

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia:

*Transfers from Community Colleges at Virginia Public Four-Year
Institutions*

December 2013

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall submit an annual report to the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education specifying the total number of transfer students each institution of higher education admitted, enrolled, and graduated from institutions within the Virginia Community College System. (Code of Virginia § 23-9.2:3.02 C)

I.

As required by Code of Virginia § 23-9.2:3.02 C, this annual report provides cohort-based information about transfers from Virginia community colleges to public four-year institutions for the five year period concluding with the 2009-10 academic year. SCHEV has been producing similar reports since 2008, and the 2009 through 2012 reports are available on the SCHEV website (<http://www.schev.edu/reports/reportsindex.asp>). Since the mid-2000's a number of changes have occurred in Virginia's higher education law and policy, and in the data resources available to assess the effectiveness of the commonwealth's higher education system. Instances of such changes include the passing of the *Restructured Higher Education Financial and Administrative Operations Act of 2005* ("Restructuring") and the *Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011* ("TJ 21"), the development of Guaranteed Admissions Agreements between the community college system and public four-year institutions, the creation of a longitudinal data system linking K-12, higher education, and post-graduation employment, and the provision of a richer set of data on the SCHEV website than ever before. Accordingly, this year's report will also make reference to outcomes data available on the SCHEV website; comparable transfer outcomes reported from 2008-12; and institutions' current six-year enrollment plans as they relate to transfer capacity. The purpose of this additional context is to enable a look back at where Virginia has been with regard to transfer outcomes, where it is now, and where it is likely to be going in the near to intermediate future. There is strong interest among legislators, policy makers, and the general public in effective and affordable paths to bachelor's degree completion, and the mandate to prepare this report annually is one indication of that interest. The technical information presented here represents just one aspect of a complex set of interconnected factors that influence the fortunes of transfer students. These include trends in tuition and fees, admissions competitiveness of institutions, and efforts within K-12 and higher education to improve student outcomes, particularly the readiness of students to perform well at each successive stage of education. Within this context, transfer is not a simple linear phenomenon; it is more like a subset of pieces in a very large and constantly shifting puzzle.

II.

The direct topic of this report is trends in bachelor's degree completion by transfers from community colleges at public four-year institutions. While this is an important, indeed a crucial outcome, it is just one of a number of relevant outcomes. Additional contextual data has been made available on the SCHEV website with the launch of the "College to University" website at <http://research.schev.edu/>. The site contains transfer feedback reports that provide extensive information on the numbers of students transferring from two-to-four-year institutions, demographic data about transfers, and post-transfer outcomes.

SCHEV is also now required by code to collect and make available wage and debt data for college graduates. The Post-Completion Wages of Graduates reports <http://research.schev.edu/apps/cms/> provide wage data, by degree program, for graduates of Virginia's colleges, including community colleges. The Graduate Debt reports <http://research.schev.edu/apps/info/Reports.Guide-to-the-Graduate-Debt-Reports.ashx?NS=Reports> provide information on the number of graduates with loans, and the amount borrowed by domicile status, gender, and race over the previous five years.

III.

Three tables included in Appendix A of this report provide information on graduation outcomes of transfers from Virginia community colleges to public four-year institutions, by cohort, from 2005-06 to 2009-10. Each table indicates the number of community college students who transfer each year, then breaks them down according to whether they graduated from the four-year institution in two, three, or four years, or whether they had not yet within four years. The number of community college transfers *admitted* to four-year institutions is not provided because institutions do not report admissions data to SCHEV.

A. Students transferring with a “transfer” associate degree.

For details, by college, see Appendix A, *Table 1: Enrollment and Time to Baccalaureate Degree VCCS Transfers with Associate Degrees, Baccalaureate Credit, 2005-06—2009-10*

From 2005-06 to 2009-10:

- the number of community college transfers with earned “transfer” associate degrees enrolling in bachelor’s degree programs increased from 1,350 to 1,937, or **43%**;
- of the total number (7,927) of community college transfers with an earned “transfer” associate degree during this period, **70%** (5,546) completed a bachelor’s degree within 4 years after transferring;
- more transfer students completed a bachelor’s degree within 3 years (2,663) than within either 2 (1,950) or 4 (933) years.

