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Student Transfer and Student Mobility

A National Examination of Student Pathways

AACRAO Annual Conference
Philadelphia, April 1-4, 2012

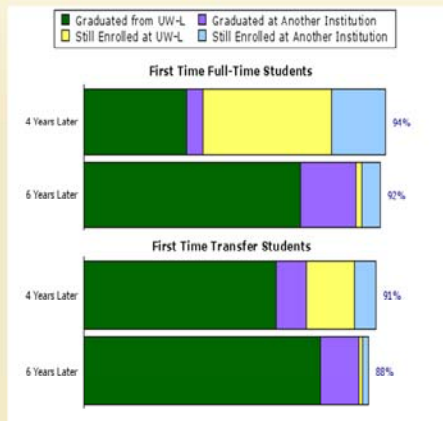
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Focus on Student Mobility and Transfer

VSA

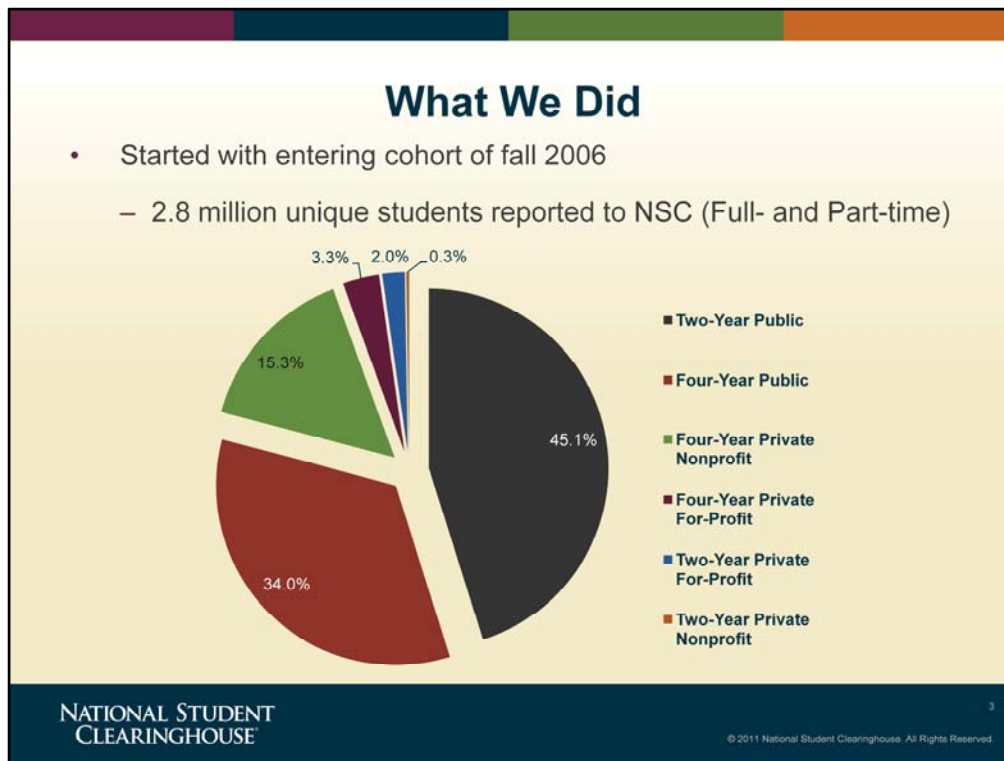


• Why?

- Public policy shift in states, encouraging more students to start at CC's AND earn a B.A.
- Growing realization that fewer students start at one institution & remain there throughout their academic careers.
- Too little attention has been paid to the postsecondary educational pathways of transfer students

Traditional institution-based reporting is inadequate:

1. Students need to be informed about full range of educational options and pathways to success
2. Policy makers need to know how to support student attainment (regardless of institutional pathways that students choose)
3. Institutions need to better understand the origins and trajectories of the students they serve



Entering = no prior enrollment anywhere in prev 4 years; no prior degree anywhere ever.
Search 2.3 billion enrollment facts.

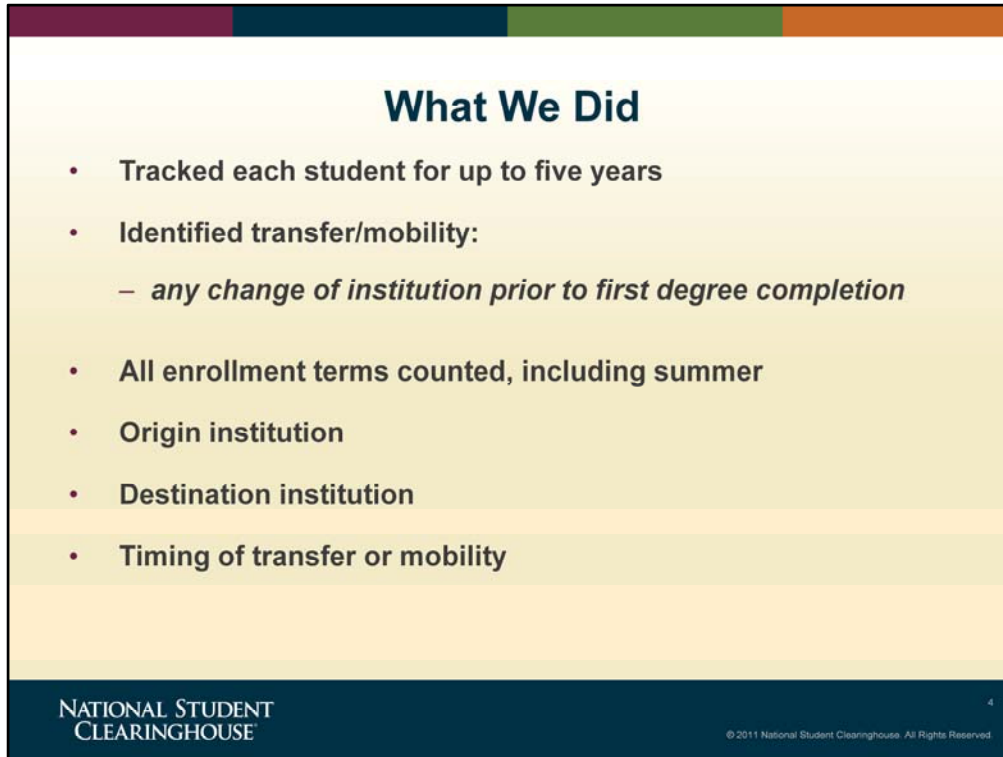
2006 NSC enrollment data coverage: 89.1% of students at US title IV degree-granting institutions.

