

Highlights and Conclusions

- The number of applications from external transfer students has slowly declined since Fall 2014. A similar trend has not been noticed among beginners.
- About 79% of credits from Ivy Tech Central Indiana were distributed, the most of any feeder institution.
- In Fall 2016, transfer and beginner students differed in a number of key ways. Fifteen percent of incoming external transfers in Fall 2016 were African American compared to 10% of all incoming beginners. In addition, 19% of incoming external transfers were 20 years of age or less, compared to 96% of all beginners.
- About 20% of new external transfer students in Fall 2015 completed 15 or more credit hours, compared to 43% of new beginners. In Fall 2016, 43% of new external transfer students attempted 15 or more credit hours, a substantial increase compared to Fall 2011.
- Seventy-one percent of external transfers who entered in Fall 2012 with sufficient credits to be a senior graduated in four years. Thirty-two percent of external transfers who entered at the same time as freshmen completed a Bachelor's degree

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Summary

In 2014, IUPUI faculty, students, and administrators participated in the Foundations of Excellence – Transfer Focus project, sponsored by the John N. Gardner Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. A year-long self-study was conducted across all of IUPUI in an effort to improve transfer student success and learning. The final report contained 22 recommendations which were to be implemented over the next three years. After the self-study, several action teams were assembled in order to enact the final report recommendations. This included a data action team, which was charged with developing a series of “key performance indicators and benchmarks for indicators of progress on transfer students.” (IUPUI Foundations of Excellence, 2015)

This research brief is designed to investigate key performance indicators for transfer students as defined by the Foundations of Excellence data action team. The report examines recruitment metrics, undistributed credit, credit posting timelines, enrollment, retention, graduation, and time to degree of fall incoming external transfer students. Breakdowns by intercampus transfers, transfer credit hour bands, and the sub-populations as defined by the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) will not be covered in this report, but will be available in the Tableau report links provided.

Recruitment

Table 1 displays data from each fall semester’s enrollment cycle for the past three years. The number of beginning student applicants has declined slightly since last year. However, the number of transfer student applicants has declined over the past two years.

**Table 1) Application, Admission, and Enrollment Counts
For New Fall Beginners and External Transfers**

		Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016
Beginners	Applications	12,615	13,506	13,294
Transfers	Applications	3,784	3,218	3,091
Beginners	Admitted	8,934	9,347	9,755
Transfers	Admitted	2,602	2,104	2,061
Beginners	Enrolled ^a	3,848	3,865	3,967
Transfers	Enrolled ^a	1,560	1,314	1,317

Source: IUPUI Point-In-Cycle (<http://irds.iupui.edu/Enrollment-Management/Point-in-Cycle>)

^a Enrolled totals derived from Admissions files. These numbers may not match official counts from census.

Table 2 presents similar comparisons of the past three fall admission and enrollment yields. While admission yield rates for both beginners and transfers dropped from 2014 to 2015, enrollment yield rates for new external transfers improved from 60% to 62%. The transfer admission yield for the fall 2016 semester was 67% with a 64% enrollment yield.

Table 2) Admission and Enrollment Yields for New Fall Beginners and Transfers At Census

		Census (8/31/2014)	Census (8/30/2015)	Census (8/29/2016)
Beginners	Admission Rate ^a	71%	69%	73%
Transfers	Admission Rate ^a	69%	65%	67%
Beginners	Enrollment Yield ^b	43%	41%	41%
Transfers	Enrollment Yield ^b	60%	62%	64%

^a Number of admitted students divided by number applied.

^b Number of enrolled students divided by number admitted.

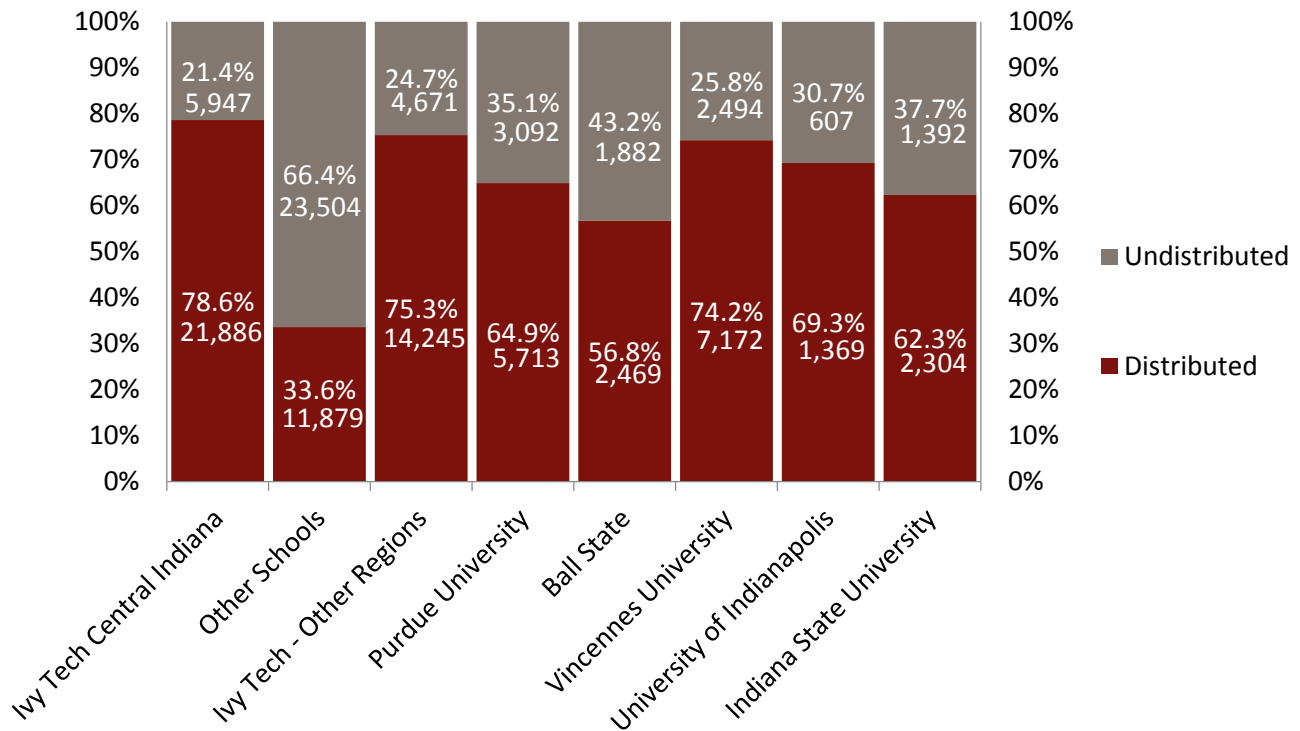
Source:

IUPUI Point-In-Cycle (<http://irds.iupui.edu/Enrollment-Management/Point-in-Cycle>)

Transfer Credit Distribution

Figure 1 shows the difference in distributed and undistributed credits for Fall 2016 new external transfers. As expected, the majority of credits for IUPUI come from Ivy Tech’s Central Indiana region. The Central Indiana region also has the lowest percentage of undistributed credits.

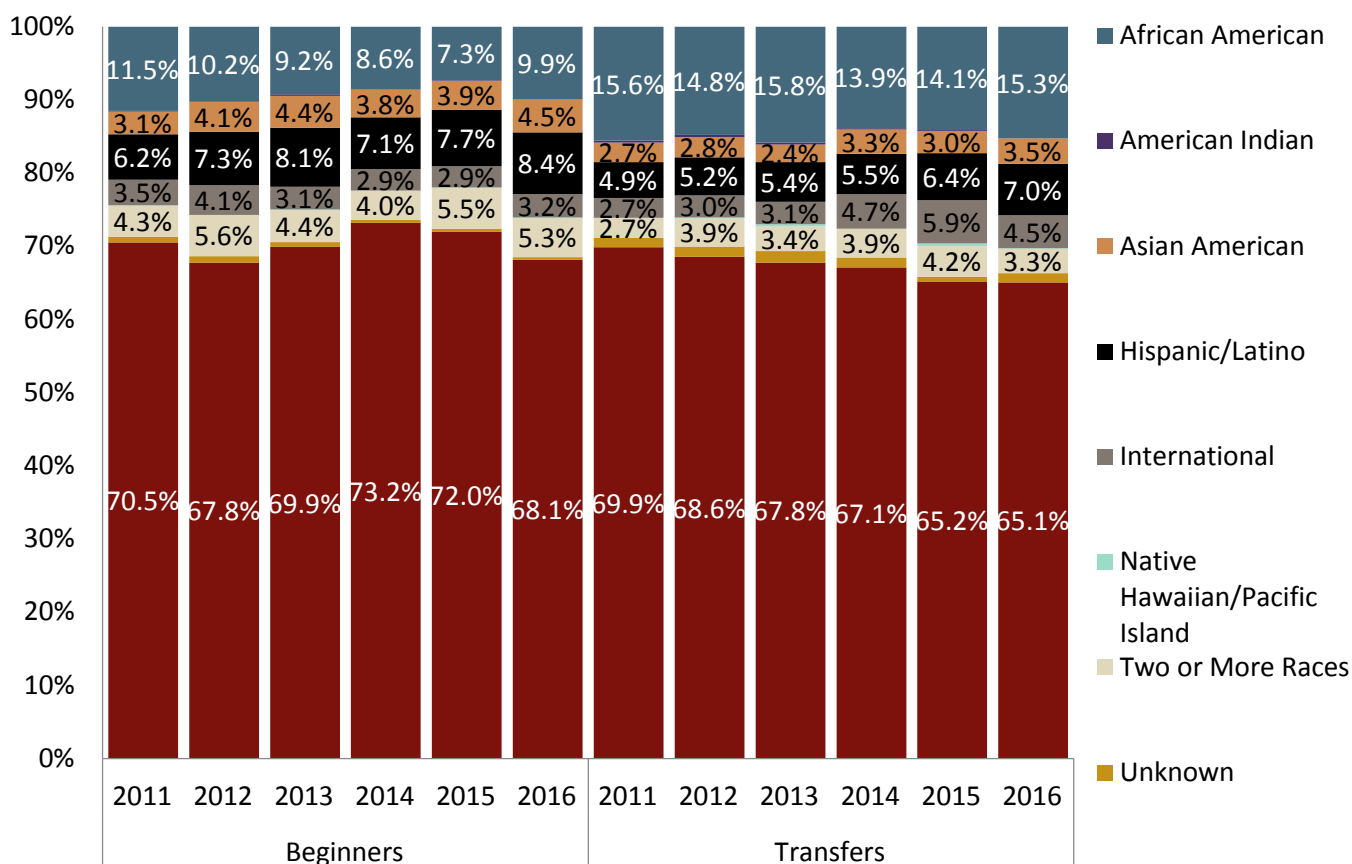
Figure 1) Credit Distribution



Student Demographics

The demographics for transfer students are distinctly different from that of beginners. Transfer student cohorts tend to have a larger proportion of African American students, yet a lower proportion of Latino students than the beginning cohorts. The percentage of African Americans within the transfer cohorts has remained relatively consistent from year to year; however, the percentage of African Americans within the beginning cohorts increased considerably in Fall 2016. It is also worth noting that although the percentage of Latino students has consistently increased within the transfer cohorts, the raw number of Latino students has stayed fairly consistent, between 80 and 87 in every year since 2011. In other words, the number of incoming Latino students is increasing as a percentage of the total transfer population, but the raw number is not increasing much.

