

## Key Findings from the 2019 Cooke Foundation Report, "Persistence"<sup>1</sup>

Community college transfer students make up only 7% of students at selective institutions<sup>2</sup>...



**7%** Transferred from a Community College  
**10%** Transferred from a Four-Year Institution  
**83%** Entered from High School

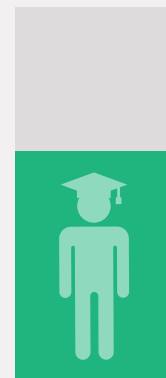
...but they are more likely to graduate than other students.<sup>3</sup>

**75%**



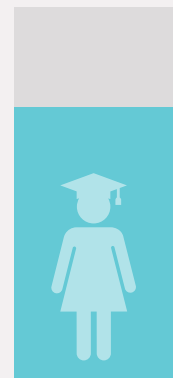
Transferred from  
a Community  
College

**61%**



Transferred from  
a Four-Year  
Institution

**73%**



Entered from  
High School

**49%**

Nearly half of all college students begin at a community college. Low-income students are three times more likely to do so (44%) than high-income students (15%).<sup>4</sup>

**84%**

Four out of five community colleges have placed at least one of their students into a selective four-year institution.

**9%**

Only 9% of students transferring from community colleges matriculate at a selective institution, compared to 21% of students enrolling directly from high school.

To learn more, please download the full report from our website,  
[www.jkcf.org/persistence](http://www.jkcf.org/persistence)

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all findings presented here come from analyses conducted for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation by researchers at the National Student Clearinghouse. Data on undergraduate students enrolled between 2010 and 2016 were examined for this report.

<sup>2</sup> Selective institutions are defined as those classified by the Barron's Profiles of American Colleges as either "Most Competitive" or "Highly Competitive."

<sup>3</sup> Reporting the six-year graduation rate for all undergraduate students who initially enrolled at either a "Most Competitive" or "Highly Competitive" institution in Fall 2010. Analysis includes students enrolled as both full-time and part-time students as well as both degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking students. As a result, the graduation rates reported in this report are lower than "Student Right-to-Know" graduation rates reported by institutions to the Department of Education, which are limited to first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students.

<sup>4</sup> Shapiro, D., Dundar, A., Wakhungu, P.K., Yuan, X., and Harrell, A. (2015) Transfer and Mobility: A National View of Student Movement in Postsecondary Institutions, Fall 2008 Cohort (Signature Report No. 9). Herndon, VA: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.