95% 4-yr publics

90% 2-yr publics

87% 4-yr non-profits

65% 4y for-profits



What We Did

- Tracked each student for up to five years
- Identified transfer/mobility:
 - *any change of institution prior to first degree completion*
- All enrollment terms counted, including summer
- Origin institution
- Destination institution
- Timing of transfer or mobility

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There's so much focus on that first degree completion and holding institutions accountable for retaining students through to degree...

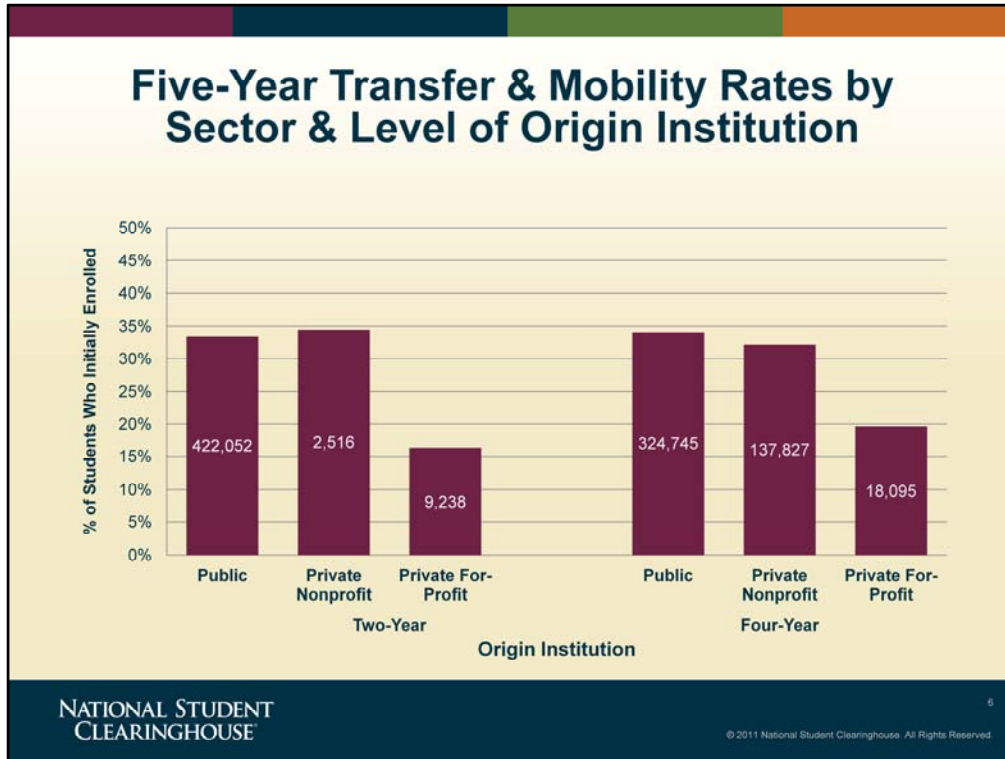
Important to note that we're *not* measuring credit transfer or enrollment in degree programs.

The Bottom Line: Overall Transfer & Mobility Rates

Prevalence of Transfer and Mobility Among All Students in Entry Cohort, Fall 2006

	N	%
Transfers	923,196	33.1%
Non-transfers	1,869,765	67.0%
Total	2,792,961	100.0%

Very similar to B&B estimates for the 2003 entering cohort



Note for-profits: low transfer rate does not imply high completion or retention.

Of those who transferred or moved to a different institution, one-quarter did so more than once

Frequency of Transfer & Mobility, 2006–2011
Fall 2006 Cohort Students who Transferred

	N	%
Once	688,946	74.6%
Twice	156,638	17.0%
Three times or more	77,613	8.4%
Total Students who Transferred	923,196	100.0%

So 8.2% of the full cohort transferred more than once.

The 25.4% overall average includes:

