

COLLEGE TRANSFER & STUDENT SUCCESS



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

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KEY FINDINGS

In Indiana, about **1 in 4** students (25%) who enter college for the first time at an Indiana public institution **transfers to a different campus or institution at least once** within six years—a mobility pattern that underscores the complexity of postsecondary pathways and the importance of better understanding the role transfer plays in helping individuals and the state reach degree attainment goals. As a supplement to the Commission’s College Completion report¹, this analysis provides a look at which students transfer, where they go, and how many succeed.

- 1** The vast majority of transfers (85%) transfer without a prior degree or credential, and on average, transfers tend to be younger, have lower first-year GPAs, and are less likely than non-transfer students to be white. Such differences are even more notable for students who switch sectors, transferring between four- and two-year campuses.
 - **2 to 4 Year Public** transfers tend to be younger and fewer receive need-based financial aid compared to students who remain at two-year colleges, and **about 6% earn an associate prior to transferring**.
 - **4 to 2 Year Public** transfers are twice as likely to not earn a 3.0 during their first year. Higher percentages receive need-based aid, and higher percentages are Black.
- 2** The majority of transfers remain in state, with most enrolling at Ivy Tech and IU campuses. About 30% transfer to out of state colleges, while about 10% choose an Indiana private or proprietary institution.
 - About 23% of all in-state transfers switch from **4 to 2 Year Public** institutions, with similar numbers coming from main and non-main campuses.
 - Purdue North Central, IU Kokomo, and Indiana State University have the highest transfer-out rates (around 40%). Despite its lower transfer rate (17%), the largest number of transfers (about 3,500 per first-time cohort) originate from Ivy Tech.
 - Of those who do transfer out of state, many choose online colleges or institutions near the Indiana border.
- 3** **2 to 4 Year Public** transfers are about twice as likely to succeed as **4 to 2 Year Public** transfers (42% compared to 21%). **Generally, students who earn an associate prior to transfer have higher (about 10 percentage points) success rates than those with no prior**
 - About 40% of all transfers complete a degree or credential within six years, compared to about 50% of non-transfers statewide.
 - Transfer pathways offer important alternative routes to a degree and provide a slight boost to minority students’ completion rates, helping Indiana address the continuing achievement gap in postsecondary attainment.
- 4** A broader view of mobility patterns, including summer course taking, reveals the increasing importance of transfer credit for many students. **The amount of transfer credit accepted at Indiana publics (about 1 million² credit hours per year) has increased by about 25% since 2007, and about 40% of graduates earn transfer credit on their way to a degree.**

1. See <http://www.in.gov/che/3032.htm>

2. The total number of transfer credits is based on credits accepted during the first term that transfer credit was awarded at each institution. **2**

PATHWAYS

**THE TRANSFER RATES,
PATHWAYS, & SUCCESS RATES
OF FIRST TIME STUDENTS**

How many transfer?

1 in 4 first-time public students transfer within 6 years. Non-main four-year campuses tend to have the highest transfer-out rates (**36%**), compared to **23%** of students at main campuses and **20%** of students at two-year institutions.

TRANSFER OUT RATES* HIGHEST LOWEST

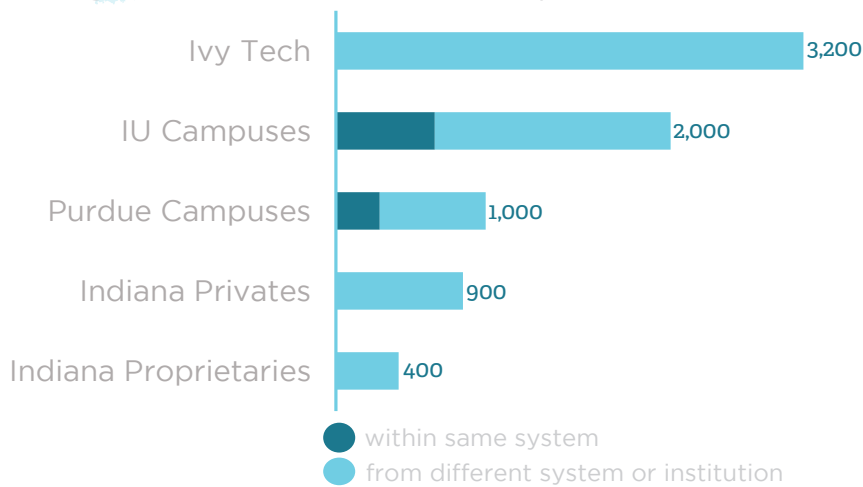
1	Purdue North Central	43% (300)	Purdue West Lafayette	17% (1,100)
2	Indiana State	40% (800)	IU Bloomington	17% (1,200)
3	IU Kokomo	39% (200)	Ivy Tech	17% (3,400)

*number represents average number of transfers per cohort

Where do they go?

About **7 in 10** stay in Indiana. Of those about **60%** choose an Ivy Tech or IU campus, while about **10%** choose private or proprietary institutions.

