



SDCCD Transfer Report A Longitudinal Perspective

Spring 2010

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Office of Institutional Research and Planning
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Introduction

One of the core missions of the community college system is to transfer students to a 4-year institution. Colleges place a great deal of emphasis on transfer and on creating clear transfer pathways for students. Instructional programs and course offerings are designed to make transfer possible. Support services are geared at preparing students for transfer and upper-division level studies. The San Diego Community College District continues to track the progress and performance of this outcome, particularly as budgets shrink and the 4-year institutions narrow their pipeline.

This report provides a longitudinal perspective of student transfer patterns from two different perspectives: volume and rate. Transfer rate is often used to track a cohort of students with similar qualities that might characterize a particular behavior (e.g., intent to transfer) over a specified period of time. Transfer volume is often used to examine the sheer count of transfer students. Like transfer rate, transfer volume can include specific characteristics to narrow the population under study, however, unlike transfer rate, volume does not involve tracking of a cohort of students. Transfer rate provides information that is time-restricted which could be very useful for informing decisions regarding curriculum, course offerings and scheduling. Transfer volume on the other hand, identifies the overall number of transfers which may be valuable information when used in tandem with enrollment trends to determine whether or not there are equitable support services among segments in the population. With both volume and rate, those students who are transfer-prepared (e.g., completed GED requirements and transfer level course requirements), but either don't transfer or transfer outside of a specified tracking window are not counted. Much of the good work that colleges do in the area of transfer effects those transfer-prepared students who are not reported on in this report but can be found in some statewide reports (i.e., ARCC)

This report includes overall transfer volume and rate for all colleges in the district, as well as by each individual college (City, Mesa, and Miramar College). Gender and ethnicity information is also included as part of the necessary equity lens for viewing data and information of this type. The results in this report suggest that when considering transfer volume and rate information together, the typical understanding of what constitutes a transfer student can be challenging. Many people understand "transfer" to be a typical outcome measure of community colleges and student success, which may assume a student having completed two years of credit toward a bachelor's degree. However, as data from this report and other statewide reports suggest, the term "transfer" can have multiple meanings depending on the parameters selected and identified as representing transfer pathways. Consequently, transfer pathways are a very important consideration when analyzing and using these data as a valid indicator of community college student success. Furthermore, curriculum, support services, outreach and other interventions should all be considered influencers of student transfer outcomes.

Methodology

Transfer Volume: Data for the transfer volume tables and figures came from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). One of the advantages to using NSC is that student transfer behavior can be tracked and identified at both the national and state levels. Data for students who attended one of the District's three colleges-City, Mesa, or Miramar-for both public and private institutions was sent to the NSC and matched against their transfer student database according to the first college a student attended in the SDCCD. NSC then returned the matched dataset to the District Office of Institutional Research and Planning (IRP). IRP put further parameters on the dataset and defined transfer volume as the total number of students who transferred to a 4-year institution and were enrolled at an SDCCD college at any time within three semesters prior to transferring (including stop outs). The student must also have completed 12 or more transferrable units within six years prior to transferring to a 4-year institution. **Please note, in order to more accurately report on transfer patterns, the following change has been made: The timeframe to complete 12 or more transferrable units increased from four years to six years.**

Transfer Rate: Data for the transfer rate tables and figures came from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Data on Demand system. The data are used in the ARCC Report to calculate the Student Progress and Achievement Rate (SPAR). The data included three different cohorts that were tracked for 6 years each. The cohort consists of first-time students who completed 12 units in a six year period and who attempted a degree, certificate, or transfer course. Completing 12 units is a behavioral signal that some researchers advise using to calculate transfer rate compared to a self-reported educational goal (Hom, 2009). To calculate the transfer rate the number of students who successfully transfer to a 4-year institution were divided by the initial cohort and then multiplied by 100. One of the advantages to using the Data on Demand (DOD) system is students can be identified throughout the state's community college system.

Transfer Volume

Sheer Volume

Overall, the annual transfer volume for all colleges in the district decreased by 5% between 2004-05 and 2008-09, from 3,125 in 2004-05 to 2,975 in 2008-09. However, trends varied by each individual college within the same time frame. In particular, the annual transfer volume decreased slightly at City College by 1%, from 692 in 2004-05 to 684 in 2008-09, and decreased at Mesa College by 9%, from 1,871 in 2004-05 to 1,699 in 2008-09. However, the annual transfer volume at Miramar College increased by 5%, from 562 in 2004-05 to 592 in 2008-09. It is worth noting that although Mesa College experienced the greatest decline in annual transfer volume, Mesa College still accounted for the majority of the transfer volume of all colleges in the district. This is perhaps due to the fact that Mesa College has the largest student headcount population of the three colleges.

Figure 1.0. Overall Transfer Volume for All Colleges and by College

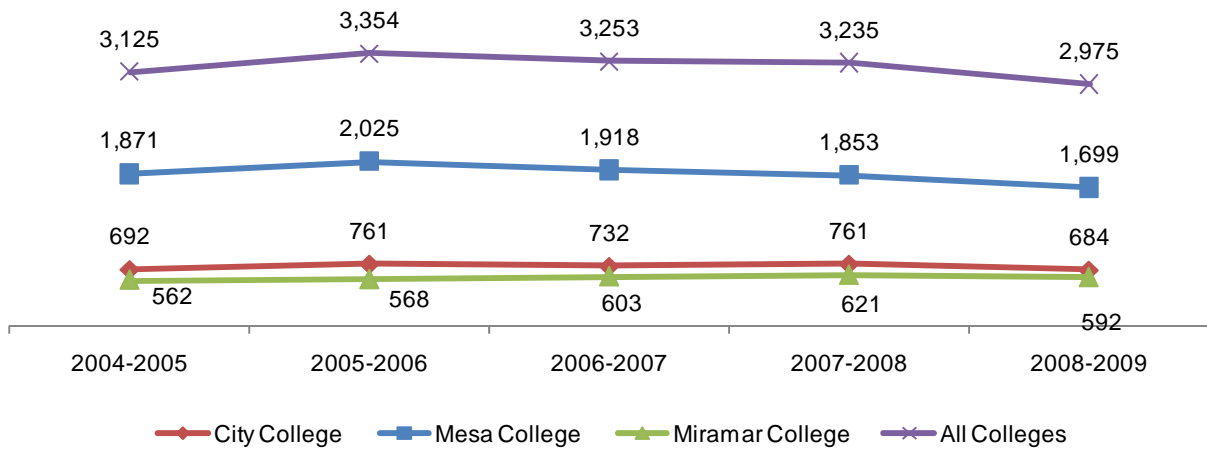


Table 1.0. Overall Transfer Volume for All Colleges and by College

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	% Change 04/05-08/09
City College	692	761	732	761	684	-1%
Mesa College	1,871	2,025	1,918	1,853	1,699	-9%
Miramar College	562	568	603	621	592	5%
All Colleges	3,125	3,354	3,253	3,235	2,975	-5%