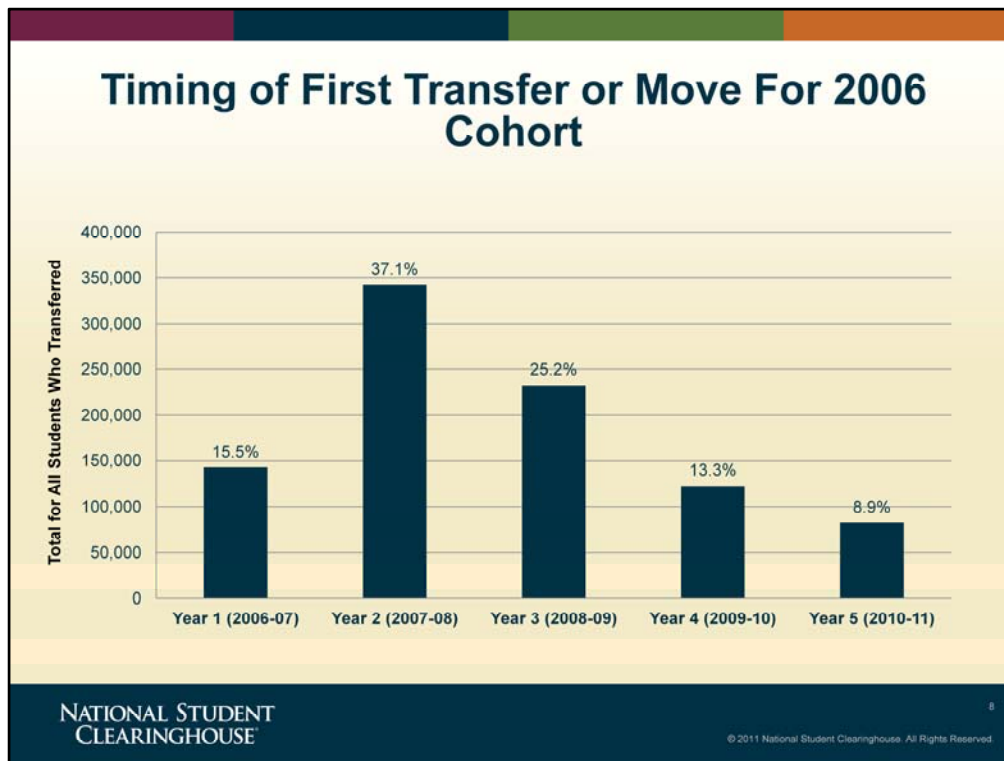
29% of transfers from 4-yr publics

31% from 4-yr Private Non-Profit

21% from 2-yr publics

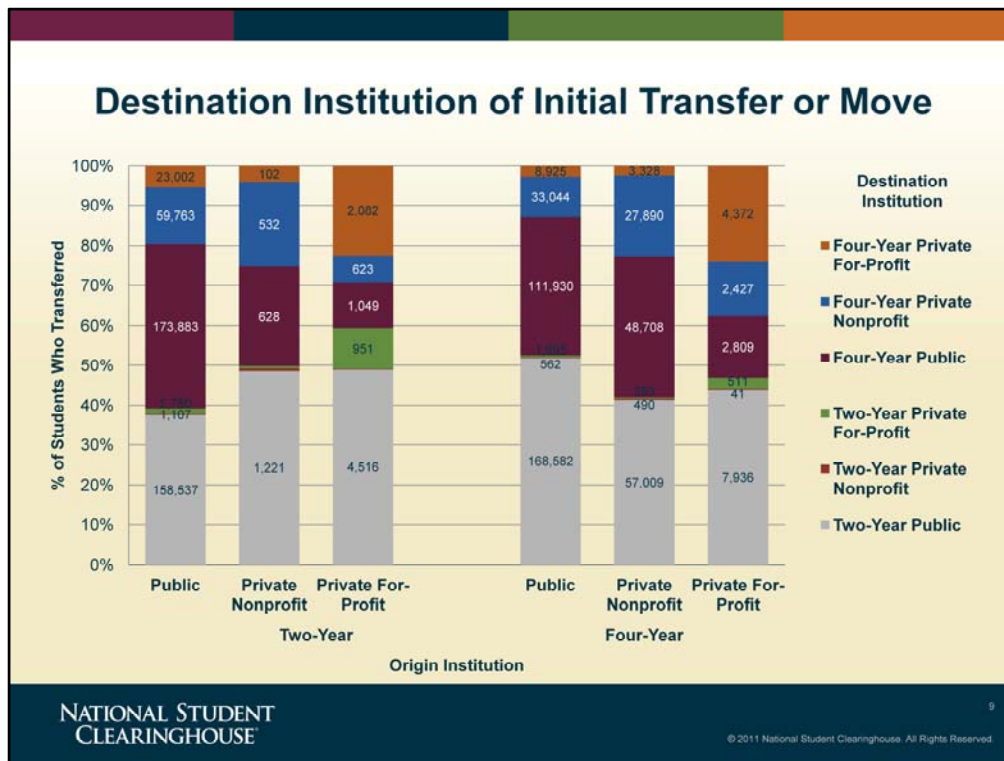
(% who transferred more than once)

In particular, students who later returned to their home institution would be counted as transferring twice. So no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the students who left their starting institution, at most, ever returned within the five-year study period.

