CUNY Transfer Fact Sheet

* About 20,000 students transfer from one CUNY college to another each year, with about 12,000 of them transferring from a community to a senior college.
* Over 50% of the bachelor’s-degree recipients at every CUNY senior college consists of transfer students. The typical student at every senior college is a transfer student, not a student native to that college.
* Over one-third of CUNY undergraduates are enrolled at the community colleges.
* Students attend CUNY community colleges for many reasons other than the students being unable to gain admission to a senior college, including that the community colleges are less expensive, that for some students a community college is closest to home or work, that community colleges are seen as providing more supportive environments, etc.
* At CUNY, 87% of new community college students have a goal of a bachelor’s degree or higher (which will require transfer to a bachelor’s program), but six years later, only 11% have achieved that goal. There are many places that students can be lost along this leaky transfer pipeline:



* If two students seek bachelor’s degrees, and the two students are equivalent in every way that we can measure, except that one begins college at a community college and the other at a senior college, the one beginning at a senior college will be more likely to receive a bachelor’s degree.
* We know that many challenges associated with the transfer pipeline itself contribute to the community college student being less likely to receive the bachelor’s degree, including:
  + Problems with credit evaluation
  + Major declaration challenges
  + Inconsistent or ineffective communication
  + Inconsistent academic support services
  + Limited availability of campus support
  + Challenging social and emotional context
* CUNY community college students are more likely to be from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, to be Pell recipients, and to be the first in their families to go to college. Therefore, any aspects of the environment that make it more difficult for community college students to receive a bachelor’s degree disadvantage those groups of students.
* According to New York State education law, CUNY is a single university, one that is mandated to facilitate within-CUNY transfer: “The university [CUNY] must remain responsive to the needs of its urban setting and maintain its close articulation between senior and community college units. Where possible, governance and operation of senior and community colleges should be jointly conducted or conducted by similar procedures to maintain the university as an integrated system and to facilitate articulation between units.”