

VALUING TRANSFER SUCCESS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

About 31% of Texas community college students transfer to four-year institutions within six years. This represents over 82,000 students, yet only 42% of these students earn a bachelor's degree compared to 47% nationally.[1] Credit transfer challenges are an important contributing factor: roughly 17,000 students failed to transfer a combined 70,000 courses to Texas public universities; and 5,500 of these students failed to transfer 5 or more courses, a full semester's worth of coursework.[2] This comes at an enormous cost to students and the state, which ranks 29th nationally in adults ages 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or higher.[3] **Ensuring transfer efficiency and success will save Texas students and taxpayers valuable time and money while building a Talent Strong Texas.**

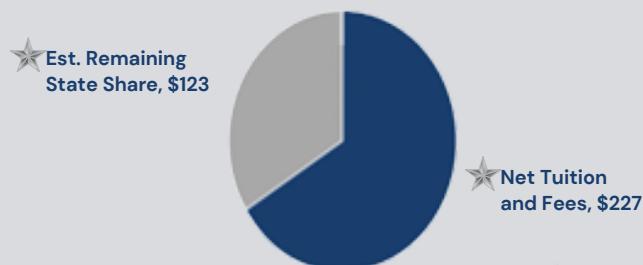
Community colleges play an essential role in supporting student goals to attain bachelor's degrees that fuel the state's economic growth and lead to higher wages for Texans.

70%

of all Texans who complete a bachelor's earn credits at a community college.[4]

Texans ages 25–34 with a bachelor's degree or higher (49%) are more than **twice as likely** than those with an associate's degree (24%) **to earn at least \$50,000 per year**.[5]

Wasted transfer credits cost Texas an estimated \$350 million every year, \$227 million to students and \$123 to the state.[6]



1 <https://www.edtx.org/getattachment/dff11a-ec91-4463-bfbb-4d8e1ec85ae8/GetFile.asp>

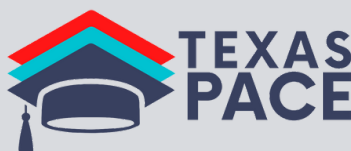
2 <https://texas2036.org/posts/improving-credit-transfer-in-texas-colleges-and-universities/>

3 2018 U.S. Census Bureau, based on ACS 5-year estimates; Reports S1501, C15002A, C15002B, C15002I

4 https://tacc.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ccatt_plenary_er_edits_-_read-only.pdf

5 <https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/meeting/advisory-committee-supporting-documents/txcccfc-presentation-todd-williams-dec-13-2021/>

6 https://tacc.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/transfer_efficiency_report.pdf



This fact sheet was created by Brendan Batchelder, Cristina Navarro, Kay Trent, and Talia Christian. They are members of the Student Advisory Council, a program organized and supported by Young Invincibles, The Education Trust in Texas, Every Texan, and Breakthrough Central Texas as a joint initiative of the Texas Postsecondary Advocates Coalition for Equity (TX PACE). Learn more at <https://www.txpace.org/student-advisory-council>.

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The Student Advisory Council (SAC) has identified two policy recommendations to address vertical transfer challenges for Texas community college students:

1. **Emphasizing transfer success within the state's outcomes-based funding formula.** Community colleges should be rewarded and incentivized for their role in improving student transfer success, especially for students of color and students from low-income students who benefit most from affordable routes to bachelor's degrees and are critical to meeting the state's postsecondary attainment goals.

2. **Incentivizing all Texas higher education institutions to participate in the Texas Transfer Framework.** Community colleges cannot solve credit transfer challenges alone. The Texas Transfer Framework is setting the foundation for tighter coordination with the state's four-year institutions, but incentives are needed to encourage wide adoption and implementation of the Field of Study curricula to finally solve this problem in the best interests of students.

It is essential that all Texas higher education institutions cooperate and align their courses in order to solve the state's vertical transfer challenges. Doing so will help students reach their career goals faster and more affordably, saving taxpayers valuable resources and building a more competitive workforce for the future of Texas.



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