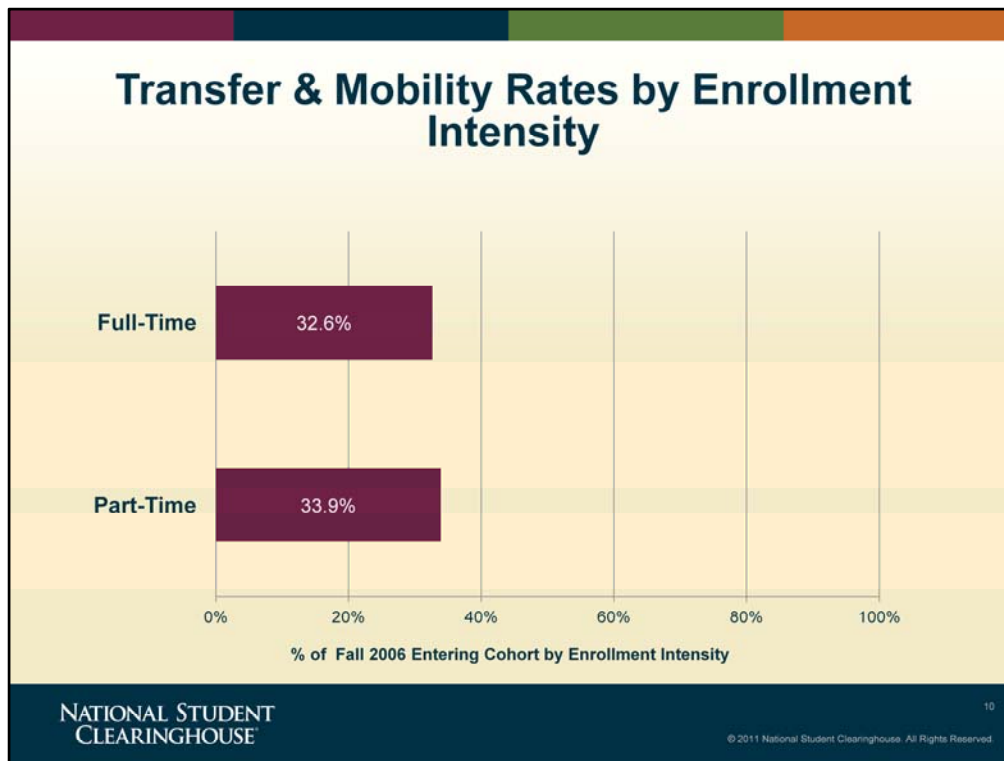


Almost one-sixth of all students who transferred did so within their first year, that is, before the following fall term. Moreover, many students' pathways were still in flux well into their educational careers.

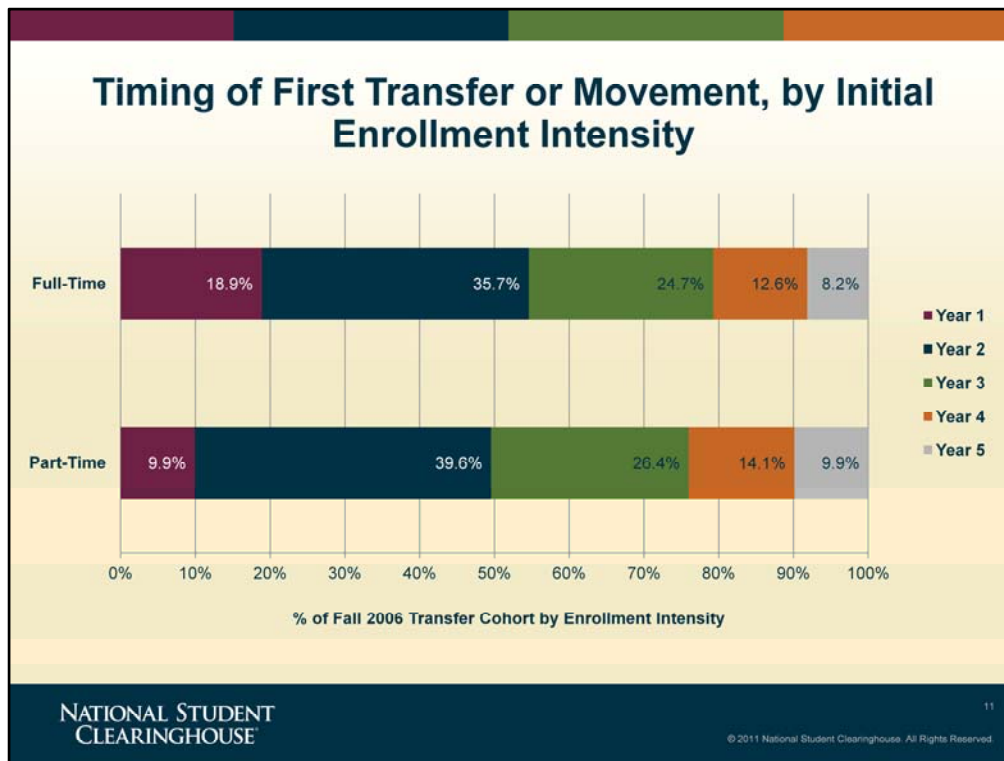
A surprising number made their first transfer in the fourth and fifth years of study, even among those who began at a two-year institution. About one eighth (13 percent) of all students who transferred did so in the fourth year, and an additional 9 percent did so in the fifth year



Two-year public institutions were the most frequent transfer destination for students starting at all types of institutions, even four-year institutions. Roughly half of all students who transferred from a four-year institution made a reverse-transfer by moving to a two-year institution. The single exception was for students who started at public two-year institutions and, even there, 38 percent of those who transferred simply moved to another two-year public. These results show the pervasive and integral role that community colleges play in student pathways, far beyond the impression given by looking only at initial enrollments.