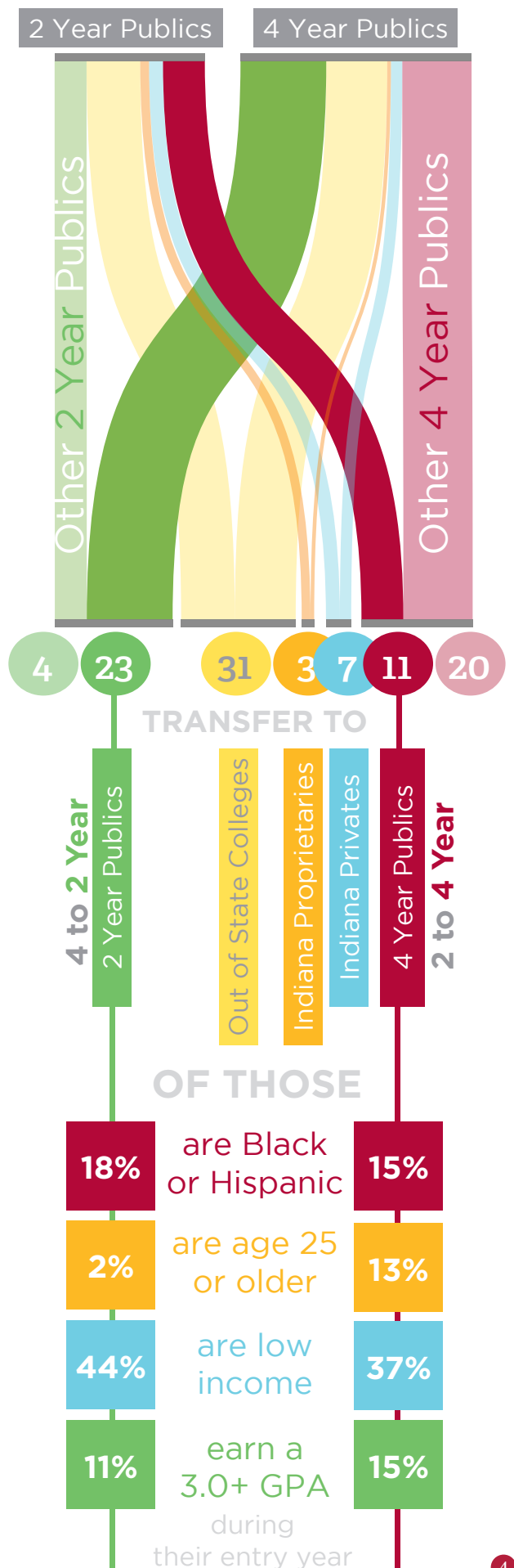
TOP TRANSFER DESTINATIONS average number of in-state transfers per first-time cohort



Who are they?

On average, transfer students tend to be younger, have lower GPAs, and are less likely than non-transfer students to be white. Compared to non-transfer students at the same institution type, **4 to 2 Year Public** transfers' distinguishing characteristics include higher levels of financial need and lower levels of academic achievement, while **2 to 4 Year Public** transfers tend to be younger and have lower levels of financial need.

OUT OF 100 STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER FROM

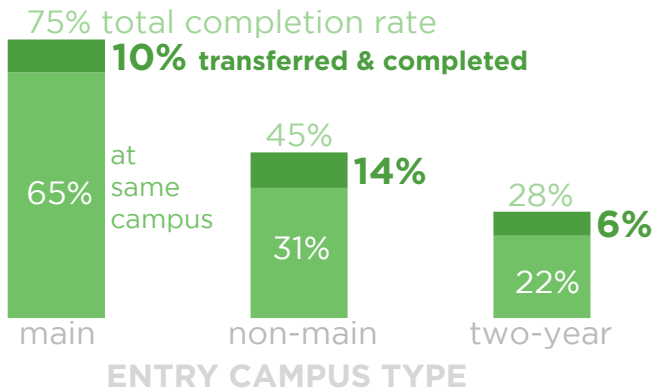


How many succeed?

About **40%** of students who transfer to any institution complete a credential within six years, but **2 to 4 Year Public** transfers are about **2x** as likely to succeed as those who transfer to a two-year public institution.

ENTRY CAMPUS COMPLETION RATES

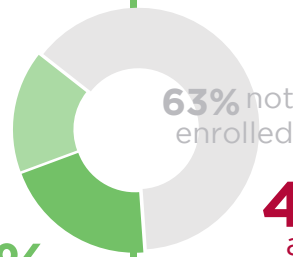
How does transfer improve the completion picture?