Figure 2) Ethnicity Percentages of Beginning and Transfer Student Cohorts



Source:

https://tableau.bi.iu.edu/t/prd/views/IUPUICohortProfiles/CohortProfiles?:embed=y&:display_count=no#4

About 55% of incoming transfer students have been female in almost every year since 2011. This is a smaller percentage than the beginning cohorts (approximately 58%). In Fall 2016, about 52% of incoming transfer students were female.

Table 3) Gender Counts and Percentages of Beginning and Transfer Student Cohorts

Gender	Beginners						Transfer					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Female	1,594	1,713	1,991	2,080	2,113	2,178	893	909	885	801	708	663
	57.7%	56.0%	57.0%	58.0%	58.3%	57.9%	54.4%	54.9%	55.1%	51.1%	54.6%	52.4%
Male	1,169	1,347	1,499	1,504	1,509	1,583	749	748	720	765	588	602
	42.3%	44.0%	43.0%	42.0%	41.7%	42.1%	45.6%	45.1%	44.9%	48.9%	45.4%	47.6%

Source:

https://tableau.bi.iu.edu/t/prd/views/IUPUICohortProfiles/CohortProfiles?:embed=y&:display_count=no#4

Transfers are also somewhat less likely to be in-state residents. The number of beginners who are residents has continued to increase while the number of transfer students who are residents decreased to 89% in Fall 2016. This trend should be monitored as IUPUI begins its partnership with the Midwest Student Exchange.

Table 4) Residency Status Counts and Percentages of Beginning and Transfer Student Cohorts

Residency	Beginners						Transfer					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Indiana Resident	2,558	2,804	3,264	3,370	3,406	3,456	1,492	1,512	1,458	1,424	1,146	1,095
	92.6%	91.6%	93.5%	94.0%	94.0%	91.9%	90.9%	91.2%	90.8%	90.9%	88.4%	86.6%
Non-Resident	205	256	226	214	216	305	150	145	147	142	150	170
	7.4%	8.4%	6.5%	6.0%	6.0%	8.1%	9.1%	8.8%	9.2%	9.1%	11.6%	13.4%

Source:

https://tableau.bi.iu.edu/t/prd/views/IUPUICohortProfiles/CohortProfiles?:embed=y&:display_count=no#4

Fall 2016 saw a considerable drop in the percentage of both Beginners and new Transfer who identified as first generation students. Approximately 31% of Fall 2016 beginners and 30% of Fall 2016 transfer students were first generation.

Table 5) First Generation Status Counts and Percentages of Beginning and Transfer Student Cohorts

First Gen Students	Beginners						Transfer					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1st Generation	1,159	1,217	1,223	1,198	1,241	1,156	593	622	550	526	430	381
	41.9%	39.8%	35.0%	33.4%	34.3%	30.7%	36.1%	37.5%	34.3%	33.6%	33.2%	30.1%
Not 1st Generation	1,604	1,843	2,267	2,386	2,381	2,605	1,049	1,035	1,055	1,040	866	884
	58.1%	60.2%	65.0%	66.6%	65.7%	69.3%	63.9%	62.5%	65.7%	66.4%	66.8%	69.9%

Source:

https://tableau.bi.iu.edu/t/prd/views/IUPUICohortProfiles/CohortProfiles?:embed=y&:display_count=no#4

The age proportions between beginning and transfer cohorts are distinctly different. At least 92% of beginning students were under 20 in every cohort since 2011. However, at least 24% of new transfer students were 25 years of age or older in every fall semester since 2011. Since 2013 the number and percent of transfer students 25 and older has been decreasing, yet the number of transfers under 20 years of age increased in Fall 2016.

Table 6) Age Counts and Percentages of Beginning and Transfer Student Cohorts

Age	Beginners						Transfer					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Under 20	2,600	2,827	3,272	3,408	3,484	3,612	118	116	102	101	206	243
	94.1%	92.4%	93.8%	95.1%	96.2%	96.0%	7.2%	7.0%	6.4%	6.4%	15.9%	19.2%
20 - 21	96	151	122	107	95	105	567	566	571	556	480	455
	3.5%	4.9%	3.5%	3.0%	2.6%	2.8%	34.5%	34.2%	35.6%	35.5%	37.0%	36.0%
22 - 24	26	40	60	43	25	27	413	416	406	413	269	256
	0.9%	1.3%	1.7%	1.2%	0.7%	0.7%	25.2%	25.1%	25.3%	26.4%	20.8%	20.2%
25 and Older	41	42	36	26	18	17	544	559	526	496	341	311
	1.5%	1.4%	1.0%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	33.1%	33.7%	32.8%	31.7%	26.3%	24.6%

Source:

https://tableau.bi.iu.edu/t/prd/views/IUPUICohortProfiles/CohortProfiles?:embed=y&:display_count=no#4

The percentages of beginning students directly admitted into the school of their chosen program have been steadily increasing and have reached 46% as of 2016. The percentage of transfer students directly admitted to their school of choice was greater than 50% in Fall 2016, the first time this has occurred since Fall 2011.