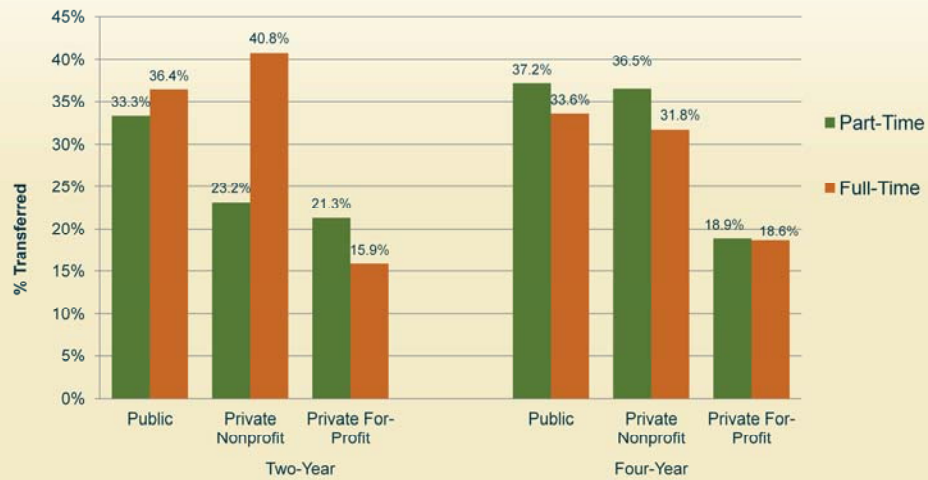


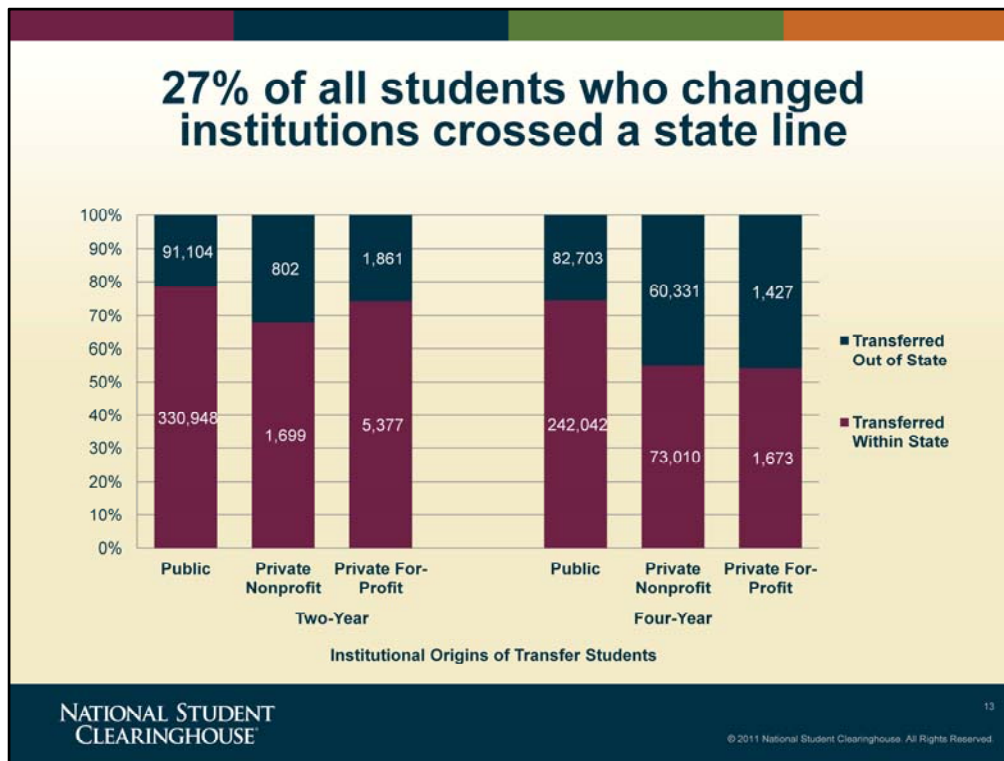
Intensity measured at first term of enrollment only.



Full-time students transferred earlier in their careers than part-time students did. The share of transfers occurring in the first year among students who began full time was almost twice as large as the share among students who began part time.

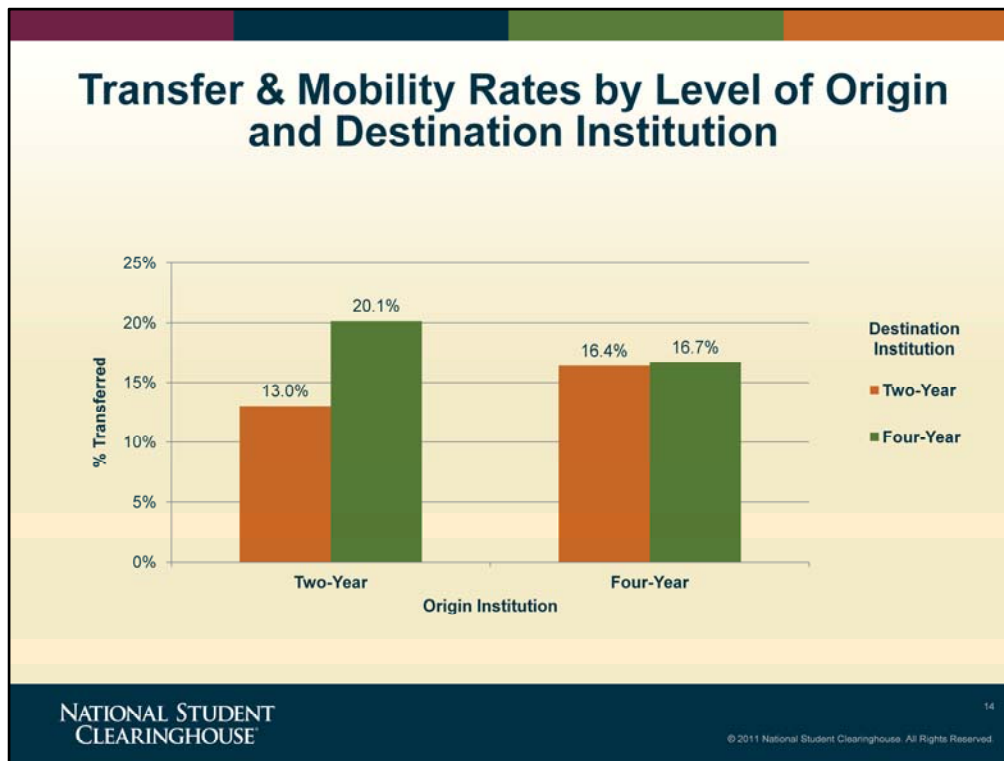
Transfer & Mobility Rates by Intensity & Institutional Sector





“Different state,” not necessarily “home state”