Source: SDCCD Information System

Top 5 Destinations

The top two four-year transfer institutions were San Diego State University (SDSU) and University of California, San Diego (UCSD) across all colleges in the district and for each individual college (City, Mesa, and Miramar). For SDSU, the transfer volume decreased by 30%, from 1,002 in 2004-05 to 705 in 2008-09. Between 2007-08 and 2008-09 there was a sharp decline (43%) in transfer volume from all colleges in SDCCD to SDSU. This sudden decline in transfer volume is likely a result of admission changes, fee increases and fewer classes offered due to budget constraints. The remaining top three institutions were consistent across all colleges in the district and each individual college, but varied slightly in rank by college. For instance, at City College, transfer volumes to National University (3rd) and University of Phoenix (4th) ranked higher than at Mesa and Miramar College. This may be due to City College having strong relationships with private colleges which they host on a regular basis (Hayward, 2010; Mery et al., 2010). Although transfer volume fluctuated from year to year, general trends indicated that the district transfer volume to SDSU, CSU San Marcos, and University of Phoenix decreased (30%, 41%, and 38%, respectively) between 2004-05 and 2008-09, whereas transfer volume to UC San Diego and National University increased (1% and 25%, respectively) within the same time period.

Figure 2.0. SDCCD-Top Five 4-Year Transfers Institutions 2004-05 to 2008-09

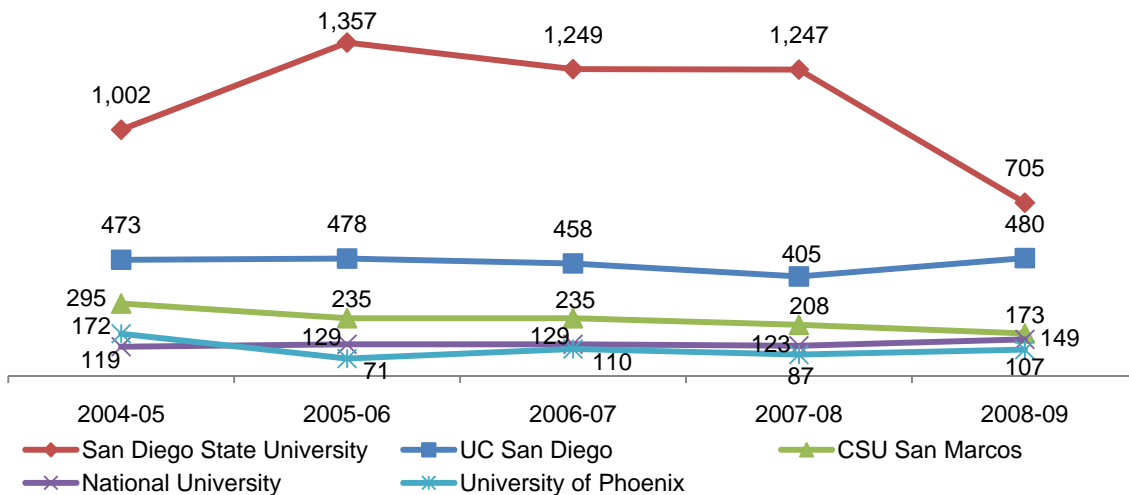


Table 2.0 SDCCD -Top Five 4-Year Transfer Institutions 2004-05 to 2008-09

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		% Change 04/05-08/09
San Diego State University	1,002	49%	1,357	60%	1,249	57%	1,247	60%	705	44%	-30%
UC San Diego	473	23%	478	21%	458	21%	405	20%	480	30%	1%
CSU San Marcos	295	14%	235	10%	235	11%	208	10%	173	11%	-41%
National University	119	6%	129	6%	129	6%	123	6%	149	9%	25%
University of Phoenix	172	8%	71	3%	110	5%	87	4%	107	7%	-38%
Total	2,061	100%	2,270	100%	2,181	100%	2,070	100%	1,614	100%	-22%

Source: SDCCD Information System

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Figure 2.1. City-Top Five 4-Year Transfers Institutions 2004-05 to 2008-09

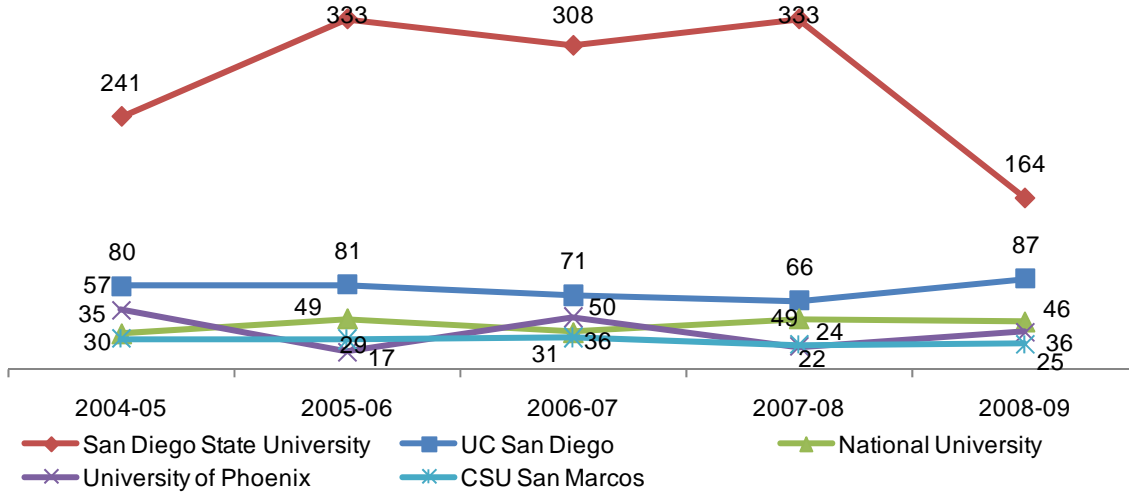
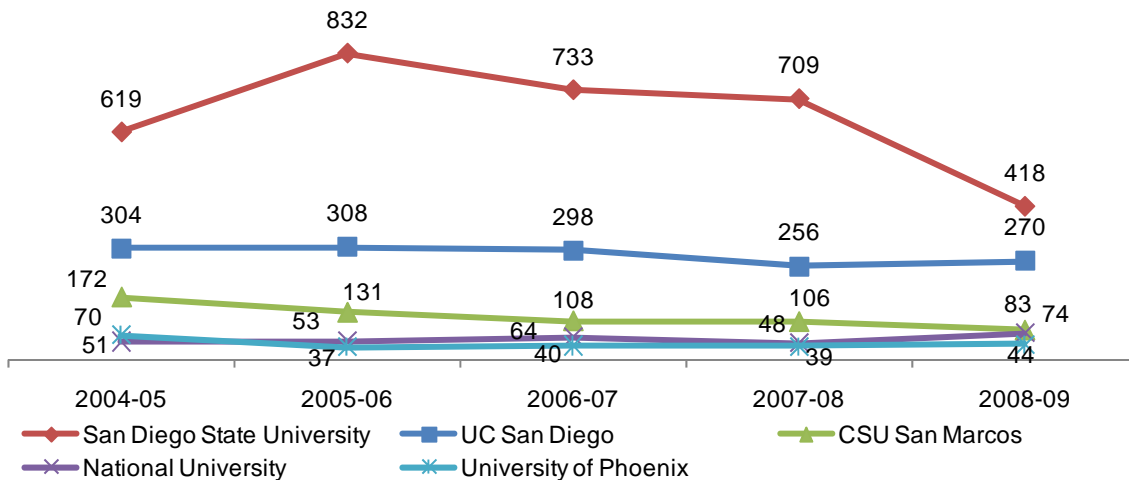


