



STUDENT-LEVEL DATA RELATED TO FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULA

Legislative Mandate

House Bill 2998 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to convene Oregon's public community colleges and universities to develop one or more foundational curricula, common across all Oregon public colleges and universities and available to students by fall 2018.

To inform the creation of these foundational curricula, HECC staff prepared the following information to assist the convened Transfer Workgroup with defining and describing the problem, identifying relevant questions, and developing a path forward.

Data Sources

University graduation rates. Bachelor's degree completion rates come from university student records submitted to the HECC by Oregon public universities. These graduation rates compare first-time freshmen (FTF) who attained sophomore status and community college transfer students who transferred to a university with 45-55 accepted credits, allowing the Transfer Workgroup focus specifically on the populations of students who have completed the rough equivalent of a one-year general education curriculum.

Oregon Transfer Module (OTM) reporting. This document also includes community college student data that Oregon's community colleges submit to HECC on the number of OTMs awarded each year. OTM completion is not included in most university student records submitted to HECC. Thus, the HECC cannot calculate bachelor's degree completion rates by OTM receipt.

Bachelor's Degree Completion Rate and Credit Difference

The graph below shows the Oregon public university graduation rates for resident first-time freshmen who attain sophomore status (green line) and for students who transfer from an Oregon community college to an Oregon public university with 45-55 accepted credits (red line). The lines show the cumulative graduation rates by approximate years in higher education. For first-time freshmen, this means the number of years at the university; 41 percent graduated by the end of their fourth year in the university, 68 percent graduated by the end of their fifth year, and 76 percent graduated by the end of their sixth year. For students who transfer with 45-55 accepted credits, we lag these rates one year to approximate the time they were enrolled in community college; certainly some students likely took more than one year to complete 45-55 credits, in which case their education took longer to complete than what is shown here. For transfer students, the time is represented here is thus a conservative estimate. Among transfer students, 18 percent completed their bachelor's degree after four years (three years at the university); 41 percent graduated after five years (four years at the university); 52 percent graduated after six years (five years at the university), and 56 percent after seven years (six years at the university). Even with an additional year at the university, these transfer students have graduation rates that are 20 percentage points lower than the six-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen.