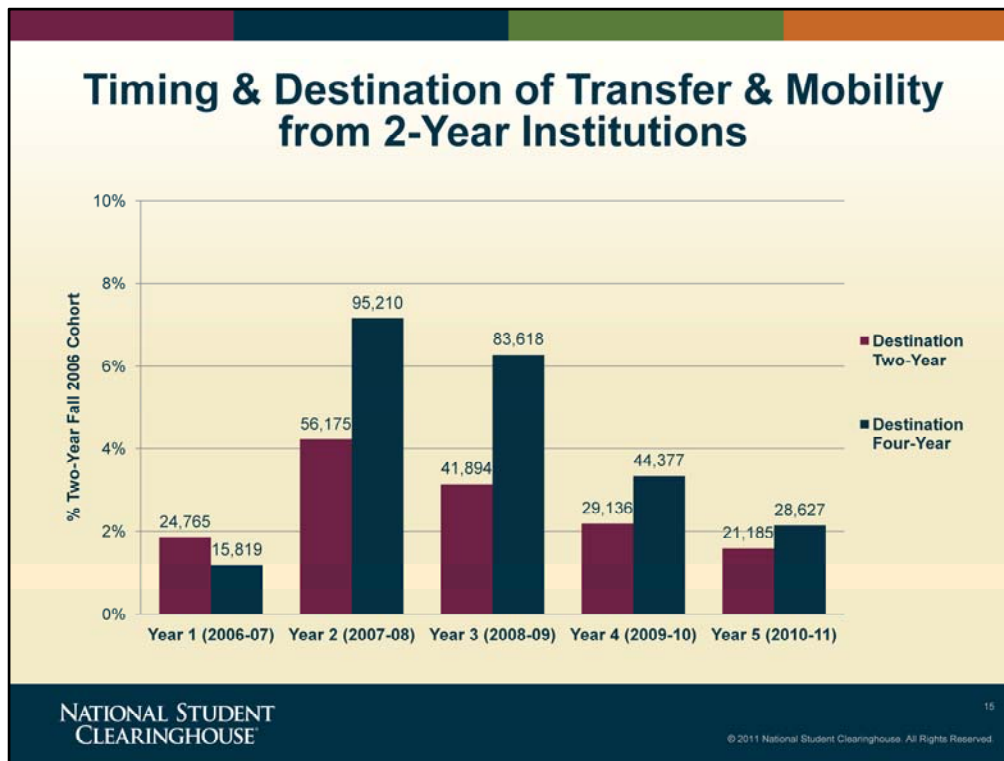
Not surprisingly, the rates were highest among students who were most mobile to begin with, those starting out in private four-year institutions, where 46 percent of transfers went to institutions in a different state. Even among those starting at public institutions, however, state lines were relatively permeable: 22 percent of those transferring from a two-year public left the state, as did 26 percent of those from a four-year public.



Important to remember that (throughout) we are not including students who transferred after receiving a degree from the home institution (even if that home instn was a 2-yr).

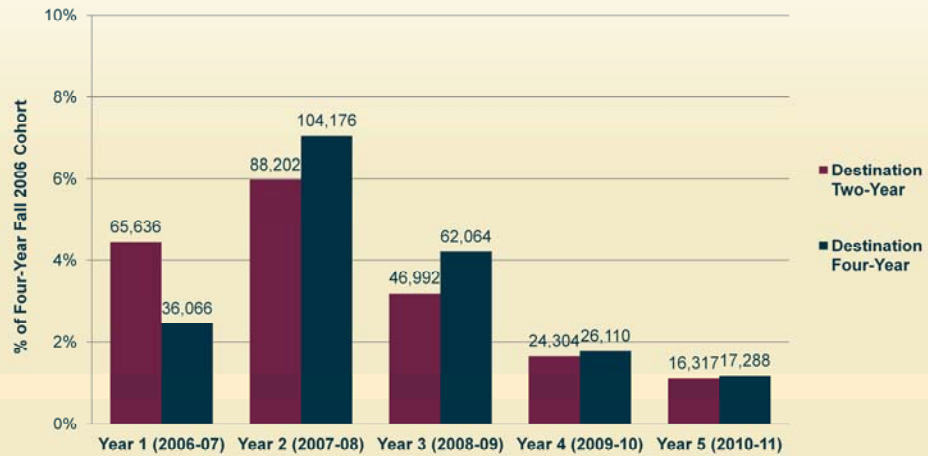
If we were to count these post-degree transfers, we'd see that 5.6% of the cohort who started at 2-yr institutions transferred after receiving a degree. And 90% of these students went to a 4-yr institution, so the total vertical transfer rate, combining pre-degree and post-degree movement, would increase from 20.1% to 25.14% of those who started at 2-yr institutions.

The other 10% of those who received a degree or certificate from a 2-yr institution and subsequently transferred did so laterally (to another 2-yr), which would increase the lateral transfer rate from 13.0% to 13.56%.



17 percent of those who transferred did so for the first time in the fourth year, and 11 percent in the fifth.

Timing & Destination of Transfer & Mobility from 4-Year Institutions



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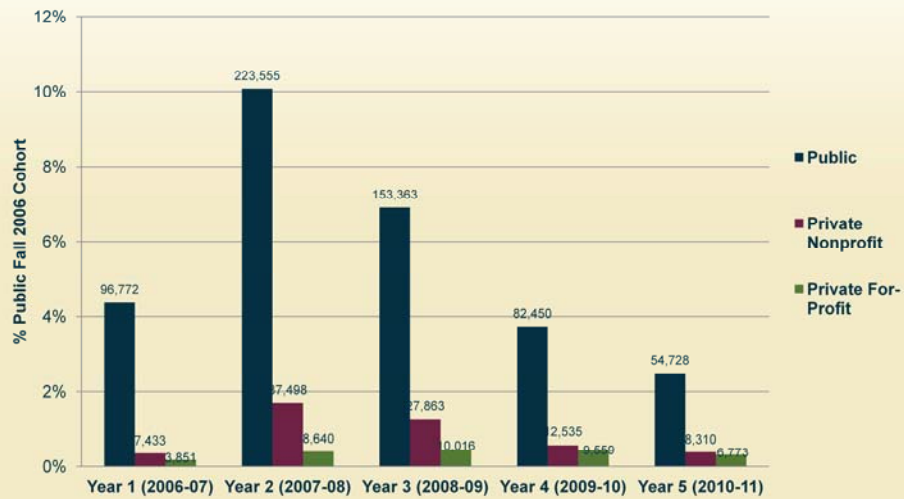
When Students Transfer...