Table 2.1. City College -Top Five 4-Year Transfer Institutions 2004-05 to 2008-09

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		% Change 04/05-08/09
San Diego State University	241	54%	333	65%	308	62%	333	67%	164	46%	-32%
UC San Diego	80	18%	81	16%	71	14%	66	13%	87	24%	9%
National University	35	8%	49	10%	36	7%	49	10%	46	13%	31%
University of Phoenix	57	13%	17	3%	50	10%	22	4%	36	10%	-37%
CSU San Marcos	30	7%	29	6%	31	6%	24	5%	25	7%	-17%
Total	443	100%	509	100%	496	100%	494	100%	358	100%	-19%

Source: SDCCD Information System

Figure 2.2. Mesa-Top Five 4-Year Transfers Institutions 2004-05 to 2008-09



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Table 2.2. Mesa College - Top Five 4-Year Transfer Institutions 2004-05 to 2008-09

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		% Change 04/05-08/09
San Diego State University	619	51%	832	61%	733	59%	709	61%	418	47%	-32%
UC San Diego	304	25%	308	23%	298	24%	256	22%	270	30%	-11%
CSU San Marcos	172	14%	131	10%	108	9%	106	9%	83	9%	-52%
National University	51	4%	53	4%	64	5%	48	4%	74	8%	45%
University of Phoenix	70	6%	37	3%	40	3%	39	3%	44	5%	-37%
Total	1,216	100%	1,361	100%	1,243	100%	1,158	100%	889	100%	-27%

Source: SDCCD Information System

Figure 2.3. Miramar-Top Five 4-Year Transfers Institutions 2004-05 to 2008-09

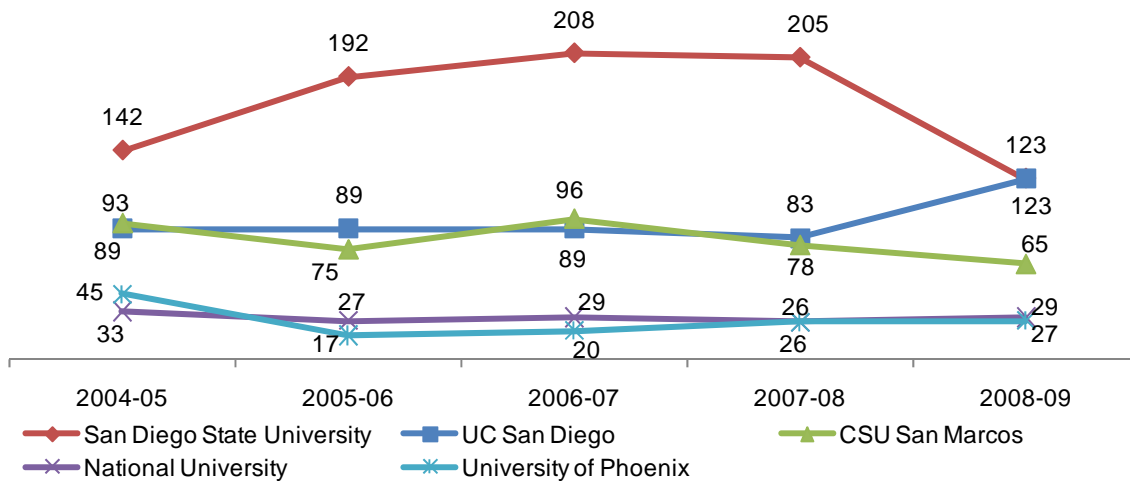


Table 2.3. Miramar College -Top Five 4-Year Transfer Institutions 2004-05 to 2008-09

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		% Change 04/05-08/09
San Diego State University	142	35%	192	48%	208	47%	205	49%	123	34%	-13%
UC San Diego	89	22%	89	22%	89	20%	83	20%	123	34%	38%
CSU San Marcos	93	23%	75	19%	96	22%	78	19%	65	18%	-30%
National University	33	8%	27	7%	29	7%	26	6%	29	8%	-12%
University of Phoenix	45	11%	17	4%	20	5%	26	6%	27	7%	-40%
Total	402	100%	400	100%	442	100%	418	100%	367	100%	-9%

Source: SDCCD Information System

Demographics

Of all the students who transferred from all colleges in the district between 2004-05 and 2008-09, almost half were White students (46%) on average. Both Latino students (15%) and Asian/Pacific Islander students (13%) had the next highest transfer volume between 2004-05 and 2008-09.

However, trends in annual transfer volumes varied widely by ethnic groups. African American students displayed the greatest increase in transfer volume, up 25% from 145 in 2004-05 to 181 in 2008-09, whereas American Indian students displayed the greatest decline in transfer volume, down 23% from 26 in 2004-05 to 20 in 2008-09. With regard to gender, of those who transferred from all colleges in the district between 2004-05 and 2008-09, on average, 54% were female students and 46% were male students. The transfer volume for both female and male students declined slightly between 2004-05 and 2008-09, by 5% for females and by 4% for males.

