

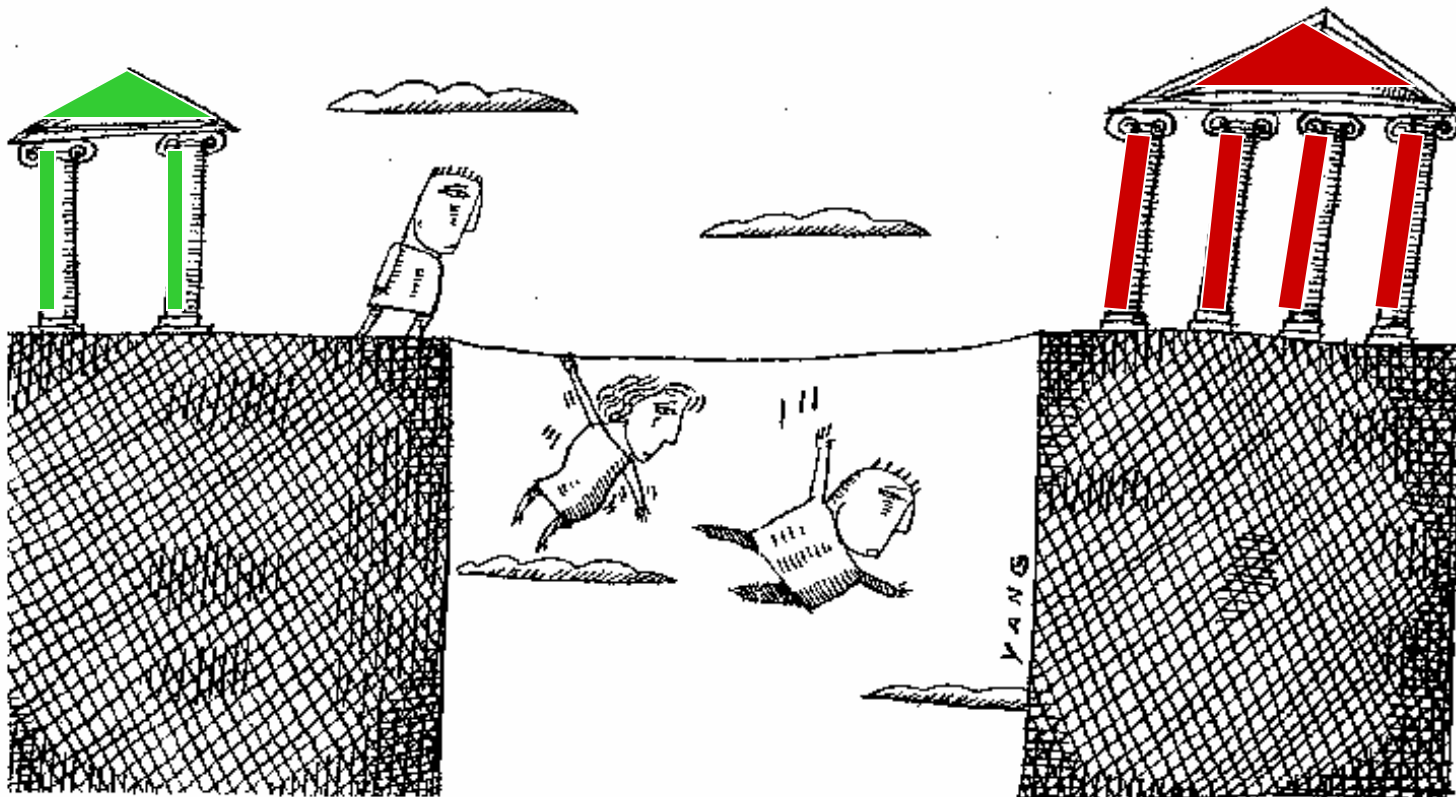
# 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Transfer Forum

Dallas County Community College District  
Bill J. Priest Institute  
October 24, 2008



“The sources of the problems that transfer students encounter are numerous, ancient, and ugly.”

(Cicarelli, *Chronicle*, April 14, 1993).