Do they tend to stay in the same sectors?

How does the destination sector vary for students who transfer in different years?



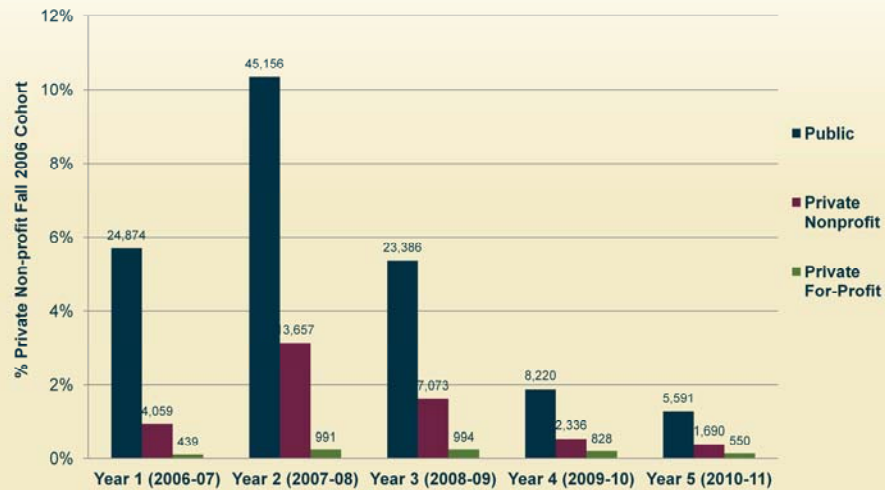
Students Starting in the Public Sector Transfer & Mobility Rates by Year and Destination



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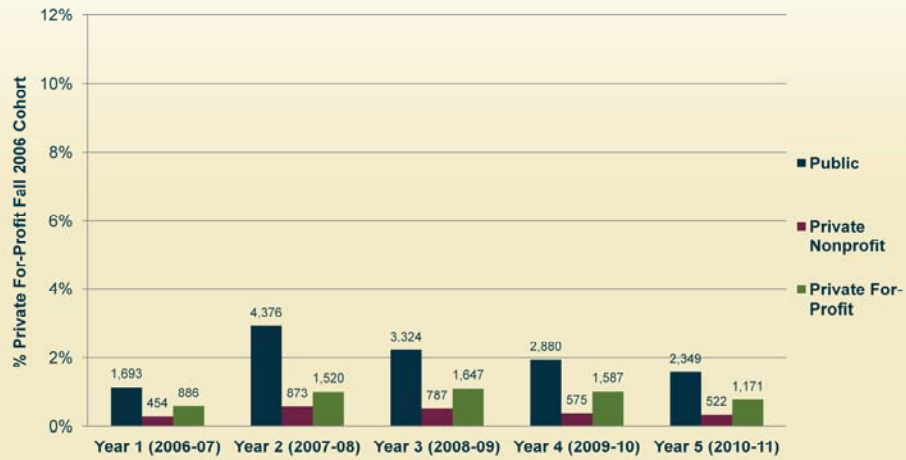
Students Starting in the Private Non-Profit Sector Transfer & Mobility Rates by Year and Destination

