

# Graduation Outcomes for VCCS Students Transferring to 4-Year Institutions



As part of the Virginia Community College System's strategic plan, *Achieve 2015*, the VCCS continually tracks the number of students graduating, transferring, or completing a workforce credential as measures of student success. To date, little investigation has been done on what happens to students after they transfer, prompting this analysis of VCCS graduates' outcomes at 4-year institutions based on National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) transfer data.

## Previous Research

Recently, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) released the Transfer Cohort Lifecycle website for Virginia institutions. These data reveal that more than 70% of VCCS students who graduate with an A.A. or A.S. or have earned a high number of community college credits will graduate with a bachelor's degree after transferring to a 4-year Virginia institution. Students who transfer to 4-year institutions within two years of graduation from the VCCS are more likely to complete their bachelor's degree than students who transfer three or more years after graduation.

## Study Cohort

This snapshot examines graduation and transfer outcomes for 14,048 students who graduated from the VCCS with an associate degree in the 2005-2006 academic year.

## Cohort Outcomes

- 44% of students graduating from the VCCS with an associate degree in 2005-2006 transferred to a 4-year institution.
- 75% of VCCS students who transferred to a 4-year institution subsequently graduated.
- 72% of students who earned a degree from a 4-year institution after graduating from the VCCS graduated from public institutions, compared to 22% from private institutions and 6% from for-profit institutions.
- 59% of students who earned VCCS transfer degrees (A.A. and A.S.) also graduated from a 4-year institution, while 13% of students who earned VCCS applied degrees (A.A.A. and A.A.S.) also graduated from a 4-year institution.
- 38% of students who graduated from the VCCS in a STEM field continued in a STEM field at a 4-year institution. 31% of students who earned an associate degree in a health discipline at the VCCS also pursued a health-related bachelor's degree after transferring.

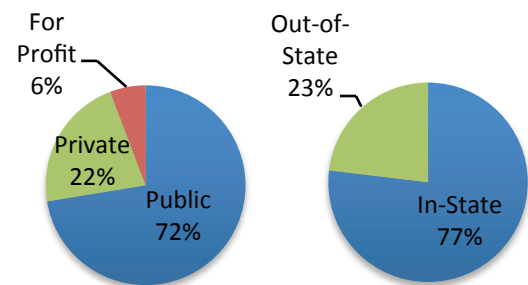
## Conclusions

These data indicate that three out of four students who earn an associate degree from a VCCS college and transfer to a 4-year institution complete a bachelor's degree. VCCS data show an increase of 50% in the number of students transferring to four-year institutions from 2007 to 2012. With the Two-Year College Transfer Grant and 36 system-wide guaranteed transfer agreements, interest and activity in transfer continue to grow. Tools like the Virginia Education Wizard can assist students, advisors, counselors, and faculty in providing support to students leading to successful transfer. Colleges can play a significant role in helping students reach the milestones of associate degree completion and preparation to transfer.

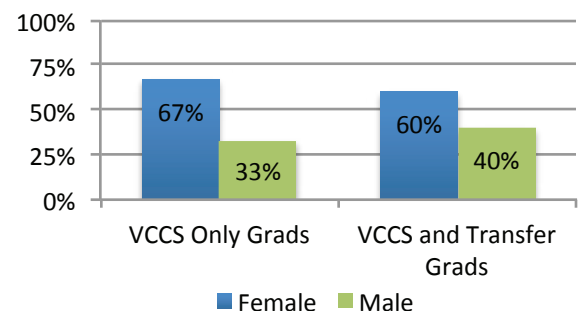
## 4-Year Transfer Institutions Most Commonly Attended by 2005-2006 VCCS Graduates

Transfer Institution	VCCS Graduates Transferring	
	N	%
Old Dominion University	1,175	19%
George Mason University	1,004	16%
Virginia Commonwealth University	463	7%
James Madison University	292	5%
Radford University	280	5%
Strayer University	212	3%
Virginia Tech	174	3%
University of Phoenix	155	3%
University of Mary Washington	151	2%
Liberty University	144	2%
Norfolk State University	119	2%
University of Virginia	110	2%
Other Institutions	1,896	31%