Figure 3.0. All Colleges Annual Transfers by Ethnicity

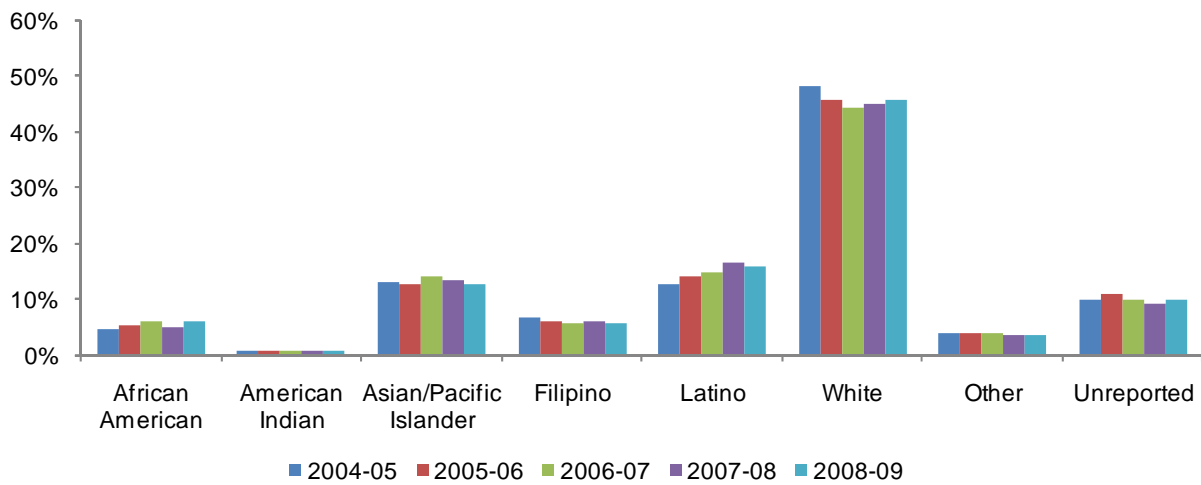


Table 3.0. All Colleges Annual Transfers by Ethnicity

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		All Colleges Average 04/05-08/09	% Change 04/05-08/09
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%		
African American	145	5%	184	5%	196	6%	160	5%	181	6%	5%	25%
American Indian	26	1%	28	1%	22	1%	24	1%	20	1%	1%	-23%
Asian/Pacific Islander	411	13%	424	13%	457	14%	435	13%	374	13%	13%	-9%
Filipino	207	7%	208	6%	185	6%	200	6%	170	6%	6%	-18%
Latino	396	13%	472	14%	487	15%	539	17%	468	16%	15%	18%
White	1,504	48%	1,540	46%	1,449	45%	1,458	45%	1,361	46%	46%	-10%
Other	121	4%	127	4%	133	4%	119	4%	105	4%	4%	-13%
Unreported	315	10%	371	11%	324	10%	300	9%	296	10%	10%	-6%
Total	3,125	100%	3,354	100%	3,253	100%	3,235	100%	2,975	100%	100%	-5%

Source: SDCCD Information System

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Figure 3.1. All Colleges Annual Transfers by Gender

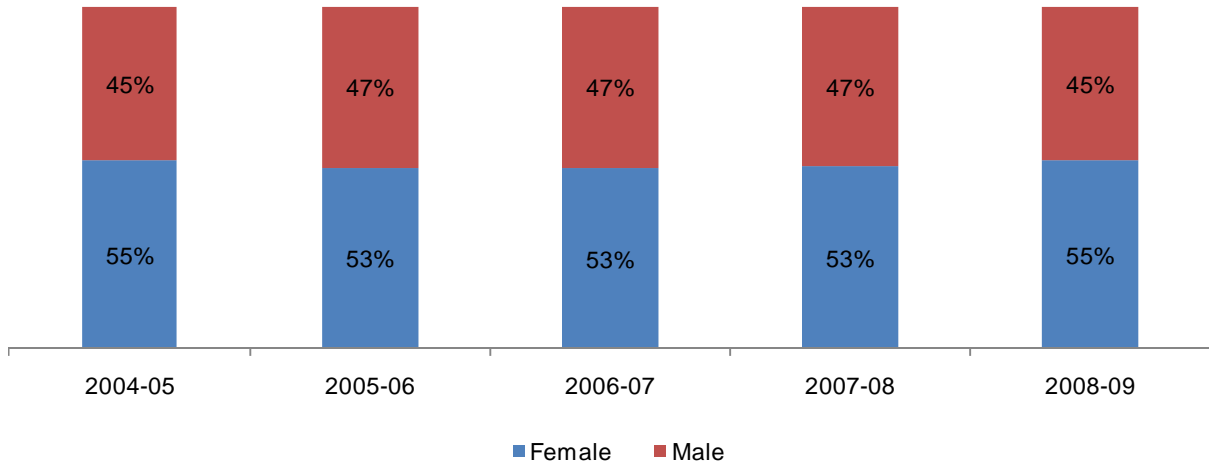


Table 3.1. All Colleges Annual Transfers by Gender

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		All Colleges Average 04/05-08/09	% Change 04/05-08/09
Female	1,716	55%	1,778	53%	1,712	53%	1,720	53%	1,630	55%	54%	-5%
Male	1,405	45%	1,572	47%	1,540	47%	1,514	47%	1,344	45%	46%	-4%
Unreported	4	0%	4	0%	1	0%	1	0%	1	0%	0%	-75%
Total	3,125	100%	3,354	100%	3,253	100%	3,235	100%	2,975	100%	100%	-5%

Source: SDCCD Information System

Transfer Rate

Overall Transfer Rate

Overall, the transfer rate for the three colleges was relatively stable for the three cohort years (39% to 38%) examined. The transfer rate at each of the three colleges is slightly below the statewide averages (40%). It should be noted that the transfer rate patterns are different from the transfer volume patterns. For example the transfer rate of City College is declining, but the transfer volume is increasing. This is mainly due to the parameters of the cohort criteria for the transfer rate. The cohorts for transfer rate include first-time students who attempted a degree, certificate, or transfer course. Transfer volume includes all students (first-time, transfer, etc.) regardless of what courses were taken. Students initially taking courses at another institution would not be included in the transfer rate, but would be included in transfer volume. This would result in higher numbers in transfer volume compared to transfer rate. The transfer rate for City College dropped from the first cohort in 2000-01 (38%) to the final cohort 2002-03 (31%). There was an increase in transfer rate for Mesa College from the first cohort in 2000-01 (42%) to the final cohort 2002-03 (44%). The transfer rate at Miramar College also showed an increase from the first cohort 2000-01 (34%) to the final cohort in 2002-03 (38%). The number of successful transfers in the transfer rate cohort of 2000-01 to 2005-06 (n=2,385) was lower than transfer volume year of 2005-2006 (n=3,354), but this is due to the differences in design.