B. Students transferring with an “applied” associate degree.

For details, by college, see Appendix A, *Table 2: Enrollment and Time to Baccalaureate Degree VCCS Transfers with Associate Degrees, Occ./Tech Credit, 2005-06—2009-10*

From 2005-06 to 2009-10:

- the number of community college transfers with applied associate degrees enrolling in bachelor’s degree programs increased from 182 to 201, or **10%**;

- of the total number (987) of community college transfers with the earned applied associate degree during this period, **55%** (541) completed a bachelor's degree within 4 years;
- more transfer students completed a bachelor's degree within 3 years (230) than within either 2 (198) or 4 (113) years.

Note: Applied associate degrees are not designed for transfer to bachelor's programs. However, some students with these types of degrees do opt to transfer to four-year institutions. As these numbers suggest, the scale of such transfer to public four-year institutions in Virginia remains small.

C. Students transferring without an earned associate degree.

For details, by college, see Appendix A, Table 3: Enrollment and Time to Baccalaureate Degree VCCS Transfers Without Degrees 2005-06—2009-10

From 2005-06 to 2009-10:

- the number of community college transfers without earned associate degrees enrolling in bachelor's degree programs increased from 3,453 to 4,206, or **22%**;
- of the total number (18,720) of VCCS transfers without an earned associate degree, **59%** (11,015) completed the baccalaureate degree within 2, 3, or 4 years;
- more transfer students completed a bachelor's degree within 3 years (5,271) than within either 2 (2,624) or 4 (3,120) years.

D. Summary Observations

During the period covered in this report, a majority of community college students who transferred to public four-year institutions did so without an earned associate degree—18,720 out of 27,634 (**68%**). The second largest category of transfers have earned transfer associate degrees (7,927=**29%**), followed by applied associate degrees (987=3%). There has been a slight but consistent trend toward a proportional increase in transfers with the transfer associate degree. From 2005-06 to 2009-10, the proportion of these students increased from 27% to 30% of the total number of community college transfers. This trend is very welcome, since those who have completed a transfer associate degree have the highest probability of earning a bachelor's degree after transferring, at 70%—as opposed to 59% for those transferring without a degree, and 55% for those transferring with an applied associate degree.

IV.

TJ 21 established a goal for college completion in the commonwealth, providing that Virginia's public institutions are committed to "conferring approximately 100,000 cumulative additional undergraduate degrees on Virginians" by 2025. An effective statewide system of student transfer is integral to achieving this goal.

SCHEV has been preparing these transfer outcomes reports since 2008; a look back at past reports provides confirmation of certain notable trends.

- Each year's report since 2008 shows a significant increase in the total number of transfers, with the greatest percentage increases among those with the transfer associate degree. This is a positive development for the sake of efficiency and student success, as we know that the most decisive predictor of a transfer student's success at completing a bachelor's degree is first to complete a transfer associate degree.
- Transfers with applied associate degrees have remained at relatively low and consistent levels (~200) throughout the periods covered by these reports. This itself is indicative of a certain kind of persisting efficiency.
- Transfers without any associate degree have remained the largest group throughout the periods covered by this report, though this group has been chipped away at proportionately, due to much larger percentage growth in transfers who have completed a transfer associate degree.
- Rates of bachelor's degree completion following transfer.
 1. For transfers who *have* completed a transfer associate degree, the percentage who complete a bachelor's degree within four years has inched upward, from 68% to 70%.
 2. For transfers who *have not* completed an associate degree, the percentage who complete a bachelor's degree within four years has inched upward, from 56% to 59%.

Observation

These trends are welcome, but there seems to be a certain degree of "stickiness" in the bachelor's completion rates, especially in comparison to notable progress by community colleges in getting more students to complete the transfer associate degree. It may be advisable to focus future research efforts on the causes of the relative lack of progress in seeing more of these students through to completion of the bachelor's degree. At the least, this indicator should receive close monitoring as future reports are prepared.

V.

Appendix B: Six-Year Plans—Transfer Enrollment Growth shows growth, and planned growth, in new transfer enrollment at public four-year institutions, from 2000 to 2019. 2000-12 are actual data; 2013-19 are from institutions' six-year plans as submitted to SCHEV in 2013. The six-year plan figures show that four-year institutions, taken altogether, anticipate growth in their incoming transfer classes of 16% from 2012 to 2019. This growth is consistent

with TJ 21 completion goals. It will bear monitoring to ensure ongoing sufficient capacity for community college and Richard Bland transfers.

Appendix A: Transfer Outcomes Tables

The Appendix A Tables provided here present information about community college transfers to four-year institutions with, and without, the associate degree in the fall terms of 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009. The 2009-10 cohort is the last reported here because it is the last one to have the full range of four years to graduate. Any students who did not complete the baccalaureate degree within four years after transfer are reported under the designation “*still enrolled/DNG (did not graduate)*.” These students are dropped from the analysis from that point on.

