

The University of Virginia’s College at Wise is committed to providing an affordable education to students of our region and from across the Commonwealth. The students from our primary service area continue to be socioeconomically disadvantaged. Of the 742 students in our 23/24 cohort who receive Pell Grant, 439 have an EFC of \$0. Evidence suggests that students who have little to no monetary support from parents tend to struggle more in college due to the added pressure to work and in some instances even assist their families with bills. The added stress of paying for their education leads many to stop out or drop out entirely.

The Commonwealth Transfer Grant, the Transfer Plus and the Incentive Grant have provided additional funding options for students who have selected to begin their education at the community college as a cost saving measure and then transfer to the College. A robust transfer population allows the College to enroll students who do not need to take any of our in-demand gen ed classes and instead start into their major coursework. They fill seats in upper level courses and allow us to play a role in students earning degrees which will change their lives and those of their families.

In the table below, you will see the established targets and the actual numbers for each year as well as the amount of incentive grant that was awarded.

AWARD YEAR	TARGET NUMBER	ACTUAL NUMBER	\$ AMOUNT OF INCENTIVE DISBURSED
19-20	20	46	40500
20-21	20	54	43500
21-22	20	36	30500
22-23	20	31	26500
23-24	20	30	26000

The table below will show the percentages of the 105 students who received funding in the last four academic years, with their graduation and attrition rates. If we combine the totals of those who have graduated and those still enrolled, 81% of this four-year cohort have experienced a favorable outcome with the assistance of the additional funding through the Transfer Incentive award. Additionally, the drop out numbers since the covid years may be a bit higher as we moved entirely online for a short time with which some students found challenging. The drop-in transfer population after the pandemic may also be attributed to fewer students taking in-person courses on VCCS campuses which hampered recruiting.

TOTAL RECIPIENTS	GRADUATED	DROPPED OUT	ENROLLED	GRAD RATE	DROP OUT RATE
105	55	22	30	52%	21%

In summary, the overall rates of completion and continued enrollment seem to indicate that the additional funding has assisted our students with balancing school, work and family obligations to finish their degrees in a timely fashion and with less debt.