16% still enrolled

21% earn a credential

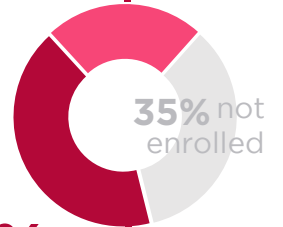
4 to 2 Year



STATUS AT 6 YEARS

2 to 4 Year

23% still enrolled



42% earn a credential

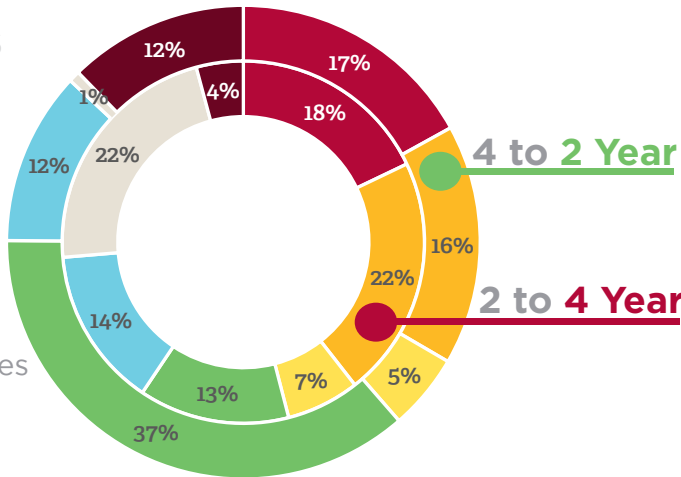
OF THOSE WHO COMPLETE

What do they earn?

4 to 2 Year Public transfers are about **3x** as likely to earn a credential in health-related fields and are about **5x** as likely to earn a certificate as their highest degree.

CREDENTIALS EARNED IN

- Humanities
- Business
- Education
- Health
- STEM
- Social Sciences
- Trades



N/A

earn a bachelor's

92%

65%

earn an associate

6%

25%

earn a longer-term certificate

1%

9%

earn a short-term certificate

0%

2 Yr

4 Yr

ABOUT THE DATA

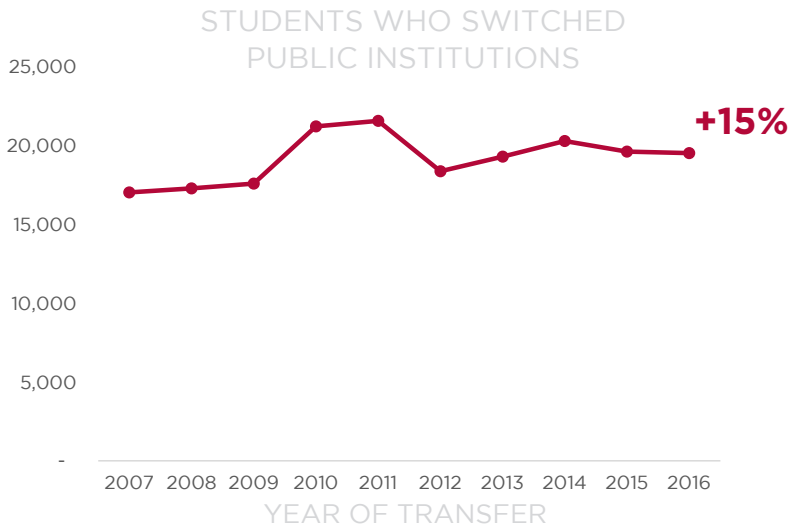
Statistics presented in this section are based on cohorts of first-time degree-seeking students who initially enrolled in Indiana public institutions in the fall between 2008 and 2010. Students are counted as having transferred if they were no longer enrolled in their entry institution, but were enrolled in a different institution within six years after entry. Transfer rates do not include summer and casual course taking. Transfer cohorts may differ from those presented in other reports.

Sources: Indiana Commission for Higher Education and National Student Clearinghouse

TRANSFER CREDIT & MOBILITY

Students do not always conform to well-defined or expected pathways, and the transfer rates of first-time cohorts are only part of the story. A broader look at the data, including summer course-taking, and multiple transfers offers a more comprehensive understanding of student mobility patterns in Indiana.

STUDENT MOBILITY IS INCREASING



The number of students who change institutions is increasing. About **23,000** students enrolled at a different campus in 2016, an increase of about **15%** since 2007. About **40%** of students who change institutions do so more than once, and about **30%** ultimately return to their first institution – a trend likely driven in large part by summer course taking, a phenomenon often referred to as “summer swirl.”

MORE CREDITS ARE BEING TRANSFERRED



Transfer is an increasingly important source of credit for many students. In recent years, Indiana public colleges have accepted almost **1 million** transfer credits per year, and the total number of annual transfer credits has increased by **25%** since 2007. On average, transfer students have brought about **one year** (25 credit hours) of college credit with them to their new institutions, potentially providing a boost for those seeking a higher-level credential.

ABOUT THE DATA

Statistics presented in this section are based on a sample of all public enrollment data submitted to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education between 2000 and 2016. Transfer credit includes all credit hours, including dual credit, that were accepted as transfer credit by the destination institution. The total number of transfer credits is based on the earliest term in which transfer credit was awarded at each institution.

Sources: Indiana Commission for Higher Education