- Transfer

- movement of students from one institution to another

- Articulation

- The means by which schools, colleges, and universities coordinate and align program and services to facilitate the progression of individual students through the educational system.
- Systematic coordination between educational institution and other educational institutions and agencies designed to ensure the efficient and effective movement of students among those institutions and agencies, while guaranteeing the students' continuous advancement in learning"

(Barry, Establishing Equity)

# Community College Transfers and College Graduation:

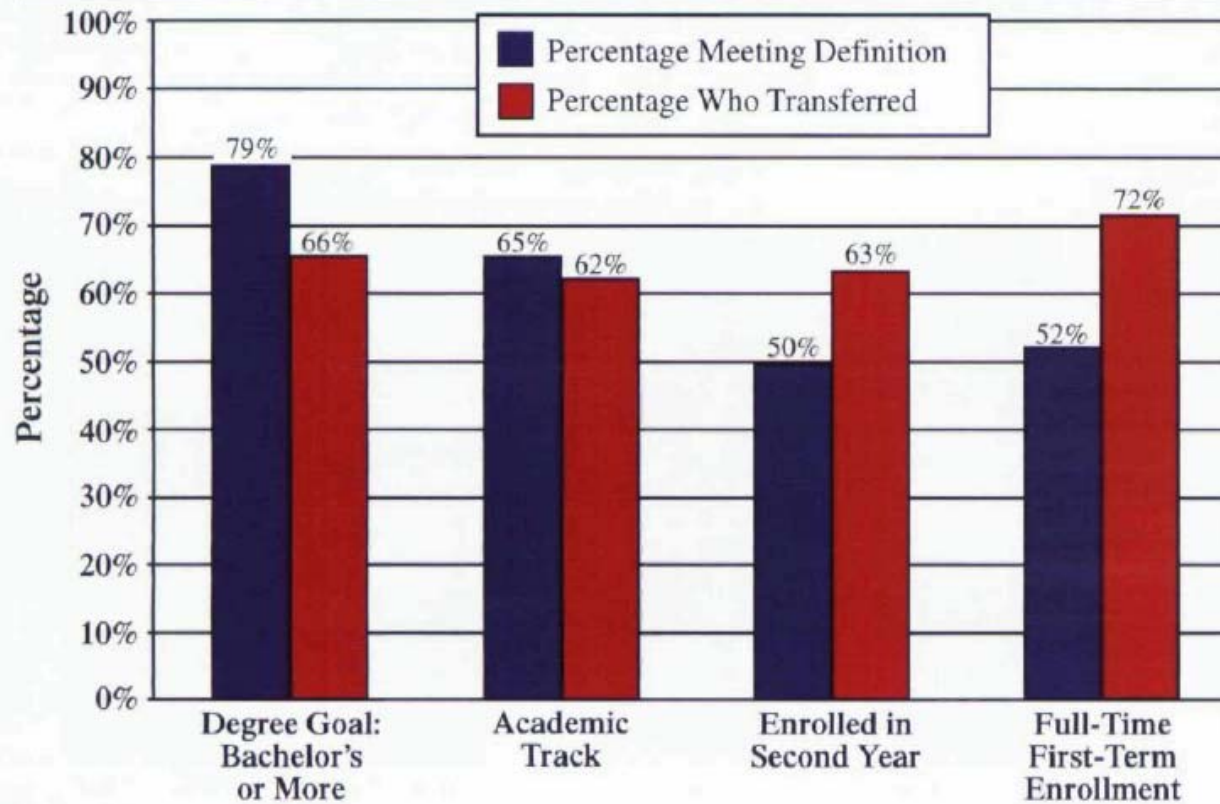
*Whose Choices Matter Most?*

# To successfully complete a bachelor's degree

CC students must complete three steps.