Table 7) Direct Admit Counts and Percentages of Beginning and Transfer Student Cohorts

Direct Admits	Beginners						Transfer					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Direct Admit	947	1,023	1,250	1,319	1,471	1,728	835	748	729	707	589	640
	34.3%	33.4%	35.8%	36.8%	40.6%	45.9%	50.9%	45.1%	45.4%	45.1%	45.4%	50.6%
University	1,816	2,037	2,240	2,265	2,151	2,033	807	909	876	859	707	625
College Admit	65.7%	66.6%	64.2%	63.2%	59.4%	54.1%	49.1%	54.9%	54.6%	54.9%	54.6%	49.4%

Credit Hour Enrollment

Transfers were much more likely to be enrolled part-time or, if they are enrolled full-time, they are more likely to enroll for 12 to 14 credits. However, the percentage of transfer students enrolling in 15 or more credits has increased steadily since 2012, with 43% of new external transfer students enrolling in 15 or more credits during the first year of banded tuition in Fall 2016.

Table 8) First Semester Credit Hour Counts and Percentages of Beginning and Transfer Student Cohorts

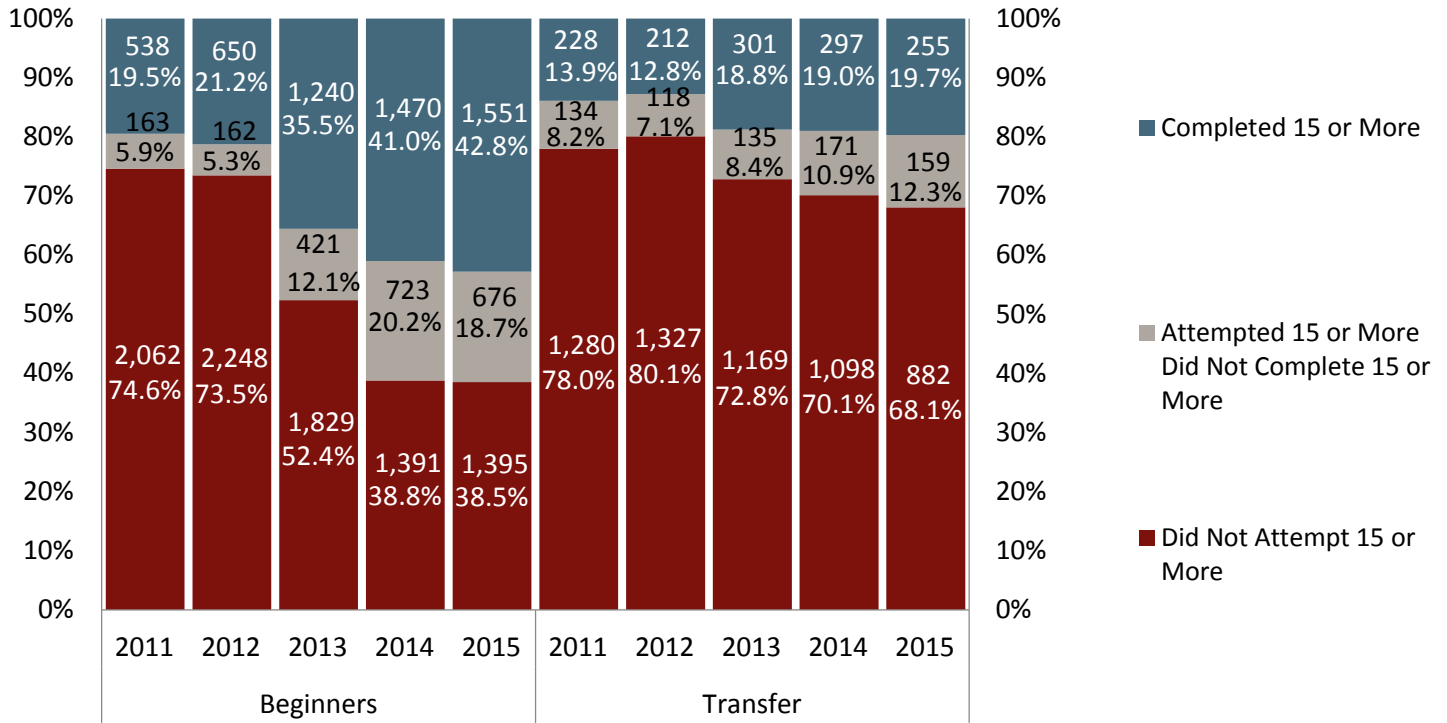
Time Status	Beginners						Transfer					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Part Time (Less Than 12 Credit Hours)	212	249	238	134	178	149	352	413	376	333	260	238
	7.7%	8.1%	6.8%	3.7%	4.9%	4.0%	21.4%	24.9%	23.4%	21.3%	20.1%	18.8%
12 - 14 Hours	1864	2010	1603	1273	1229	1,124	933	916	793	767	630	477
	67.5%	65.7%	45.9%	35.5%	33.9%	29.9%	56.8%	55.3%	49.4%	49.0%	48.6%	37.7%
15 or More Hours	687	801	1,649	2,177	2,215	2,488	357	328	436	466	406	550
	24.9%	26.2%	47.2%	60.7%	61.2%	66.2%	21.7%	19.8%	27.2%	29.8%	31.3%	43.5%

Source:

https://tableau.bi.iu.edu/t/prd/views/IUPUICohortProfiles/CohortProfiles?:embed=y&:display_count=no#4

The graph below shows the percentage of each cohort completing 15 or more credit hours within their first semester at IUPUI. In recent years, the beginning students have become much more likely to attempt and complete 15 credit hours while the majority of transfer students will not even attempt 15 credit hours.