**Table 1: Enrollment and Time to Baccalaureate Degree
VCCS Transfers with Associate Degrees, Baccalaureate Credit
2005-06 – 2009-10**

Institution	Time to degree at 4 year	0506	0607	0708	0809	0910	Total
Christopher Newport University	2 years	7	3	5	3	7	25
	3 years	3	7	7	6	9	32
	4 years	0	0	1	4	2	7
	still enrolled/DNG	4	2	4	1	6	17
Christopher Newport University Total		14	12	17	14	24	81
College of William and Mary	2 years	12	15	24	19	26	96
	3 years	17	11	15	15	14	72
	4 years	0	2	2	2	3	9
	still enrolled/DNG	4	6	6	6	5	27
College of William and Mary Total		33	34	47	42	48	204
George Mason University	2 years	71	78	84	103	98	434
	3 years	108	105	118	139	171	641
	4 years	31	34	54	58	58	235
	still enrolled/DNG	77	95	108	129	160	569
George Mason University Total		287	312	364	429	487	1879
James Madison University	2 years	37	26	33	37	35	168
	3 years	78	68	57	62	80	345
	4 years	14	23	14	20	24	95
	still enrolled/DNG	37	29	38	26	30	160
James Madison University Total		166	146	142	145	169	768
Longwood University	2 years	13	16	10	9	12	60
	3 years	25	16	22	17	10	90
	4 years	3	4	6	3	9	25
	still enrolled/DNG	12	13	9	11	17	62
Longwood University Total		53	49	47	40	48	237
Norfolk State University	2 years	4	0	1	3	0	8
	3 years	9	5	6	4	5	29
	4 years	2	5	2	1	2	12
	still enrolled/DNG	12	12	8	8	13	53
Norfolk State University Total		27	22	17	16	20	102
Old Dominion University	2 years	41	52	48	65	59	265
	3 years	71	93	83	105	117	469
	4 years	36	42	43	51	51	223
	still enrolled/DNG	132	126	156	124	160	698
Old Dominion University Total		280	313	330	345	387	1655
Radford University	2 years	22	32	27	31	32	144
	3 years	28	35	27	42	35	167
	4 years	6	7	6	5	12	36
	still enrolled/DNG	19	14	12	10	27	82
Radford University Total		75	88	72	88	106	429

Institution	Time to degree at 4 year	Year					Total
		0506	0607	0708	0809	0910	
University of Mary Washington	2 years	21	18	19	22	22	102
	3 years	12	17	11	15	25	80
	4 years	3	4	6	7	4	24
	still enrolled/DNG	11	12	14	16	21	74
University of Mary Washington Total		47	51	50	60	72	280
University of Virginia	2 years	23	38	50	64	60	235
	3 years	20	11	23	19	31	104
	4 years	6	10	5	5	6	32
	still enrolled/DNG	9	8	18	16	22	73
University of Virginia Total		58	67	96	104	119	444
University of Virginia's College at Wise	2 years	6	8	13	6	10	43
	3 years	6	9	8	6	11	40
	4 years	2	5	1	2	3	13
	still enrolled/DNG	6	6	7	10	9	38
University of Virginia's College at Wise Total		20	28	29	24	33	134
Virginia Commonwealth University	2 years	23	28	31	32	38	152
	3 years	55	36	61	69	71	292
	4 years	27	33	22	31	28	141
	still enrolled/DNG	65	65	73	80	99	382
Virginia Commonwealth University Total		170	162	187	212	236	967
Virginia Military Institute	2 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3 years	0	0	0	1	0	1
	4 years	1	0	0	0	0	1
	still enrolled/DNG	0	0	1	0	0	1
Virginia Military Institute Total		1	0	1	1	0	3
Virginia State University	2 years	1	2	3	2	2	10
	3 years	3	2	2	2	6	15
	4 years	3	0			4	7
	still enrolled/DNG	4	1	8	1	3	17
Virginia State University Total		11	5	13	5	15	49
Virginia Tech	2 years	30	34	48	42	54	208
	3 years	47	55	57	72	55	286
	4 years	9	4	20	14	26	73
	still enrolled/DNG	22	22	21	25	38	128
Virginia Tech Total		108	115	146	153	173	695
Total		1350	1404	1558	1678	1937	7927

**Table 2: Enrollment and Time to Baccalaureate Degree
VCCS Transfers with Associate Degrees, Occ/Tech Credit
2005-06 – 2009-10**