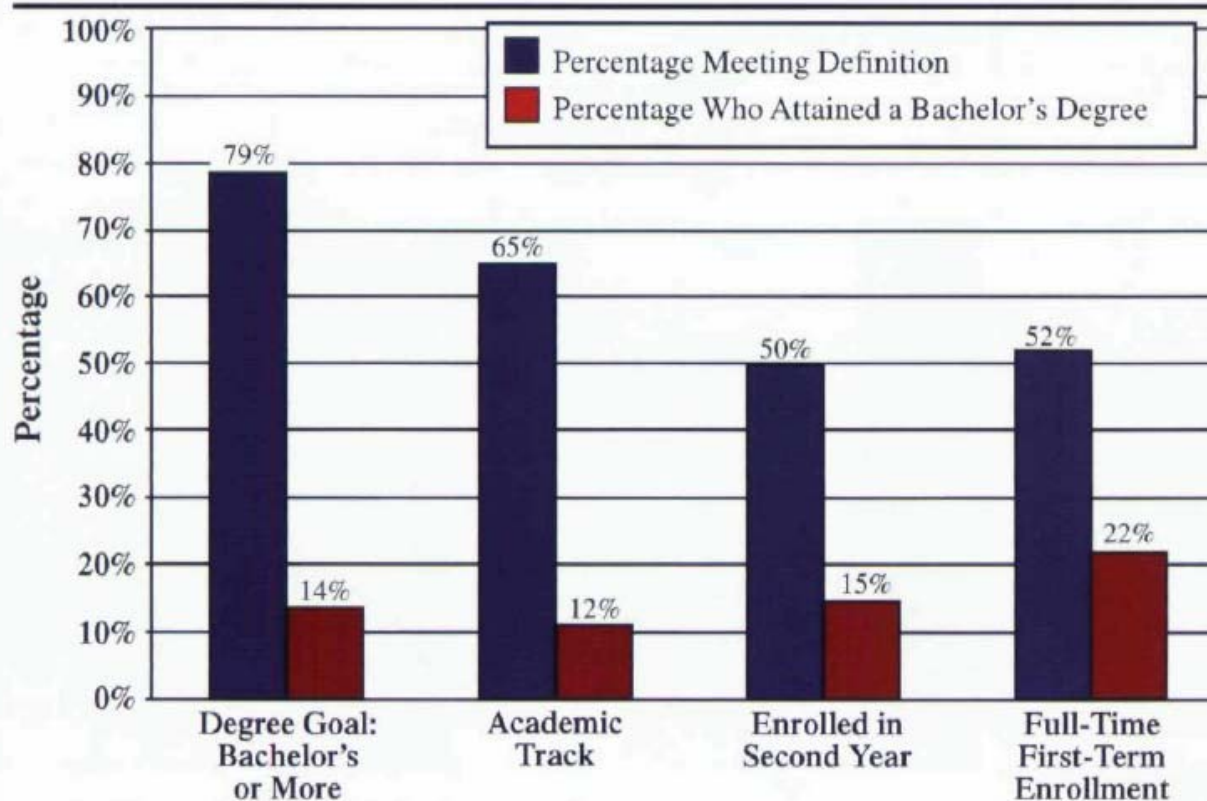
1. navigate the community college
2. make the transition to a four-year institution
3. satisfy the requirements for a bachelor's degree.

**CHART I. PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO WERE “TRANSFER ELIGIBLE” AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO TRANSFERRED**



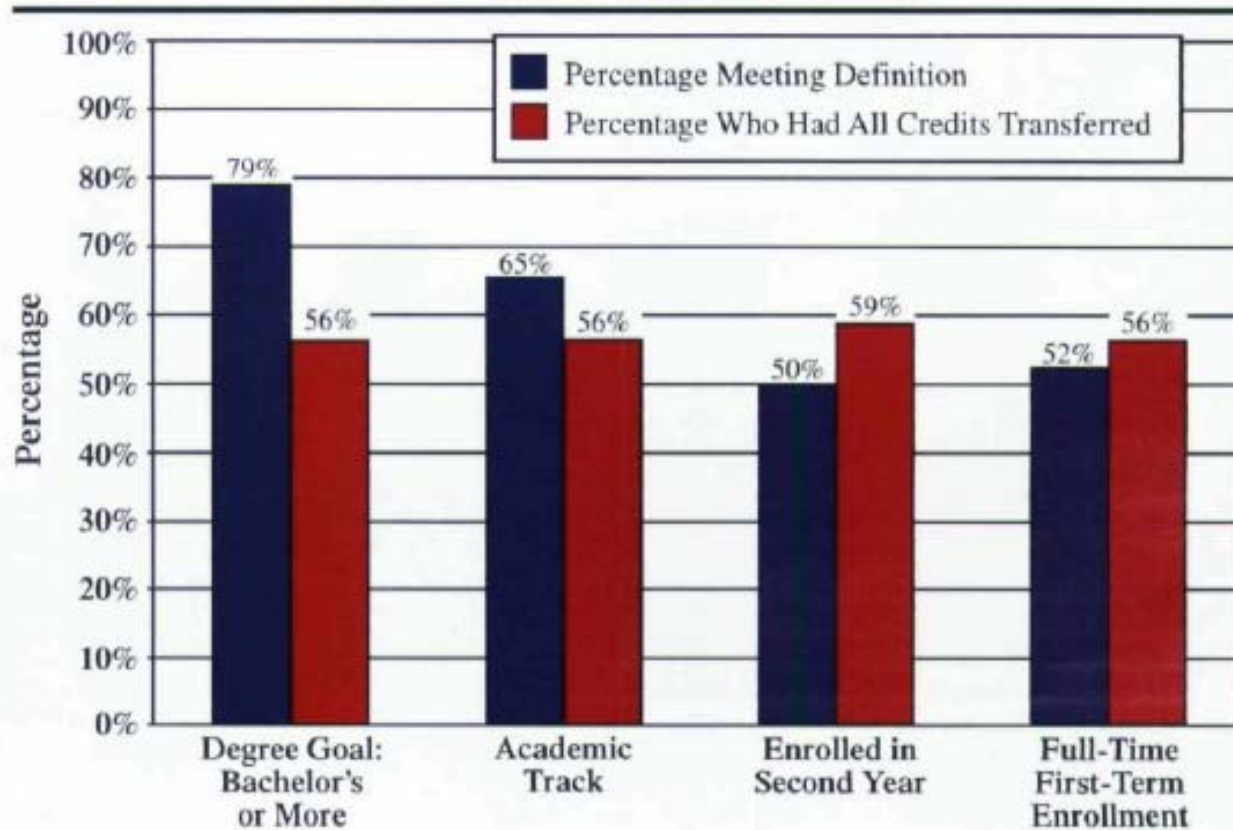
Source: United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (2006), *Data Analysis System for Beginning Postsecondary Students*. Retrieved 1/25/2006 from <http://nces.ed.gov/das/>