All Colleges

Table 4.0 Initial Cohort of Transfer Students by College

	Cohort		
	2000-01 to 2005-06	2001-02 to 2006-07	2002-03 to 2007-08
City	2,132	2,160	2,118
Mesa	3,006	2,713	2,979
Miramar	1,121	1,203	1,260
All Colleges	6,105	5,889	6,034

Source: Chancellor Office MIS

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Figure 4.1. Overall Transfer Rate by College

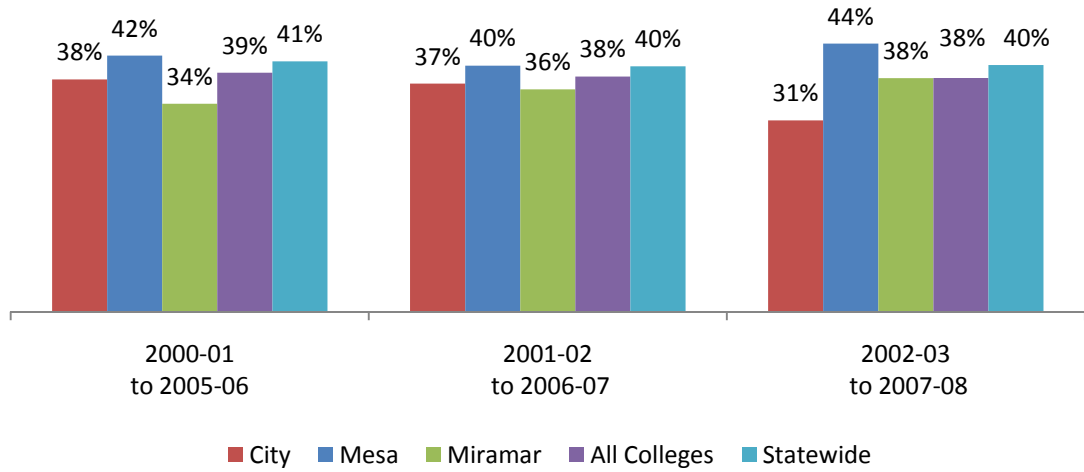


Table 4.1 Overall Transfer Rate by College

	Cohort						College Average 00/01 - 02/03
	2000-01 to 2005-06		2001-02 to 2006-07		2002-03 to 2007-08		
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	
City	809	38%	805	37%	662	31%	36%
Mesa	1,258	42%	1,091	40%	1,305	44%	42%
Miramar	381	34%	437	36%	481	38%	36%
All Colleges	2,385	39%	2,263	38%	2,305	38%	39%
Statewide		41%		40%		40%	40%

Source: Chancellor Office MIS

Transfer Rate by Ethnicity

Overall, the ethnic groups with the highest transfer rates for the three cohort years were Asian/Pacific Islander and Filipino (49%, 47%, 46% and 47%, 49%, 49% respectively). These transfer rates are similar to the success rates for the three colleges except that White students have the highest success rates, but only third in transfer rates. Asian/Pacific Islander and Filipino also had the highest transfer rates statewide (average 47% and 39% respectively). The ethnic groups with the lowest transfer rates were African American and Latino (29%, 29%, 26% and 31%, 28%, 26% respectively). The individual colleges follow this same pattern. African American and Latino ethnic groups are also the lowest statewide (average 34% and 30% respectively). The retention rates of African American and American Indian have also been the lowest from 2004-05 to 2008-09 compared to the other ethnic groups. This may partially explain the low transfer rates of these two groups. If students are not retained then they cannot progress to transfer level courses.

All Colleges

Figure 5.0. All Colleges Overall Transfer Rate by Ethnicity

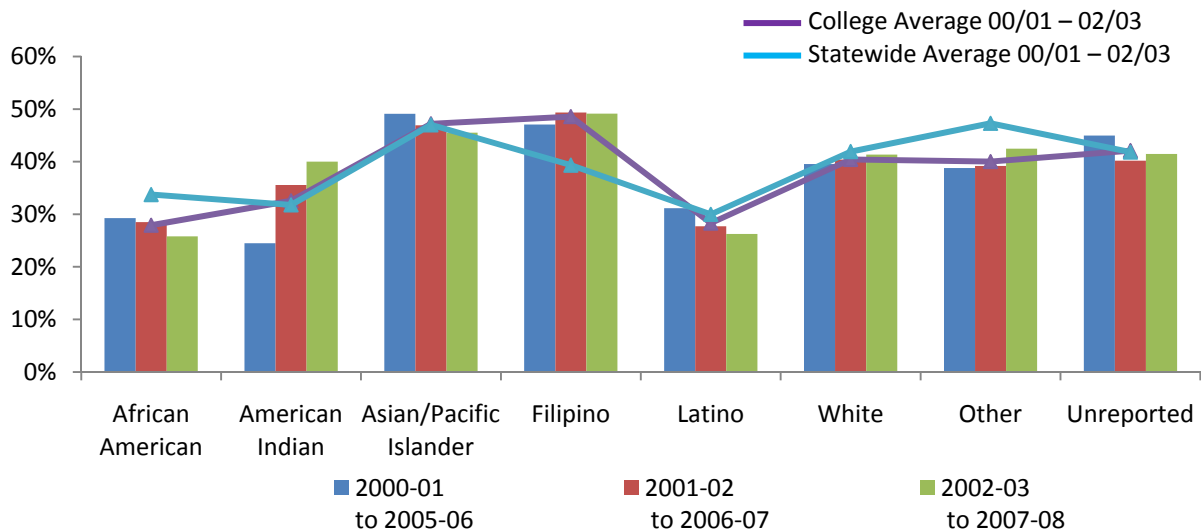


Table 5.0 All Colleges Overall Transfer Rate by Ethnicity

	Cohort			College Average 00/01 - 02/03	Statewide Average 00/01 - 02/03
	2000-01 to 2005-06	2001-02 to 2006-07	2002-03 to 2007-08		
African American	29%	29%	26%	28%	34%
American Indian	24%	36%	40%	33%	32%
Asian/Pacific Islander	49%	47%	46%	47%	47%
Filipino	47%	49%	49%	49%	39%
Latino	31%	28%	26%	28%	30%
White	40%	40%	41%	40%	42%
Other	39%	39%	42%	40%	47%
Unreported	45%	40%	41%	42%	42%
Total	39%	38%	38%	39%	41%