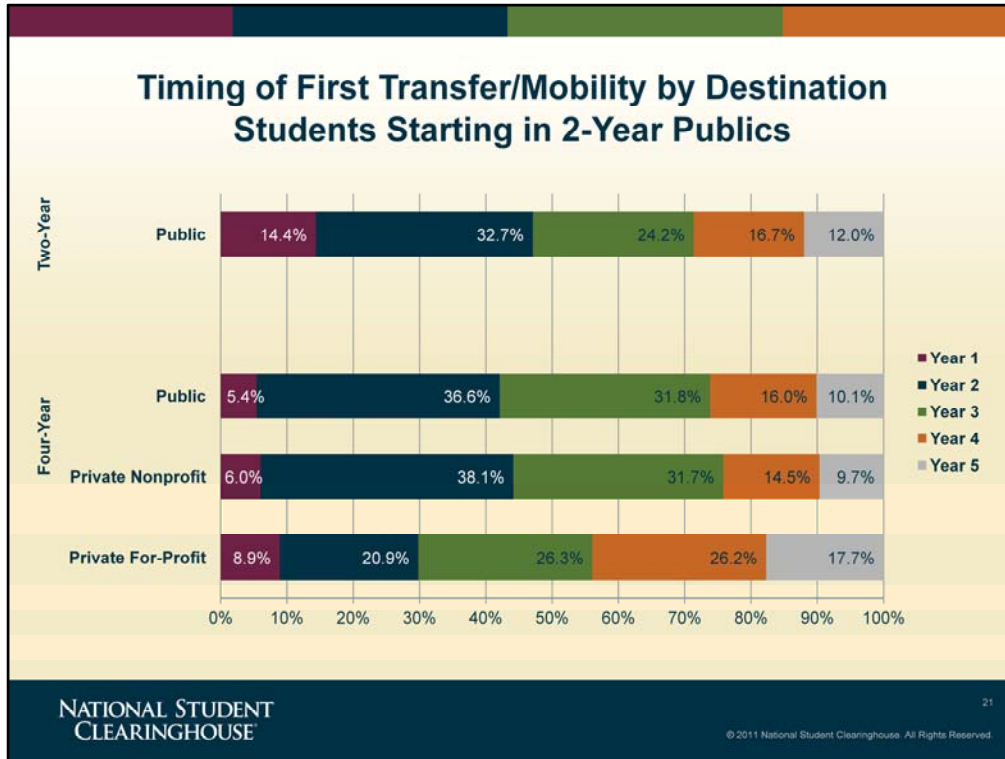


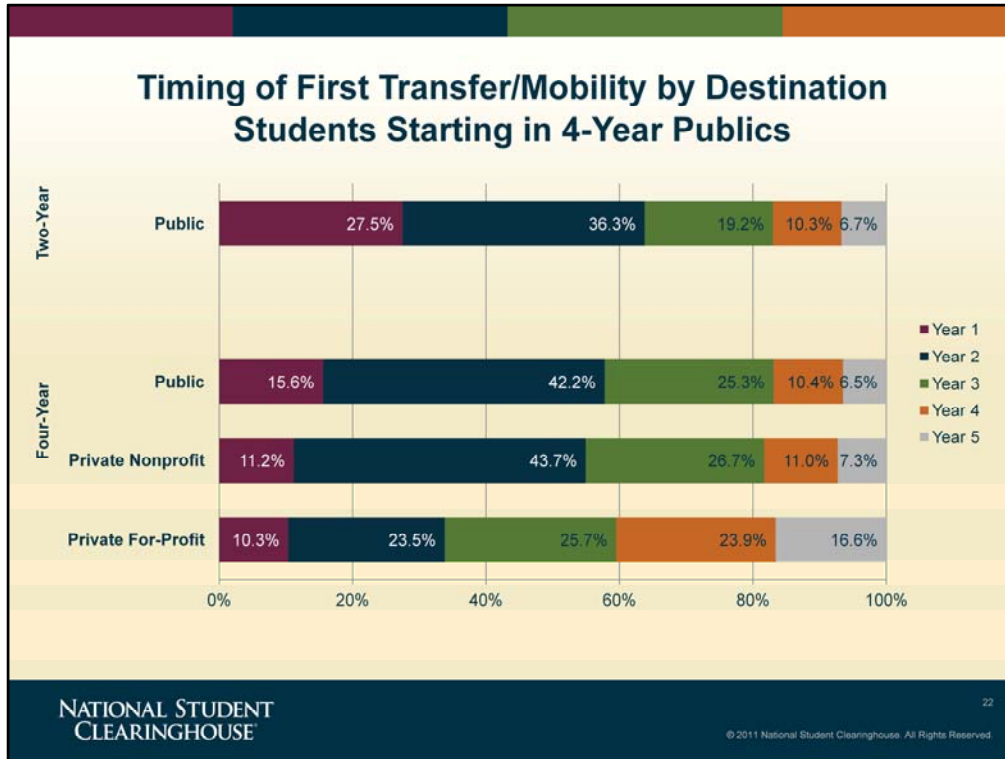
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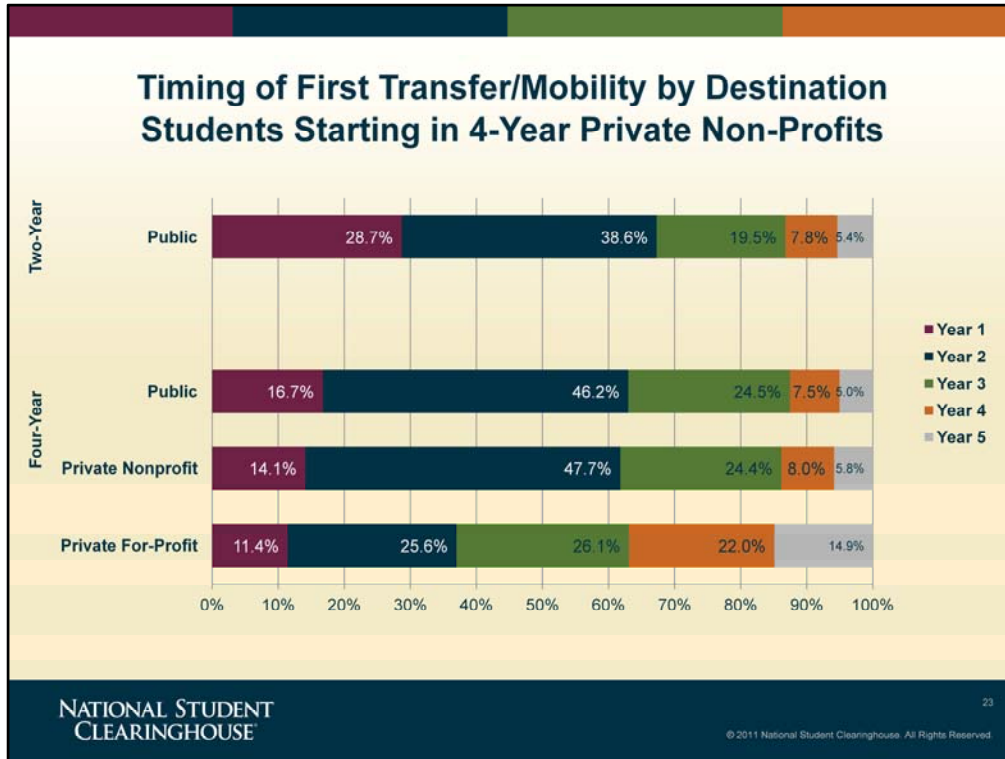
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Students Starting in the Private For-Profit Sector Transfer & Mobility Rates by Year and Destination









Key Takeaways

- One third of all students transferred at least once within 5 years
- Transfer & Mobility rates were similar for part- and full-time students, public and private non-profit students
- Of those who transfer:
 - The most prevalent destination was a public 2-year (43%)
 - One quarter transfer or move more than once
 - More than one quarter move across state lines (27%)
 - The most common time of first transfer/mobility is in the second year (37%)
 - Many transfer as late as the fourth or fifth years (22%)

Beyond the Data – Thinking Ahead

- Sometime soon the traditional IPEDS measures are going to change.
- We are not sure what the metrics will be, but they will change.
- Will my institution look good, bad, or indifferent?
- Start playing what if? Look at outcomes for:
 - Part-time students
 - Transfer-in students (select a minimum number of credits taken)
 - Those who transfer and graduate elsewhere
- What is a good outcome – form consortia and share (CSRDE for example)

Shall We Talk?

Questions

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