Student Mobility in New England

Full Steam Ahead:
Transfer and Articulation Policies and Progress in New England

New England Board of Higher Education
June 11, 2015
About NEBHE

- Interstate agency chartered by New England Governors in 1955
- One of four inter-state compacts
Student mobility affects student success.

- Student pathways to a degree are increasingly varied by both location and sector.
- Students often lose credits when transferring, costing them money and time.
- To investigate student mobility in New England, NEBHE analyzed data from the U.S. Department of Education and National Student Clearinghouse.
- Analyses explore these key questions:
  - Where do students at New England colleges come from?
  - How do students transfer by state and sector?
  - Where do transfer students go?
The majority of students at New England colleges come from within the state or region.

Share of First-time Undergraduates Enrolled at New England Institutions by State of Institution and Residency of Student
Fall 2012

CT: 24% (7% In-State, 17% In-Region, 16% Out-of-Region)
MA: 27% (11% In-State, 17% In-Region, 16% Out-of-Region)
ME: 16% (17% In-State, 32% In-Region, 67% Out-of-Region)
NH: 17% (32% In-State, 28% In-Region, 44% Out-of-Region)
RI: 28% (28% In-State, 32% In-Region, 34% Out-of-Region)
VT: 34% (15% In-State, 32% In-Region, 50% Out-of-Region)
New England: 25% (15% In-State, 32% In-Region, 53% Out-of-Region)

Note: This breaks down the residency of first-time undergraduates who began at degree-granting institutions in each New England state (e.g., 69% of first-time students at Connecticut’s colleges in fall 2012 were Connecticut residents.)
Source: NEBHE analysis of data from U.S. Department of Education
Transfer student data set

• First-time students
• Began at a 2-year public, 4-year public, or 4-year private nonprofit college in New England
• In Fall 2007

• Students followed for six years
• Transfer counted as the first time a student changed institutions
• 132,895 total students followed
Approximately 40% of all students transfer. The destination of these students varies widely by sector.

Note: For-profit/other category captures students who transferred into a sector other than those analyzed (e.g. for-profit) or into a state that did not submit data.
Source: NEBHE analysis of data from National Student Clearinghouse
The region’s community college students are more likely to transfer to a 4-year institution **before** receiving a degree.

- The most popular destination of students transferring from community colleges is an in-state 4-year public college.
- Most students who transfer to a 4-year college do so before receiving a degree.
- However, at 4-year public colleges in some states, many students transfer after receiving a degree—almost as many as students who transfer before receiving a degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Pre-Degree</th>
<th>Post-Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New England</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>7.6%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: NH data has been suppressed because of insufficient coverage of 2-year public schools.
Source: National Student Clearinghouse

*Students who transfer after receiving an associate degree are more likely to complete a bachelor’s degree.*
Most students transferring from the region’s 4-year public colleges stay in the region. Many go to community colleges.

- Overall, three in four students who transfer from a 4-year public college enroll elsewhere in the state or region.

- The share of transfer students who stay in the region ranges from 58% to 80% by state.

- Nearly 30% of transfer students go to a community college within the same state.

Note: For-profit/other category captures students who transferred into a sector other than those analyzed (e.g., for-profit) or into a state that did not submit data.
Source: NEBHE analysis of data from the National Student Clearinghouse
Students transferring from 4-year private nonprofit schools enroll at other 4-year colleges in and out of the region in equal measures.

- While the most popular destination is an out-of-region 4-year college (34%), 4-year colleges in-state or in other New England states together make up 37% of transfers.

- Of students who stay in the region, the most popular destination is another 4-year private nonprofit within the state.

- Still, over a quarter of transfer students enroll at 2-year schools.

Source: NEBHE analysis of data from the National Student Clearinghouse
Student mobility in New England takeaways

• Four in 10 students who began college in the region transfer at least once in their academic careers.

• Most students who transfer from community colleges to 4-year colleges do so before earning an associate degree.

• Not all students move from 2-year to 4-year: Almost three in 10 students who leave a public 4-year college enroll at a community college within the state.

• Students transferring from 4-year nonprofit schools are the most likely of students in the three sectors to leave the region.
Contact Us

Monnica Chan  
Director of Policy & Research  
617-533-9530  
mchan@nebhe.org

Gretchen Syverud  
Policy Research Analyst  
617-533-9522  
gsyverud@nebhe.org