**CHART 2. PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SIX YEARS BY DIFFERING DEFINITIONS OF TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY**



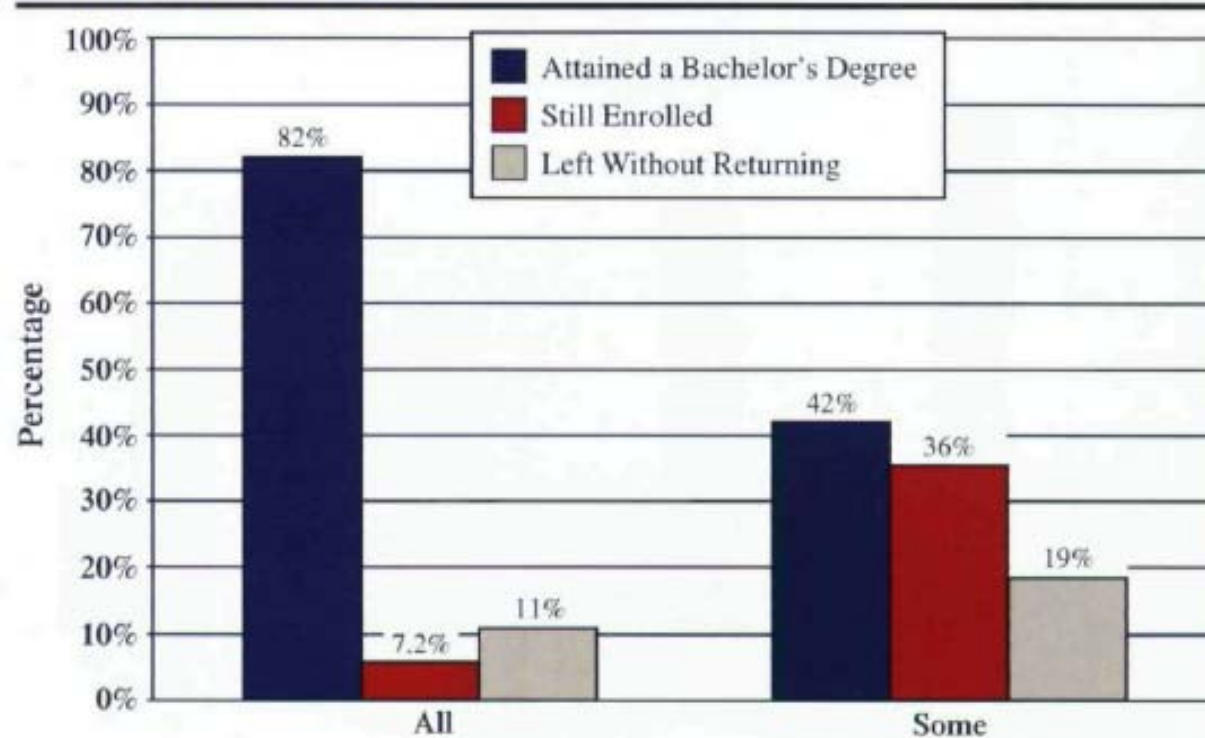
Source: United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (2006), *Data Analysis System for Beginning Postsecondary Students*. Retrieved 1/25/2006 from <http://nces.ed.gov/das/>