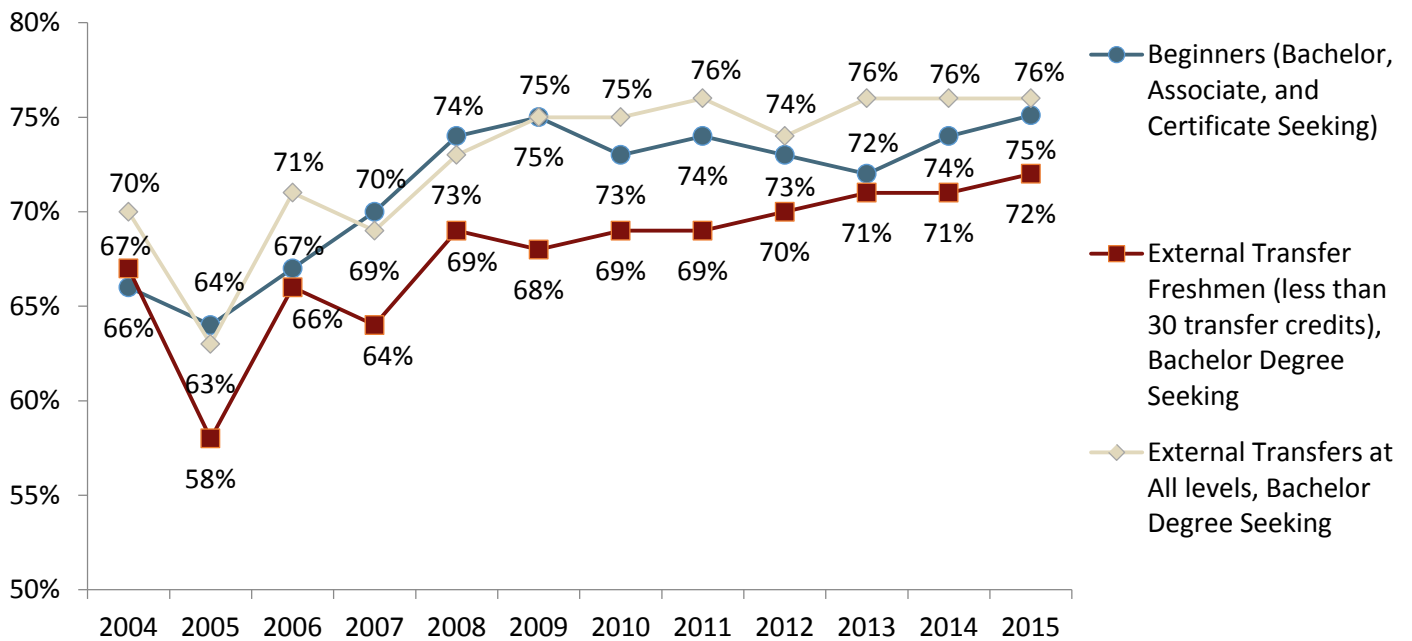
Figure 3) Counts and Percentages of Students Completing or Attempting 15 or More Credit Hours within their First Fall



Retention and Graduation

The beginning student cohorts' one year retention rates are higher than freshman transfer cohorts' rates, yet lower than the overall transfer cohort's rates. This pattern is to be expected since transfers with a larger number of transfer credits are much more likely to continue through college than beginning freshmen.

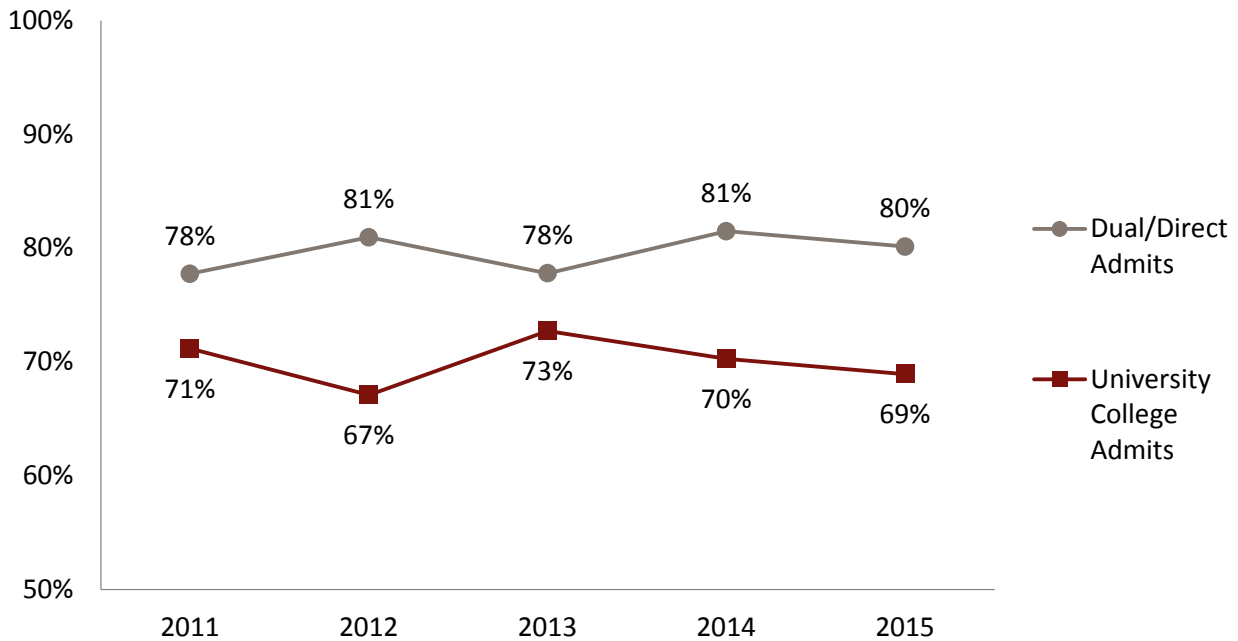
Figure 4) 1 Year Retention Rates of Indianapolis Only, Full Time Students



Source: Hansen, 2015

External transfer students who were directly admitted into their school were more likely to return to IUPUI one year later compared to transfers students who began their IUPUI career in University College.