Source: Chancellor Office MIS

By College
City College

Figure 5.1. City College Overall Transfer Rate by Ethnicity

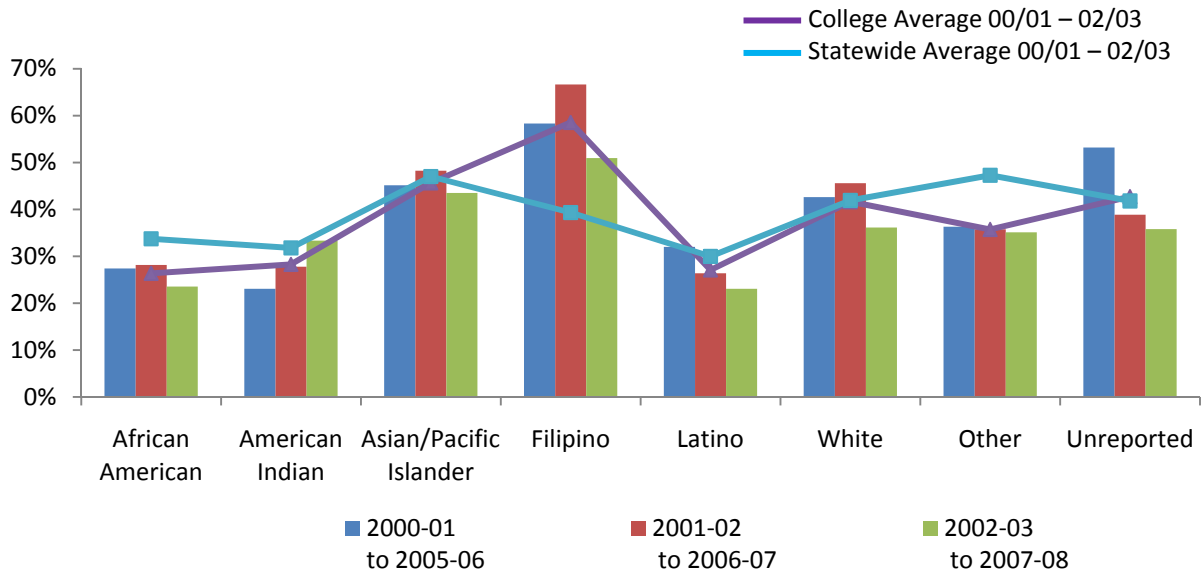


Table 5.1 City College Overall Transfer Rate by Ethnicity

	Cohort			College Average 00/01 - 02/03	Statewide Average 00/01 - 02/03
	2000-01 to 2005-06	2001-02 to 2006-07	2002-03 to 2007-08		
African American	27%	28%	24%	26%	34%
American Indian	23%	28%	33%	28%	32%
Asian/Pacific Islander	45%	48%	44%	46%	47%
Filipino	58%	67%	51%	59%	39%
Latino	32%	26%	23%	27%	30%
White	43%	46%	36%	42%	42%
Other	36%	36%	35%	36%	47%
Unreported	53%	39%	36%	43%	42%
Total	38%	37%	31%	36%	41%

Source: Chancellor Office MIS

Mesa College

Figure 5.2. Mesa College Overall Transfer Rate by Ethnicity

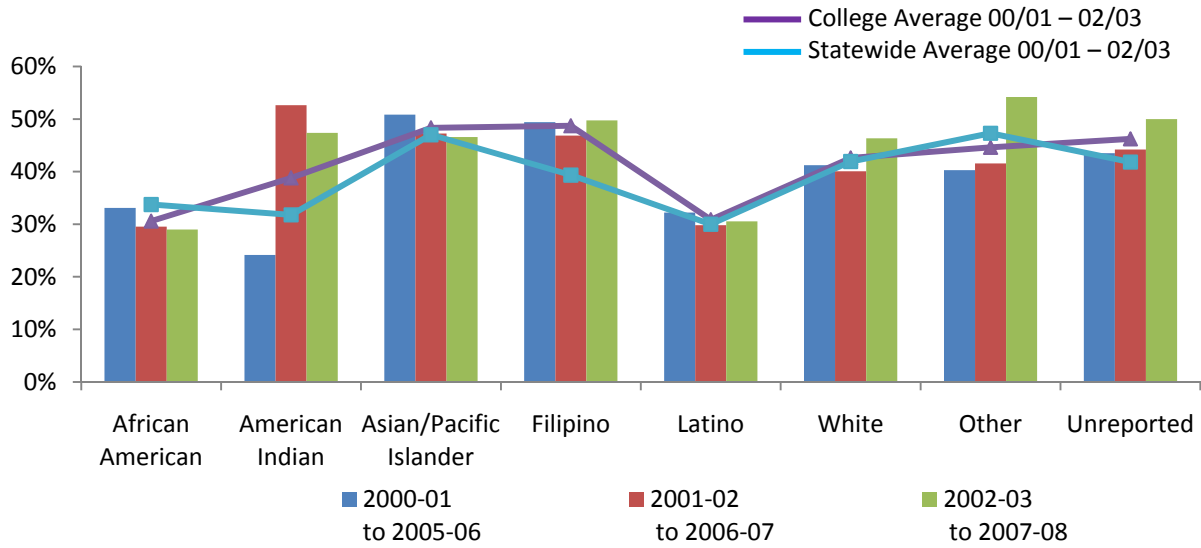


Table 5.2 Mesa College Overall Transfer Rate by Ethnicity

	Cohort			College Average 00/01 - 02/03	Statewide Average 00/01 - 02/03
	2000-01 to 2005-06	2001-02 to 2006-07	2002-03 to 2007-08		
African American	33%	30%	29%	31%	34%
American Indian	24%	53%	47%	39%	32%
Asian/Pacific Islander	51%	47%	47%	48%	47%
Filipino	49%	47%	50%	49%	39%
Latino	32%	30%	31%	31%	30%
White	41%	40%	46%	43%	42%
Other	40%	42%	55%	45%	47%
Unreported	44%	44%	50%	46%	42%
Total	42%	40%	44%	42%	41%