**CHART 3. PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO HAD ALL COURSE CREDITS ACCEPTED AT FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS**



*Source:* United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (2006), *Data Analysis System for Beginning Postsecondary Students*. Retrieved 1/25/2006 from <http://nces.ed.gov/das/>

**CHART 4. PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SIX YEARS BY CREDITS ACCEPTED AT FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS**



Source: United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (2006), *Data Analysis System for Beginning Postsecondary Students*. Retrieved 1/25/2006 from <http://nces.ed.gov/das/>

*Decisions that the policymakers make play a pivotal role in determining how many transfer credits will be accepted and the likelihood of students' attaining their educational goals.*

# Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit

- American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
- American Council on Education
- Council for Higher Education Accreditation

# General principles

- All institutions develop reasonable and definitive policies & procedures for the transfer of credits earned at another institution.
- Maximum consideration for individual student who has changed institutions or objectives.
- **Sending institutions** have a responsibility to furnish transcripts & other documents.
- **Receiving institution's** responsibility to provide *reasonable* and *definitive* policies and procedures for determining a student's knowledge

*Are we living up to these guidelines?*

**“The community college–baccalaureate transfer function is one of the most important state policy issues in higher education because its success (or failure) is central to many dimensions of state higher education performance, including *access, equity, affordability, cost effectiveness, degree productivity, & quality.*”**

**States that have strong 2/4 transfer performance will have lower state appropriations per degree.”**

*Wellman, J. , State Policy & Community  
College Baccalaureate Transfer, 2002*

# Building bridges or barriers?

## Policies that prevent effective articulation & hinder transfer

- Misalignment between high school graduation standards and college entrance requirements
- Inadequate or non-existent student record systems

Need a mandate that two year and four-year institutions work together as equal partners in determining curricula for the first two years of baccalaureate degree programs.

# Access to the Baccalaureate Roundtable

## Recommendations

- Allocate sufficient resources, both fiscal and human
- Develop K-16 strategies
- Provide incentives to high schools and colleges to collaborate
- Establish statewide student record systems
- Establish a system-wide, common general education core & common course numbering
- Create statewide faculty curriculum committees to negotiate articulation agreements
- Create an online clearinghouse advertising slots available to transfer students
- Open transferability discussions that extend beyond state and/or system boundaries

# Keys to successful transfer programs in SREB states

- Transfer/articulation committees
- Core curriculum
- Common course numbering systems
- Transfer guides
- Guarantees of Transfer
- Transfer counselor networks
- Appeals procedures
- Monitoring and auditing systems
- Faculty involvement

# What Can States Do to Ensure That Students Have Clear Paths From One College to Another?

- Set high goals.
- Set statewide policies that give transfer students similar total credit hours toward a bachelor's degree as native students.
- Insist on performance measures that monitor total hours accumulated in undergraduate education by both transfer and non-transfer students.

# What Can States Do to Ensure That Students Have Clear Paths From One College to Another?

- State-wide transfer of core curriculum.
- Call for a statewide plan to monitor transfer rates, performance of transfer students, & other measures of effectiveness.
- Monitor comparative number of credit hours taken in the jr and sr years by both transfer and non-transfer students.
- Evaluate the guarantees.

# What Can States Do to Ensure That Students Have Clear Paths From One College to Another?

- Assess whether your state's transfer guide, Web site and counselor networks are providing adequate information.
- Call for a periodic review.
- Consider the kind of comprehensive legislation enacted by Florida.

**Where to from here?**



# 6th Annual Transfer Forum

Beverly L. Bower, Ph.D.  
Don A. Bucholz Endowed Chair  
Director, Bill J. Priest Center for Community College  
Education  
University of North Texas

[Beverly.Bower@unt.edu](mailto:Beverly.Bower@unt.edu)

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