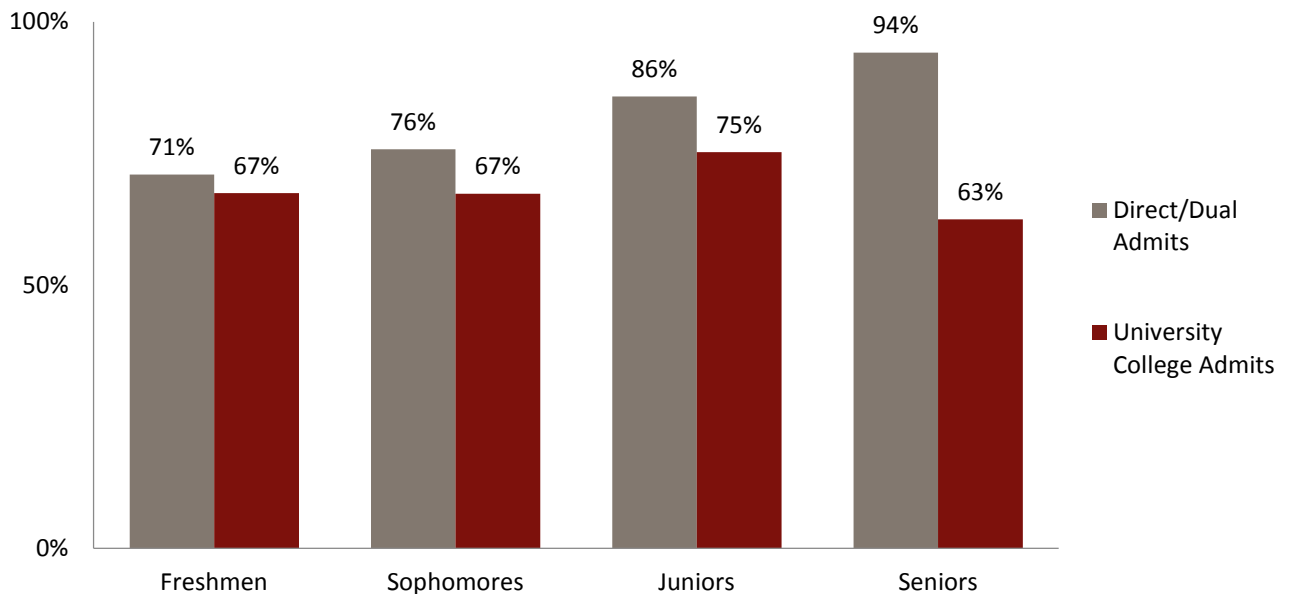
Figure 5) 1 Year Retention Rates of Indianapolis Only Full Time External Transfers, by Direct Admit Status



Source:
IUPUI Transfer enrollment data

Of Transfer students who began at IUPUI in Fall 2015, direct admits were more likely than University College admits to be retained or graduate by Fall 2016, regardless of their class level.

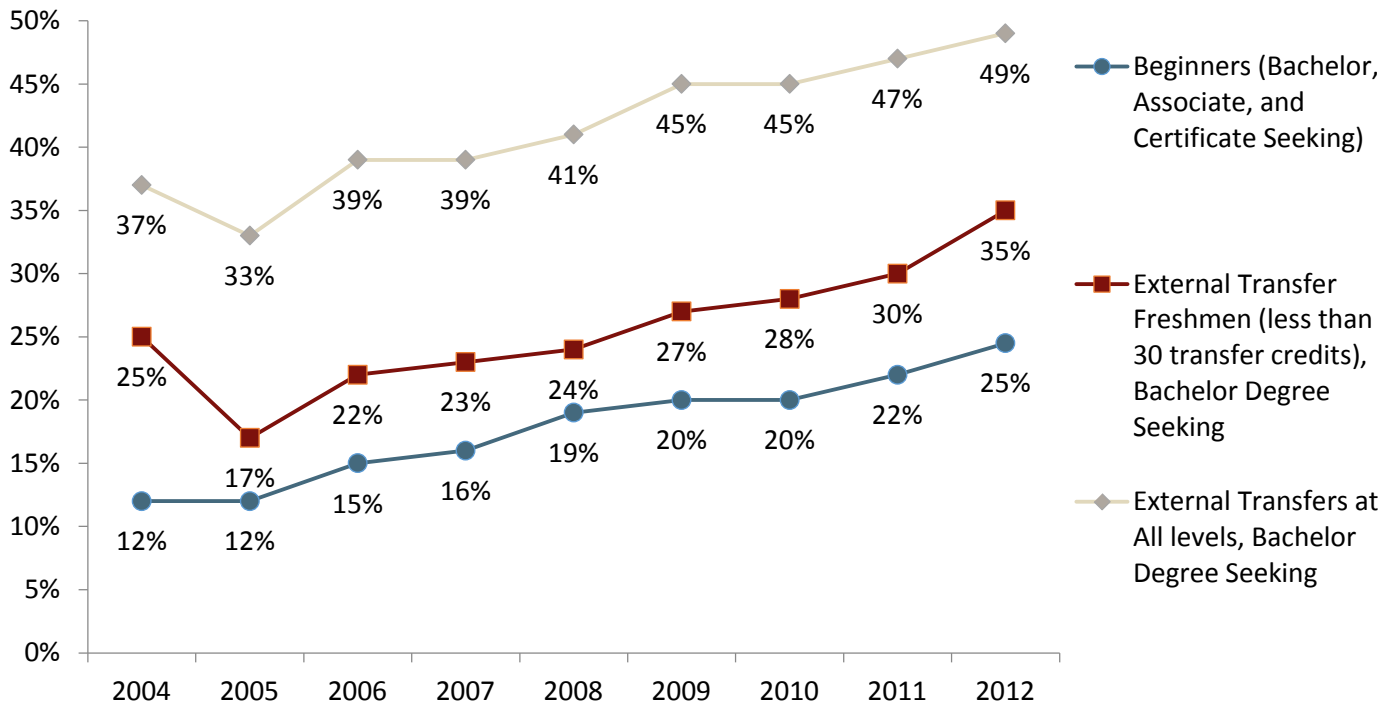
Figure 6) 1 Year Retention Rates of 2015 Indianapolis Only Full Time External Transfers, by Direct Admit Status and Class Level



