

VCCS Transfer:
“Cohen Measure” Rates for 1993, 1995, and 1997 Cohorts



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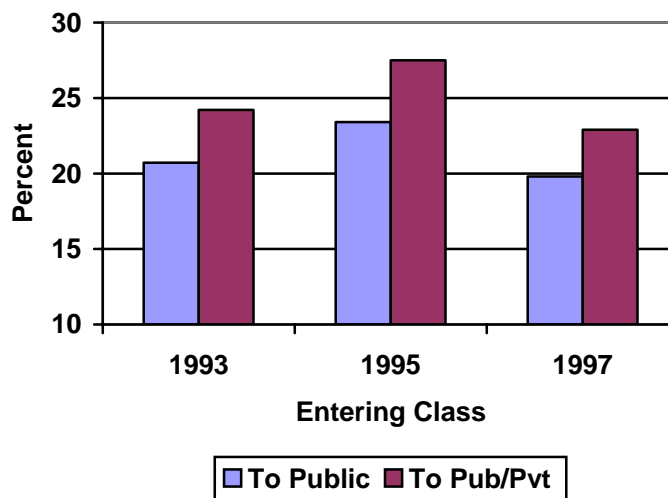
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Definition: TheFord Foundation-funded Transfer Assembly defined and provided national transfer rates for community colleges for more than a decade, from 1990 through 2001.

This definition of transfer rate is: “all students entering the two-year college in a given year who have no prior college experience and who complete at least 12 college credit units within four years, divided into the number of that group who take one or more classes at a public, in-state university or college within four years.” This definition, often termed the “Cohen measure”, has been both praised and criticized for its simplicity. Generally, it avoids the problems due to a lack of information about student aspiration and intent and problems due to errors associated with student classification by defining a more inclusive beginning group, which is then subset based on the student’s commitment to continued study. The rate has been adopted or supported by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), and various state commissions and governing boards as a measure of the transfer function for community colleges.

National results have been very consistent, ranging from 21.5 to 25.2 percent since 1990. In a 2001AS&R report, the VCCS rate for 1995 students was 23.4 and approached the national rate of 25.2. This report looks at the rate for 1993 and 1997 cohorts.

VCCS Transfer Rates



Results: Surprisingly, the increases in transfer numbers and transfer rate that occurred from 1993 to 1997, in Virginia and nationally, did not continue for those beginning study in 1997. The current data suggest that slightly more than 1 in 10 who enter higher education via the VCCS will eventually enroll in a 4-year college or university. To assess the trend, we have begun work with SCHEV to obtain data for the 1999 cohort. With a 4-year transfer period, the 1999 cohort would be examined through the 2002-03 academic year and will provide the most recent data. Another transfer measure, percent of graduates enrolling the following fall at a 4-year institution, has remained steady for recent graduates.

Fall 1997 Cohen Rate

	Number entering Fall 1997.....	earning 12 hours.....	and transferring	
Blue Ridge	741	378	51.0	74	19.6	
Central Virginia	849	298	35.1	38	12.8	
D. S. Lancaster	468	178	38.0	28	15.7	
Danville	955	308	32.3	28	9.1	
Eastern Shore	225	109	48.4	8	7.3	
Germanna	1178	430	36.5	115	26.7	
J. S. Reynolds	1920	842	43.9	174	20.7	
John Tyler	952	420	44.1	85	20.2	
Lord Fairfax	875	454	51.9	92	20.3	
Mountain Empire	810	441	54.4	85	19.3	
New River	661	377	57.0	96	25.5	
Northern Virginia	4840	2703	55.8	646	23.9	
Patrick Henry	379	133	35.1	16	12.0	
Paul D. Camp	386	143	37.0	26	18.2	
Piedmont Virginia	826	332	40.2	79	23.8	
Rappahannock	519	223	43.0	58	26.0	
Southside Virginia	1296	398	30.7	75	18.8	
Southwest Virginia	767	418	54.5	55	13.2	
Thomas Nelson	1216	553	45.5	73	13.2	
Tidewater	3449	1922	55.7	327	17.0	
Virginia Highlands	494	279	56.5	39	14.0	
Virginia Western	1771	699	39.5	144	20.6	
Wytheville	565	223	39.5	62	27.8	
VCCS	26142	12261	46.9	2423	19.8	

The following tables include individual college rates for the three fall cohorts. Copies of this report are available at: <http://www.so.cc.va.us/vccsasr/Research/index.html>.