Institution	Time to degree at 4 year						Total
		0506	0607	0708	0809	0910	
Christopher Newport University	2 years	0	0	0	1	0	1
	3 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4 years	1	0	0	0	0	1
	still enrolled/DNG	1	1	1	0	2	5
Christopher Newport University Total		2	1	1	1	2	7
College of William and Mary	2 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
	still enrolled/DNG	0	0	0	0	0	0
College of William and Mary Total		0	0	0	0	0	0
George Mason University	2 years	5	3	9	5	8	30
	3 years	8	7	9	9	7	40
	4 years	5	7	2	3	5	22
	still enrolled/DNG	8	22	13	13	14	70
George Mason University Total		26	39	33	30	34	162
James Madison University	2 years	0	1	0	2	2	5
	3 years	2	2	1	1	0	6
	4 years	1	1	0	1	0	3
	still enrolled/DNG	1	1	0	0	2	4
James Madison University Total		4	5	1	4	4	18
Longwood University	2 years	1	2	0	2	1	6
	3 years	1	2	3	0	0	6
	4 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
	still enrolled/DNG	0	2	1	2	0	5
Longwood University Total		2	6	4	4	1	17
Norfolk State University	2 years	1	1	1	1	3	7
	3 years	2	0	1	1	4	8
	4 years	1	1	2	2	3	9
	still enrolled/DNG	0	3	4	4	8	19
Norfolk State University Total		4	5	8	8	18	43
Old Dominion University	2 years	8	7	8	1	4	28
	3 years	9	13	16	17	14	69
	4 years	8	15	8	9	7	47
	still enrolled/DNG	46	36	49	36	38	205
Old Dominion University Total		71	71	81	63	63	349
Radford University	2 years	8	18	7	9	9	51
	3 years	12	8	8	9	7	44
	4 years	1	1	1	2	2	7
	still enrolled/DNG	4	8	9	6	9	36
Radford University Total		25	35	25	26	27	138