Source:
IUPUI Transfer enrollment data

The four year graduation rate for beginners is lower than it is for the freshmen transfers and the overall transfers. This is also to be expected since transfers begin at IUPUI with credit whereas beginners do not. Four-year graduation rates for both beginners and transfer students at all levels have been steadily increasing since the Fall 2010 cohort.

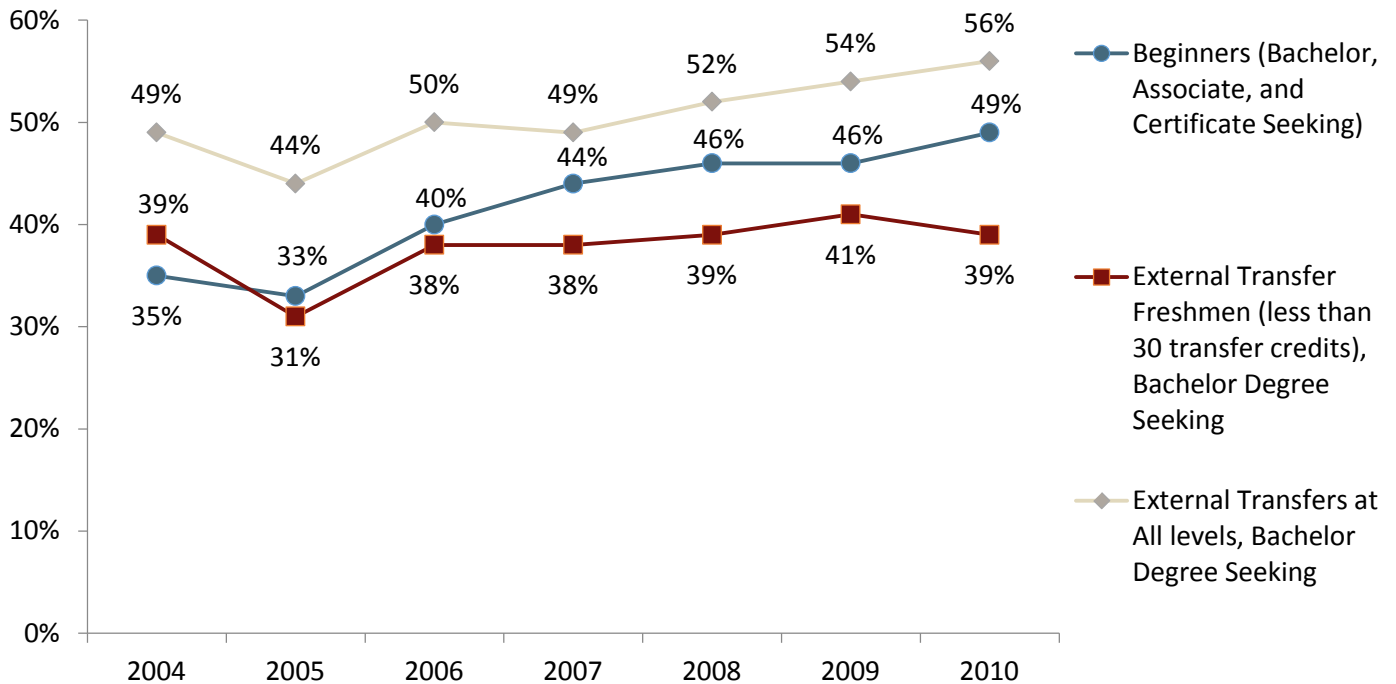
Figure 7) 4-Year Graduation Rates of Indianapolis Only, Full Time Cohorts



Source:
Hansen, 2015

When looking at six-year graduation rates, the pattern becomes similar to the pattern found in the one year retention rates. External transfers at all levels still have the highest graduation rates, but beginners have a higher six year graduation rate than freshmen level transfers.