## Sector and In-State/Out-of-State Status of Students Earning Awards from Both VCCS and Transfer Institution



## Gender Breakdown of VCCS Only and VCCS/Transfer Graduates



## 2005-06 VCCS GRADUATES' OUTCOMES AT TRANSFER INSTITUTIONS BY 2012

Institution	Total VCCS Grads 2005-2006	Percent of VCCS Grads Transferring to 4-Year Institution	Percent of VCCS Grads Not Earning Bachelor's Degree	Percent of VCCS Grads Earning Bachelor's Degree From 4-Year Institution	Total VCCS Grads Transferring to 4-Year Institution	Percent of Transfers Who Graduated from 4-Year Institution	Percent of Transfers Who Attended But Did Not Graduate from 4-Year Institution	Total Number of VCCS Grads Earning Bachelor's Degree From 4-Year Institution	VCCS and 4-Year Grads Who Returned to VCCS
Blue Ridge	428	47%	61%	39%	201	82%	18%	165	16%
Central Virginia	230	36%	75%	26%	82	72%	28%	59	18%
Dabney S. Lancaster	159	27%	85%	15%	43	56%	44%	24	14%
Danville	537	17%	86%	14%	93	80%	20%	74	19%
Eastern Shore	106	28%	84%	16%	30	57%	43%	17	21%
Germanna	513	52%	65%	35%	265	68%	32%	180	14%
J. Sargeant Reynolds	853	43%	71%	29%	365	67%	33%	244	9%
John Tyler	540	42%	73%	27%	226	65%	35%	148	10%
Lord Fairfax	577	46%	67%	33%	268	71%	29%	190	9%
Mountain Empire	357	25%	82%	18%	91	70%	30%	64	19%
New River	486	35%	74%	26%	168	75%	25%	126	27%
Northern Virginia	2,928	58%	53%	47%	1,692	81%	19%	1,366	17%
Patrick Henry	502	25%	85%	15%	123	63%	37%	77	17%
Paul D. Camp	151	50%	75%	25%	75	51%	49%	38	9%
Piedmont Virginia	318	41%	66%	34%	130	82%	18%	107	16%
Rappahannock	215	40%	75%	25%	87	61%	39%	53	10%
Southside Virginia	559	28%	83%	17%	159	60%	40%	95	20%
Southwest Virginia	449	36%	75%	25%	163	69%	31%	112	23%
Thomas Nelson	862	47%	66%	34%	406	73%	27%	296	15%
Tidewater	2,007	52%	60%	40%	1,038	78%	22%	805	12%
Virginia Highlands	274	34%	72%	28%	93	82%	18%	76	9%
Virginia Western	663	44%	66%	34%	290	78%	22%	227	23%
Wytheville	334	26%	81%	19%	87	74%	26%	64	28%
<b>VCCS</b>	<b>14,048</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>6,175</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>4,607</b>	<b>15%</b>

### Comparative Data: Graduation Rates for Students Transferring to a 4-Year Institution in 2005-2006 by Years After A.A. or A.S. Award

	Public Four-Year Institutions	Private Four-Year Institutions
A.A. or A.S. Awarded Prior to Transfer, 2 or fewer years prior to Transfer	79%	78%
A.A. or A.S. Awarded Prior to Transfer, 2.01 to 5 years prior to Transfer	69%	75%

Source: SCHEV Transfer Cohort Lifecycle Data  
[http://research.schev.edu/feedback/transfer/xfr\\_lifecycle.asp](http://research.schev.edu/feedback/transfer/xfr_lifecycle.asp)

### How Were Data Generated?

Graduate files were used to produce enrollment data. National Student Clearinghouse data were used for 4-year transfer and graduation information. SCHEV data were used for comparisons.

### For More Information

- Visit <http://www.vccs.edu/studentsuccess> to learn more about student success.
- Additional SCHEV data comparisons for the VCCS are available at SCHEV's research website: <http://research.schev.edu>.