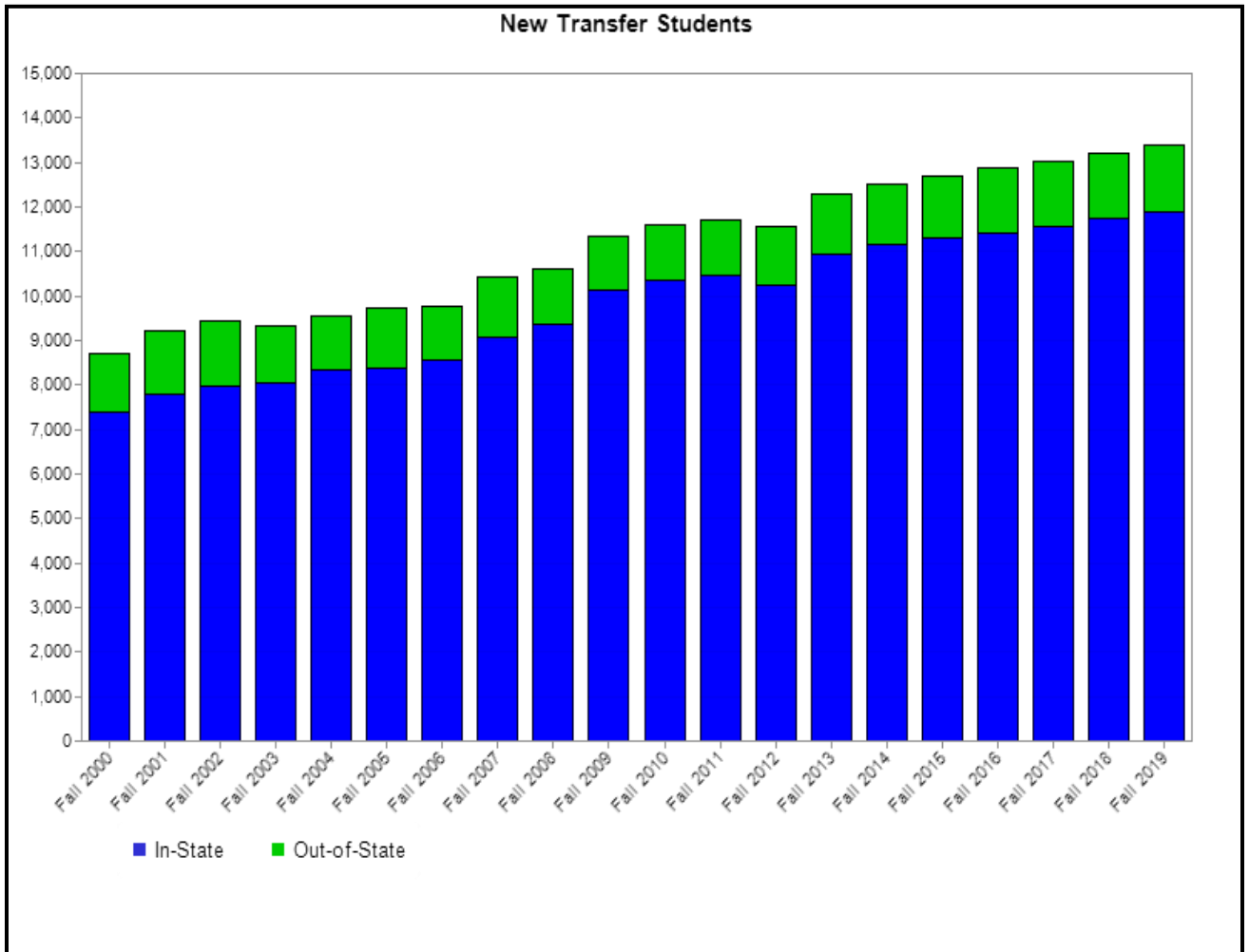
Institution	Time to degree at 4 year						Total
		0506	0607	0708	0809	0910	
University of Mary Washington	2 years	2	1	0	2	2	7
	3 years	1	3	2	1	1	8
	4 years	0	1	2	0	1	4
	still enrolled/DNG	0	5	1	1	2	9
University of Mary Washington Total		3	10	5	4	6	28
University of Virginia	2 years	1	3	4	0	1	9
	3 years	1	0	1	0	0	2
	4 years	1	0	0	0	0	1
	still enrolled/DNG	0	0	0	1	0	1
University of Virginia Total		3	3	5	1	1	13
University of Virginia's College at Wise	2 years	1	3	0	0	0	4
	3 years	2	0	0	0	2	4
	4 years	0	0	1	0	0	1
	still enrolled/DNG	2	1	2	0	3	8
University of Virginia's College at Wise Total		5	4	3	0	5	17
Virginia Commonwealth University	2 years	6	12	9	9	6	42
	3 years	7	7	3	11	10	38
	4 years	4	5	1	4	3	17
	still enrolled/DNG	17	11	14	14	17	73
Virginia Commonwealth University Total		34	35	27	38	36	170
Virginia Military Institute	2 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
	still enrolled/DNG	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia Military Institute Total		0	0	0	0	0	3
Virginia State University	2 years	1	1	1	1	1	5
	3 years	0	0	1	0	0	1
	4 years	0	0	1	0	0	1
	still enrolled/DNG	1	2	4	1	1	9
Virginia State University Total		2	3	7	2	2	16
Virginia Tech	2 years	1	0	2	0	0	3
	3 years	0	1	1	2	0	4
	4 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
	still enrolled/DNG	0	0	0	0	2	2
Virginia Tech Total		1	1	3	2	2	9
Total		182	218	203	183	201	987

**Table 3: Enrollment and Time to Baccalaureate Degree
VCCS Transfers Without Degrees
2005-06 – 2009-10**

Institution	Time to degree at 4 year	Enrollment					Total
		0506	0607	0708	0809	0910	
Christopher Newport University	2 years	8	2	5	3	7	25
	3 years	7	15	14	20	17	73
	4 years	6	7	18	13	11	55
	still enrolled/DNG	11	19	17	22	22	91
Christopher Newport University Total		32	43	54	58	57	244
College of William and Mary	2 years	7	8	8	10	14	47
	3 years	8	16	10	10	12	56
	4 years	1	6	4	1	4	16
	still enrolled/DNG	4	3	7	7	3	24
College of William and Mary Total		20	33	29	28	33	143
George Mason University	2 years	152	129	159	183	164	787
	3 years	211	230	238	284	342	1305
	4 years	116	140	136	139	158	689
	still enrolled/DNG	291	306	297	286	354	1534
George Mason University Total		770	805	830	892	1018	4315
James Madison University	2 years	25	27	8	14	30	104
	3 years	71	85	71	71	68	366
	4 years	36	37	31	31	42	177
	still enrolled/DNG	52	64	50	31	49	246
James Madison University Total		184	213	160	147	189	893
Longwood University	2 years	7	12	11	10	14	54
	3 years	27	23	17	21	26	114
	4 years	14	18	22	15	13	82
	still enrolled/DNG	29	32	37	24	23	145
Longwood University Total		77	85	87	70	76	395
Norfolk State University	2 years	4	5	9	5	1	24
	3 years	14	19	15	15	16	79
	4 years	16	10	12	17	13	68
	still enrolled/DNG	79	85	94	96	115	469
Norfolk State University Total		113	119	130	133	145	640
Old Dominion University	2 years	48	49	83	57	80	317
	3 years	162	140	202	177	196	877
	4 years	80	102	107	110	139	538
	still enrolled/DNG	354	336	411	358	421	1880
Old Dominion University Total		644	627	803	702	836	3612
Radford University	2 years	49	40	33	33	40	195
	3 years	117	116	93	98	113	537
	4 years	77	61	62	70	54	324
	still enrolled/DNG	114	89	106	121	105	535
Radford University Total		357	306	294	322	312	1591