Source: Chancellor Office MIS

Miramar College

Figure 5.3. Miramar College Overall Transfer Rate by Ethnicity

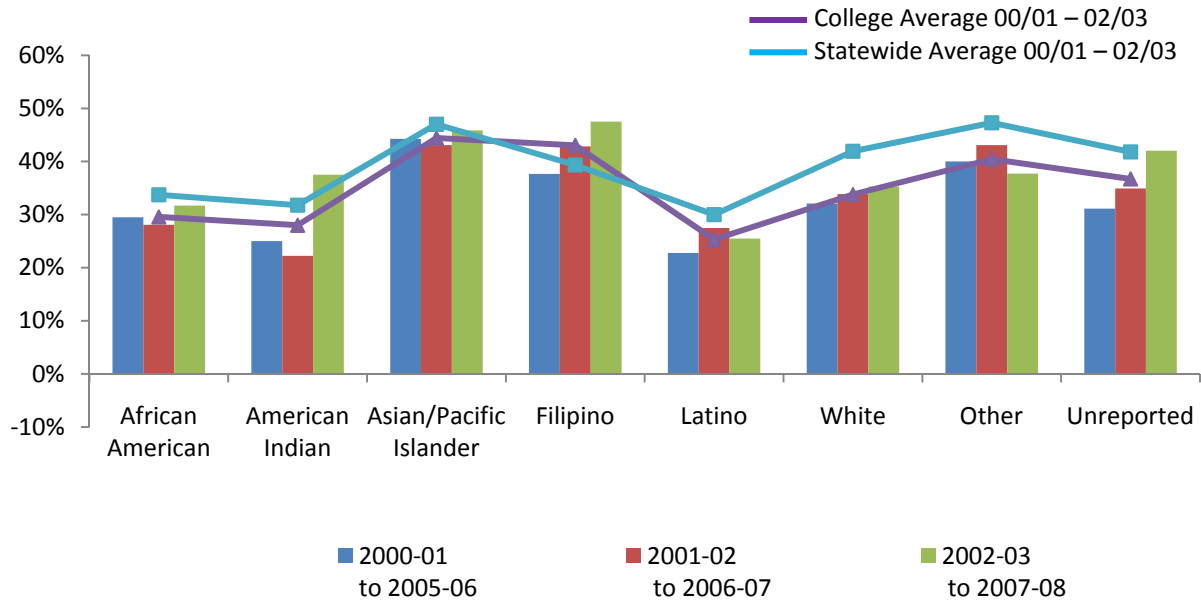


Table 5.3 Miramar College Overall Transfer Rate by Ethnicity

	Cohort			College Average 00/01 - 02/03	Statewide Average 00/01 - 02/03
	2000-01 to 2005-06	2001-02 to 2006-07	2002-03 to 2007-08		
African American	30%	28%	32%	30%	34%
American Indian	25%	22%	38%	28%	32%
Asian/Pacific Islander	44%	43%	46%	44%	47%
Filipino	38%	43%	48%	43%	39%
Latino	23%	27%	26%	25%	30%
White	32%	34%	35%	34%	42%
Other	40%	43%	38%	40%	47%
Unreported	31%	35%	42%	37%	42%
Total	34%	36%	38%	36%	41%

Source: Chancellor Office MIS

Transfer Rate by Gender

Overall, the transfer rates for females (2000-01, 41% to 2002-03, 40%) are higher compared to males (2000-01, 37% to 2002-03, 36%) at each of the three colleges. This is consistent with success and retention rates at SDCCD with females being consistently higher (see SDCCD Fact Book 2009). The three individual colleges follow this transfer rate pattern with City College having the largest percentage difference between females and males (2000-01, females 41% males 34% and 2002-03 females 35% males 27%).

All Colleges

Figure 6.0. All Colleges Overall Transfer Rate by Gender

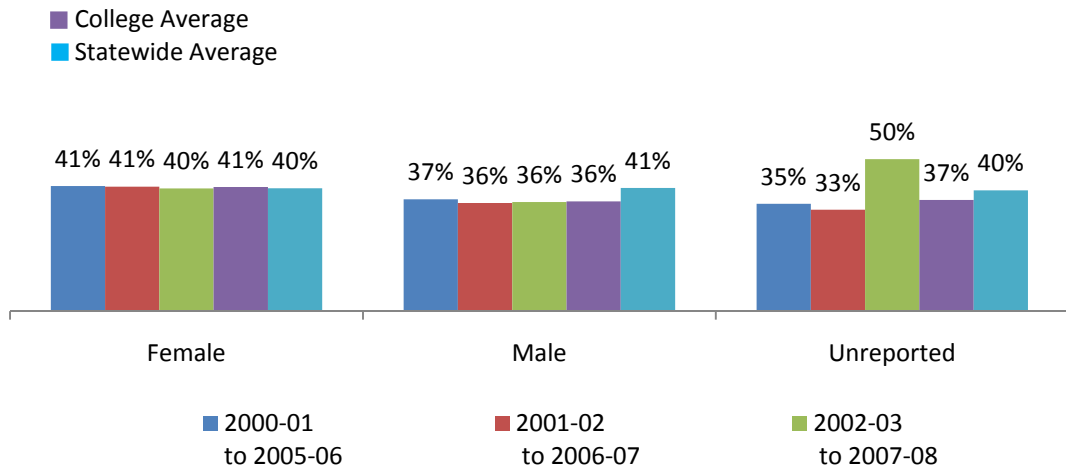


Table 6.0 All Colleges Overall Transfer Rate by Gender

	Cohort			College Average 00/01 - 02/03	Statewide Average 00/01 - 02/03
	2000-01 to 2005-06	2001-02 to 2006-07	2002-03 to 2007-08		
Female	41%	41%	40%	41%	40%
Male	37%	36%	36%	36%	41%
Unreported	35%	33%	50%	37%	40%
Total	39%	38%	38%	39%	40%