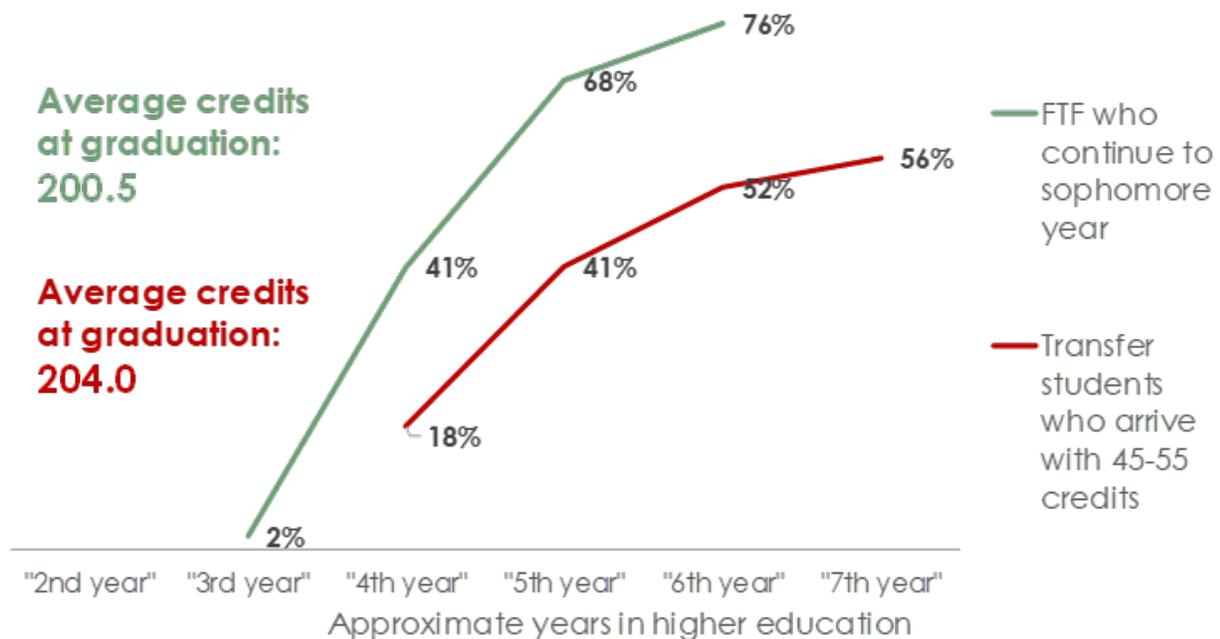


Figure 1. Bachelor's degree completion rates, by enrollment status and years in university, and credit difference by enrollment status, Oregon resident university students, fall 2010 cohort.

In addition, among students who graduate, first-time freshmen graduate with fewer credits earned than transfer students. First-time freshmen who attain sophomore status graduate with 200.5, on average, while transfer students graduate with 204.0 credits, on average.

Oregon Transfer Module (OTM)

The figure below shows the number of OTMs awarded at Oregon community colleges between 2006-07 (the earliest year for which we have consistent data) and 2016-17. The large increase in the 2012-2013 academic year likely reflects the beginning of auto-awarding procedures at many colleges. Note that the HECC cannot track bachelor's degree completion rates for transfer students with an OTM because OTM attainment is not included in most university student records submitted to the HECC.

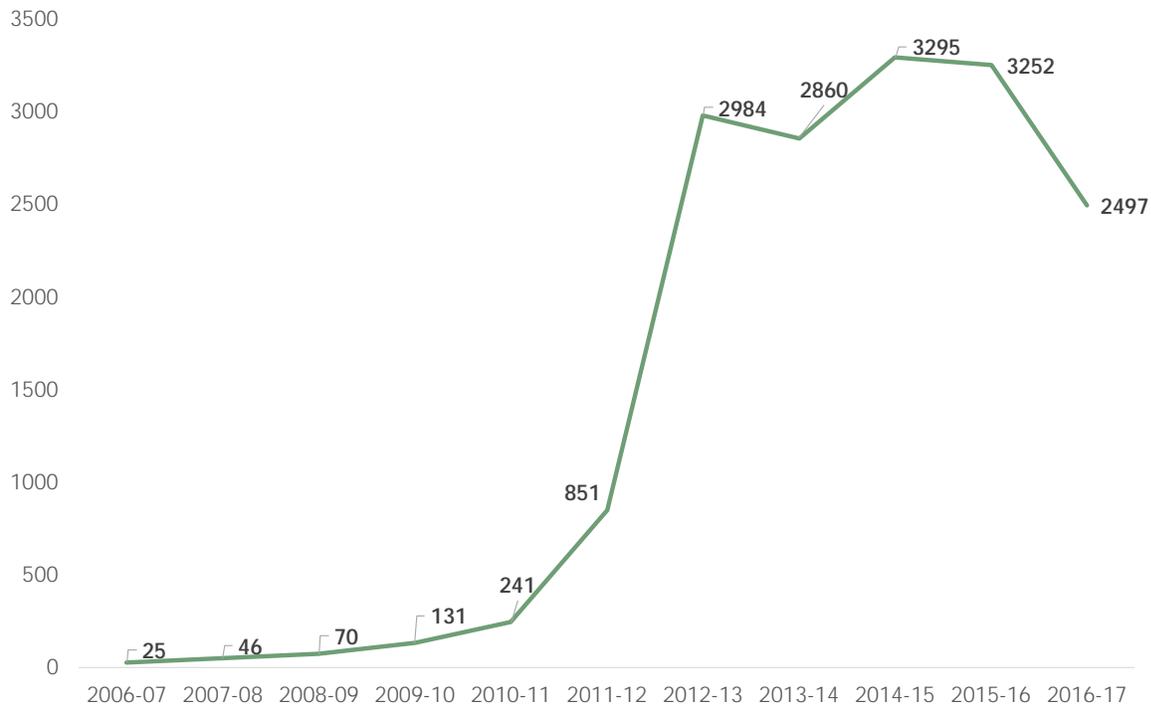


Figure 2. Number of Oregon Transfer Modules awarded at Oregon community colleges, 2006-17 through 2016-17.