story!
Is your campus using Through the Gate to improve transfer outcomes? Send an email to Darla M. Cooper, EdD or Alyssa Nguyen, MA.

Resources for Educators

**REPORTS AND BRIEFS**

- Identifying High-Leverage Transfer Students on Your Campus, Through the Gate Transfer Study Methodology, March 2019
  Tool 1 Guide for adapting the study's methodology on your campus; includes data sources and elements, instructions on file preparation, and steps for generating the study population

- Determining Students' Transfer Odds on Your Campus, Through the Gate Transfer Study Methodology, March 2019
  Tool 2 Guide for adapting study's statistical model for identifying students' transfer odds on your campus, including data sources and instructions for implementing and interpreting the model.

**TOOLS**

**INFOGRAPHICS AND POSTERS**

**ARTICLES**
Looking ahead….

• Full analyses will complete October - November
• Research brief and technical report in early 2020
• Strategic engagement with field in 2020 around how to act on these data
  – What is the best way to reach you to share our findings?
  – How can we help you take action on the findings?
Questions?
For more information on the Through the Gate Study

Project Directors:
Dr. Darla Cooper
dcooper@rpgroup.org

Alyssa Nguyen
anguyen@rpgroup.org

www.rpgroup.org/through-the-gate
#StudentsThroughtheGate
Thank you!