Source: SDCCD Information System

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City College

Figure 6.1. City College Overall Transfer Rate by Gender

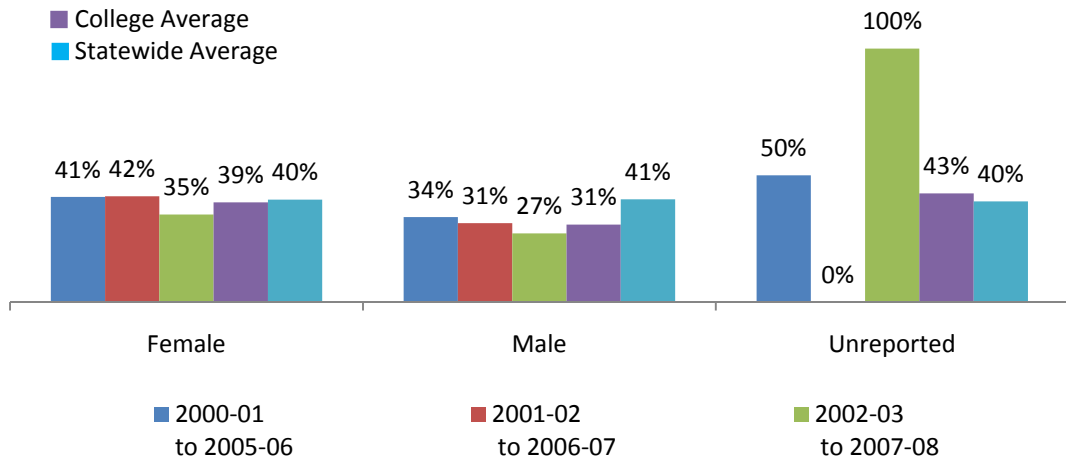


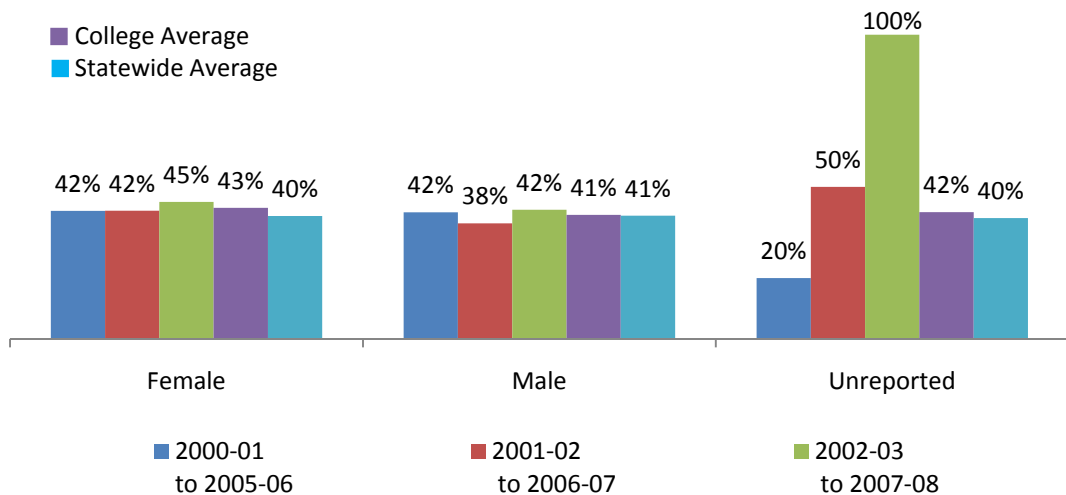
Table 6.1 City College Overall Transfer Rate by Gender

	Cohort			College Average 00/01 - 02/03	Statewide Average 00/01 - 02/03
	2000-01 to 2005-06	2001-02 to 2006-07	2002-03 to 2007-08		
Female	41%	42%	35%	39%	40%
Male	34%	31%	27%	31%	41%
Unreported	50%	0%	100%	43%	40%
Total	38%	37%	31%	36%	40%

Source: Chancellor Office MIS

Mesa College

Figure 6.2. Mesa College Overall Transfer Rate by Gender



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Table 6.2 Mesa College Overall Transfer Rate by Gender

	Cohort			College Average 00/01 - 02/03	Statewide Average 00/01 - 02/03
	2000-01 to 2005-06	2001-02 to 2006-07	2002-03 to 2007-08		
Female	42%	42%	45%	43%	40%
Male	42%	38%	42%	41%	41%
Unreported	20%	50%	100%	42%	40%
Total	42%	40%	44%	42%	40%

Source: Chancellor Office MIS

Miramar College

Figure 6.3. Miramar College Overall Transfer Rate by Gender

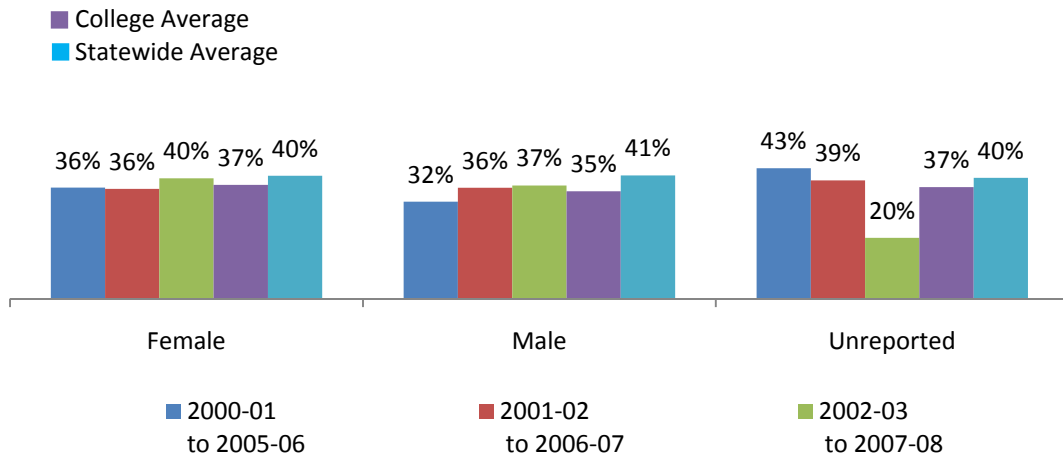


Table 6.3 Miramar College Overall Transfer Rate by Gender

	Cohort			College Average 00/01 - 02/03	Statewide Average 00/01 - 02/03
	2000-01 to 2005-06	2001-02 to 2006-07	2002-03 to 2007-08		
Female	36%	36%	40%	37%	40%
Male	32%	36%	37%	35%	41%
Unreported	43%	39%	20%	37%	40%
Total	34%	36%	38%	36%	40%

Source: Chancellor Office MIS

Summary/Conclusion

- 1) The top 4-year transfer institution for transfer volume overall was San Diego State University (SDSU) across all colleges in the district and each individual college. Transfer volume to SDSU decreased by 30%, from 1,002 in 2004-05 to 705 in 2007-08. However, between 2007-08 and 2008-09, there was a sudden decrease in transfer volume. This sudden decrease in transfer volume between 2007-08 and 2008-09 was most likely a result of admission changes, fee increases and fewer classes offered due to budget constraints.
- 2) In regards to ethnicity, both Asian/Pacific Islander and Filipino students displayed the highest transfer rates for the three cohorts, whereas African American and Latino students showed the lowest transfer rates for the three cohorts. These transfer rate patterns of results were consistent with the success and retention rates of these ethnic groups and with statewide rates. In all, both Asian/Pacific Islander and Filipino students had higher success and retention rates relative to African American and Latino students.
- 3) The transfer volume data showed that the majority of SDCCD transfers were to San Diego State University (SDSU) and University of California, San Diego (UCSD). The remaining top three 4-year transfer institutions included CSU San Marcos, University of Phoenix and National University. Further analyses of ethnicity showed that Latino and African American students together account for approximately one-third (34%) of SDCCD transfers going to either the University of Phoenix (37%) or National University (31%).
- 4) Taken together, the pattern of results for transfer volume and rate on the various ethnic groups are consistent with the other recent research (Moore, Shulock, & Offenstein, 2009) which shows that both Latino and African American students were less likely to complete a transfer curriculum and transfer to public institution such as a UC or CSU relative to Asian/Pacific Islander students. These ethnic groups were more likely to transfer to an in-state private institution such as the University of Phoenix or National University without completing a transfer curriculum.
- 5) The results in this report suggest that when considering transfer volume and rate information together, the typical understanding of what constitutes a transfer student can be challenging. Many people understand “transfer” to be a typical outcome measure of community colleges and student success, which may assume a student having completed two years of credit toward a bachelor’s degree. However, as data from this report and other statewide reports suggest, the term “transfer” can have multiple meanings depending on the parameters selected and identified as representing transfer pathways. Consequently, transfer pathways are a very important consideration when analyzing and using these data as a valid indicator of community college student success. Furthermore, curriculum, support services, outreach and other interventions should all be considered influencers of student transfer outcomes.

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