Institution	Time to degree at 4 year	0506	0607	0708	0809	0910	Total
		University of Mary Washington	2 years	16	16	13	
	3 years	41	30	25	28	22	146
	4 years	10	8	7	10	9	44
	still enrolled/DNG	29	38	20	38	35	160
University of Mary Washington Total		96	92	65	94	84	431
University of Virginia	2 years	38	42	58	58	62	258
	3 years	41	41	48	51	53	234
	4 years	13	9	15	23	23	83
	still enrolled/DNG	23	28	30	38	42	161
University of Virginia Total		115	120	151	170	180	736
University of Virginia's College at Wise	2 years	8	11	5	3	3	30
	3 years	17	13	8	11	16	65
	4 years	9	3	6	7	10	35
	still enrolled/DNG	31	27	22	24	30	134
University of Virginia's College at Wise Total		65	54	41	45	59	264
Virginia Commonwealth University	2 years	91	87	99	113	108	498
	3 years	122	128	141	187	208	786
	4 years	111	120	108	132	132	603
	still enrolled/DNG	342	352	335	305	393	1727
Virginia Commonwealth University Total		666	687	683	737	841	3614
Virginia Military Institute	2 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3 years	0	2	1	1	1	5
	4 years	9	4	5	4	7	29
	still enrolled/DNG	6	2	7	7	5	27
Virginia Military Institute Total		15	8	13	12	13	61
Virginia State University	2 years	6	4	3	3	2	18
	3 years	3	2	8	10	9	32
	4 years	9	15	9	14	12	59
	still enrolled/DNG	35	29	53	26	30	173
Virginia State University Total		53	50	73	53	53	282
Virginia Tech	2 years	33	31	49	35	38	186
	3 years	97	117	123	130	129	596
	4 years	49	70	72	63	64	318
	still enrolled/DNG	67	63	86	104	79	399
Virginia Tech Total		246	281	330	332	310	1499
Total		3453	3523	3743	3795	4206	18720

Appendix B: Six-Year Plans—Transfer Enrollment Growth



In-State HC			Out-of-State HC		
Year	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)
Fall 2000	7,407	85.2%	1,288	14.8%	8,695
Fall 2001	7,805	84.6%	1,425	15.4%	9,230
Fall 2002	7,977	84.4%	1,469	15.6%	9,446
Fall 2003	8,040	86.2%	1,283	13.8%	9,323
Fall 2004	8,326	87.1%	1,233	12.9%	9,559
Fall 2005	8,385	86.3%	1,329	13.7%	9,714
Fall 2006	8,572	87.7%	1,197	12.3%	9,769
Fall 2007	9,089	87.1%	1,351	12.9%	10,440
Fall 2008	9,375	88.4%	1,235	11.6%	10,610
Fall 2009	10,146	89.3%	1,213	10.7%	11,359
Fall 2010	10,341	89.3%	1,245	10.7%	11,586
Fall 2011	10,457	89.3%	1,253	10.7%	11,710
Fall 2012	10,243	88.7%	1,301	11.3%	11,544
Fall 2013	10,945	89.0%	1,353	11.0%	12,298
Fall 2014	11,169	89.1%	1,360	10.9%	12,529
Fall 2015	11,291	88.9%	1,404	11.1%	12,695
Fall 2016	11,416	88.7%	1,457	11.3%	12,873
Fall 2017	11,568	88.7%	1,473	11.3%	13,041
Fall 2018	11,736	88.7%	1,489	11.3%	13,225
Fall 2019	11,899	88.8%	1,507	11.2%	13,406