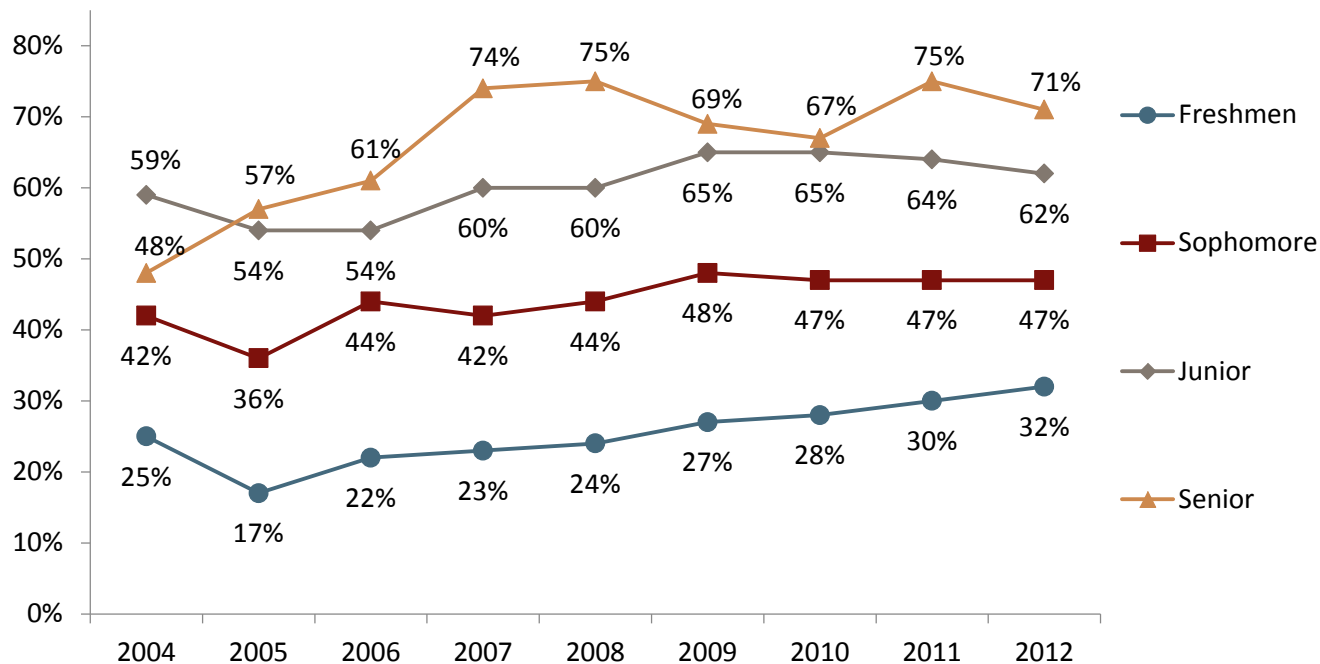
Figure 8) 6 Year Graduation Rates of Indianapolis Only, Full Time Cohorts



Source:
Hansen, 2015

Students who transferred enough credit hours to enter at the senior level were more likely to complete a Bachelor’s degree in four years or less than other transfers students. At least 54% of transfer students in every cohort year who entered IUPUI at the junior level completed a Bachelor’s degree within four years.

Figure 9) IUPUI Indianapolis All New External Transfers, Full-Time Bachelor Degree Seeking 4-Year Graduation Rate by Class Level



Source:
Hansen, 2015

The retention percentages above include only students who came to IUPUI from non-IU campuses. However, about 200 students every Fall come to IUPUI from another IU campus. Intercampus transfers had an average GPA of slightly less than 3.00 in their first term at IUPUI, and were somewhat more likely to be retained or graduate after their first year than external transfers. Staff in IRDS is working to better develop the capacity to identify and track intercampus transfers students, since they are an important group of incoming students every year.

Table 9) GPA and Retention Rates for Intercampus Transfers by Cohort Year

Fall Term	N	First Semester GPA	First Year GPA	Retained First Year IUPUI	Retained First Year Any IU Campus
2013	254	2.89	2.77	73%	78%
2014	265	2.87	2.75	75%	81%
2015	183	2.93	2.88	78%	85%

Conclusion

The number of external transfer students has been decreasing, though the Fall 2016 external transfer cohort was similar in size to Fall 2015. A large source of the decline appears to be in applications, which may be related to decline in enrollment in the largest feeder institution (Ivy Tech Central Indiana). Once transfer students do arrive, students who arrived from Ivy Tech have the highest percentage of distributed credit compared to students who arrived from other institutions. Better information on the time it takes to process transfer credit will be available in the near future.

Transfer students differed from beginners in several important ways. A greater percentage of transfer students were African American (15% of all Fall 2016 transfers compared to 10% of all Fall 2016 beginners). Transfer students were also more likely to be attending part time (18% of Fall 2016 transfers compared 4% of Fall 2016 beginners), or be 20 years of age or older (81% of Fall 2016 transfers compared to 4% of Fall 2016 beginners).

That said, the percentage of transfer students who were under 20 years old increased substantially between 2014 to 2016 (6% in Fall 2014 compared to 19% in Fall 2016) and the percentage of new transfer students taking 15 or more credit hours is also increasing (43% in Fall 2016 compared to 22% in Fall 2011). While it appears as if many transfer students may benefit from programs and services designed to help nontraditional students now, in the future many transfers may have needs similar to beginning students.

Bachelor's degree seeking transfer students who entered with less than 30 credit hours had higher four-year graduation rates than first-time, full-time beginners, but six-year graduation rates were lower. Students with enough credits to enter IUPUI as seniors also had higher graduation rates than students who entered at other class levels. In general, the number of credit hours a student transfers in appears to be positively associated with graduation. Previous research has suggested that transfer GPA, number of hours transferred in, receiving a Pell grant in the first semester, and being directly admitted to a school were all significantly associated with one year retention for transfer students (Graunke, Hansen, Rauch, & Wright, 2015). Similar factors may also be associated with four and six year graduation rates. More study will undoubtedly be necessary.

References

Graunke, S., Hansen, M., Rauch, & Wright, J. (2015, March 4). *Dispelling myths with data: An examination of incoming transfer students*. Presentation at the 2015 INAIR Annual Conference: Indianapolis, IN. Retrieved from http://irds.iupui.edu/Portals/SDAE/Files/Documents/Dispelling%20Transfer%20myths_INAIR%202015.pdf

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