Fall 1993 Cohort	First-time	Earned	Transferred		Transferred			
	Students	12 Hours	Pct.	To Public	Pct.	To Public or Private		
Blue Ridge	562	246	43.8	51	20.7	68	27.6	
Central Virginia	681	242	35.5	52	21.5	81	33.5	
D. S. Lancaster	384	168	43.8	30	17.9	46	27.4	
Danville	966	381	39.4	68	17.8	97	25.5	
Eastern Shore	226	95	42.0	7	7.4	7	7.4	
Germanna	627	278	44.3	85	30.6	90	32.4	
J. S. Reynolds	1711	737	43.1	161	21.8	186	25.2	
John Tyler	1011	351	34.7	53	15.1	62	17.7	
Lord Fairfax	673	339	50.4	72	21.2	92	27.1	
Mountain Empire	654	389	59.5	64	16.5	66	17.0	
New River	621	293	47.2	57	19.5	67	22.9	
Northern Virginia	5581	2815	50.4	660	23.4	696	24.7	
Patrick Henry	459	233	50.8	52	22.3	71	30.5	
Paul D. Camp	449	194	43.2	58	29.9	65	33.5	
Piedmont Virginia	726	228	31.4	64	28.1	68	29.8	
Rappahannock	409	174	42.5	39	22.4	43	24.7	
Southside Virginia	1187	589	49.6	136	23.1	175	29.7	
Southwest Virginia	875	447	51.1	55	12.3	67	15.0	
Thomas Nelson	1389	621	44.7	98	15.8	111	17.9	
Tidewater	3130	1313	41.9	253	19.3	282	21.5	
Virginia Highlands	456	275	60.3	33	12.0	43	15.6	
Virginia Western	1189	524	44.1	113	21.6	156	29.8	
Wytheville	576	222	38.5	43	19.4	56	25.2	
VCCS	24542	11154	45.4	2304	20.7	2695	24.2	

Fall 1995 Cohort	First-time Students	Earned 12 Hours	Transferred Pct.	Transferred		Transferred	
				To Public	Pct.	To Public or Private	Pct.
Blue Ridge	608	269	44.2	65	24.2	80	29.7
Central Virginia	718	339	47.2	115	33.9	169	49.9
D. S. Lancaster	400	176	44	21	11.9	40	22.7
Danville	1083	431	39.8	74	17.2	115	26.7
Eastern Shore	220	104	47.3	16	15.4	18	17.3
Germanna	858	403	47	152	37.7	163	40.4
J. S. Reynolds	1672	761	45.5	161	21.2	183	24.0
John Tyler	831	343	41.3	69	20.1	74	21.6
Lord Fairfax	751	327	43.5	75	22.9	106	32.4
Mountain Empire	603	344	57	58	16.9	67	19.5
New River	705	375	53.2	93	24.8	107	28.5
Northern Virginia	4834	2679	55.4	621	23.2	664	24.8
Patrick Henry	314	126	40.1	19	15.1	26	20.6
Paul D. Camp	472	173	36.7	55	31.8	62	35.8
Piedmont Virginia	718	286	39.8	77	26.9	83	29.0
Rappahannock	424	188	44.3	70	37.2	76	40.4
Southside Virginia	1176	489	41.6	144	29.4	167	34.2
Southwest Virginia	716	342	47.8	38	11.1	49	14.3
Thomas Nelson	1290	584	45.3	144	24.7	153	26.2
Tidewater	3074	1352	44	297	22	330	24.4
Virginia Highlands	499	293	58.7	34	11.6	47	16.0
Virginia Western	1403	675	48.1	194	28.7	257	38.1
Wytheville	499	204	40.9	49	24	61	29.9
VCCS	23868	11263	47.2	2641	23.4	3097	27.5

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Blue Ridge	741	378	51.0	74	19.6	101	26.7
Central Virginia	849	298	35.1	38	12.8	60	20.1
D. S. Lancaster	468	178	38.0	28	15.7	44	24.7
Danville	955	308	32.3	28	9.1	43	14.0
Eastern Shore	225	109	48.4	8	7.3	11	10.1
Germanna	1178	430	36.5	115	26.7	121	28.1
J. S. Reynolds	1920	842	43.9	174	20.7	196	23.3
John Tyler	952	420	44.1	85	20.2	94	22.4
Lord Fairfax	875	454	51.9	92	20.3	126	27.8
Mountain Empire	810	441	54.4	85	19.3	90	20.4
New River	661	377	57.0	96	25.5	105	27.9
Northern Virginia	4840	2703	55.8	646	23.9	686	25.4
Patrick Henry	379	133	35.1	16	12.0	26	19.5
Paul D. Camp	386	143	37.0	26	18.2	28	19.6
Piedmont Virginia	826	332	40.2	79	23.8	90	27.1
Rappahannock	519	223	43.0	58	26.0	62	27.8
Southside Virginia	1296	398	30.7	75	18.8	92	23.1
Southwest Virginia	767	418	54.5	55	13.2	68	16.3
Thomas Nelson	1216	553	45.5	73	13.2	76	13.7
Tidewater	3449	1922	55.7	327	17.0	357	18.6
Virginia Highlands	494	279	56.5	39	14.0	61	21.9
Virginia Western	1771	699	39.5	144	20.6	197	28.2
Wytheville	565	223	39.5	62	27.8	78	35.0
VCCS	26142	12261	46.9	2423	19.8	2812	22.9