

UC and CSU Transfer Counts CPEC vs. NSC

Prior to the defunding of the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), many California community colleges including El Camino College (ECC) relied on CPEC for UC and CSU transfer data. CPEC's sources of data were the UC and CSU system offices. Since the transfer destinations provided the data, CPEC was the primary resource for ECC transfer numbers. After 2009-10, however, CPEC closed its doors, which promoted the exploration and use of data from National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), an organization that verifies student enrollment. The following report outlines CPEC and NSC transfer counts and the differences between the two sources.

Methodology

To better understand the differences between CPEC and NSC data, this section provides a brief outline of the methodology used to obtain NSC transfer counts. Similar to CPEC, NSC also relies on four-year institutions' reports. However, NSC tracks students based on a list of students submitted. With this approach, the Office of Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) is able to submit two separate lists of ECC and Compton Center students and track their educational journey prior to and beyond ECC. Students are counted as transfers if they (1) did not previously obtain a four-year degree, (2) did not attend a four-year institution during the two years prior to the transfer term of interest, and (3) did not enroll in any four-year institution prior to attending ECC. These three criteria exclude reverse transfers, which is the enrollment of students at ECC after they previously attended a four-year institution. Linking this data with College data allows for identification of unique transfer students at ECC and the Compton Center. This last step is necessary since many students complete transferrable coursework at both ECC and the Compton Center.

Reporting Differences: CPEC vs. NSC

Table 1 outlines the total transfer counts for El Camino College and the Compton Center by academic year and data source. Counts for the two campus locations are combined in order to highlight the difference between the two data sources. The percentage difference between CPEC and NSC counts is provided in the column labeled "Difference." Negative percentages indicate CPEC counts are greater than NSC counts. Conversely, positive percentages indicate NSC counts are greater than CPEC counts. A higher percentage, whether it is positive or negative, connotes a larger difference between the two data sources.



Table 1. El Camino College and Compton Center Transfer Counts by Source

Year	CPEC*	NSC	Difference
2007-08	1,624	1,080	-33%
2008-09	1,411	1,307	-7%
2009-10	1,300	1,335	3%
2010-11	1,574	1,350	-14%
2011-12	1,434	1,485	4%

*In 2009-10, funding for CPEC ceased. Beginning in 2010-11, UC and CSU counts were collected from the UC Office of the President and CSU Analytic Studies, respectively.

In the majority of the past five years, CPEC or four-year system offices had higher transfer counts compared to NSC. The negative differences overall may be attributed to methodological and technical issues regarding NSC data.

As noted earlier, NSC relies on other institutions for data. Because some institutions are not members of NSC, the system’s student data matching capabilities are limited. Another limitation to this approach is the fact that NSC cannot match data based on universal student identifiers but instead must link data using students’ first names and birth dates. These limitations along with students’ ability to request privacy according to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) yield a five-year average mismatch rate of 17% and 18% for ECC and the Compton Center, respectively. Despite these limitations, however, CPEC and NSC counts are not markedly different for the most part.

Compton Transfers

During the course of gathering comparison data using different methods of counting transfers, it was discovered that many Compton transfers were falsely attributed to ECC due to the methodology used by the UC and CSU system offices. Table 2 highlights the differences in CPEC and NSC counts by campus location.

Table 2. CPEC and NSC Differences by Campus Location

Year	CPEC		NSC	
	ECC	Compton	ECC	Compton
2007-08	1,519	105	954	126
2008-09	1,327	84	1,168	139
2009-10	1,248	52	1,064	271
2010-11	1,538	36	959	391
2011-12	1,406	28	985	500

Investigation of these dramatic discrepancies revealed that UC and CSU system offices consider students as ECC transfers if they completed most of their transferrable units at



ECC. Because of the partnership, Compton Center students earn ECC-attributed units. As a result, four-year institutions identify Compton transfers as ECC transfers, thereby inflating ECC transfer numbers and suppressing Compton numbers by approximately the respective amount. These counts were in turn reported by CPEC or state institutions, which explains the large differences in reported numbers by source outlined in Table 2.

For Compton Center, CPEC counts included only students who began their studies at Compton College prior to the partnership. Therefore, the previous methodology did not accurately capture Compton transfers. Consequently, NSC is the most reliable source for transfer data.

Conclusion

Despite the fact that transfer data is readily available from the UC and CSU transfer offices, IRP will report only NSC data for all future transfer-related reports so that Compton counts are accurately reflected. This information affects current grants that incorporate CPEC transfer data. Objectives, however, have been revised to reflect NSC data with no negative consequences for the grants. Other information not affected by this information includes ARCC report outcomes and transfer velocity data produced by the Chancellor's Office. Transfer data in IRP's reports, such as the Factbook and Reported CSU/UC Transfer Counts, will be revised to reflect more accurate NSC transfer data.



Appendix

Table 3. El Camino College CSU/UC Transfer Counts Reported by CPEC*

Four-Year Institution	Distance	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
UC, Berkeley	353 mi	47	36	38	33	45
UC, Davis	375 mi	10	5	10	16	16
UC, Irvine	32 mi	55	47	59	46	46
UC, Los Angeles	15 mi	133	113	162	132	124
UC, Merced	268 mi	1	3	4	4	2
UC, Riverside	58 mi	17	14	25	29	19
UC, San Diego	94 mi	39	37	45	35	58
UC, Santa Barbara	95 mi	13	33	28	40	29
UC, Santa Cruz	300 mi	8	8	6	22	20
University of California Total		323	296	377	357	359
California Maritime Academy	363 mi	3	2	3	1	1
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	165 mi	5	5	2	2	10
Cal Poly, Pomona	32 mi	29	33	22	24	26
CSU, Bakersfield	111 mi	2	5	5	10	2
CSU, Channel Islands	46 mi	6	1	2	2	1
CSU, Chico	449 mi	2	7	2	3	5
CSU, Dominguez Hills	5 mi	346	385	395	478	412
CSU, East Bay	335 mi	4	3	2	5	3
CSU, Fresno	218 mi	1	2	3	4	2
CSU, Fullerton	26 mi	99	82	75	53	42
CSU, Long Beach	14 mi	434	315	180	343	283
CSU, Los Angeles	16 mi	90	83	55	89	83
CSU, Monterey Bay	275 mi	2	1	2	4	3
CSU, Northridge	27 mi	90	44	75	106	115
CSU, Sacramento	367 mi	6	4	7	7	9
CSU, San Bernardino	61 mi	4	10	4	5	11
CSU, San Marcos	85 mi	2	3	2	2	1
CSU, Stanislaus	289 mi	0	0	0	0	2
Humboldt State University	577 mi	8	1	3	13	8
San Diego State University	106 mi	29	24	7	13	6
San Francisco State University	353 mi	20	16	23	12	12
San José State University	312 mi	11	4	1	5	9
Sonoma State University	392 mi	3	1	1	0	1
California State University Total		1,196	1,031	871	1,181	1,047
Grand Total (UC and CSU)		1,519	1,327	1,248	1,538	1,406

*In 2009-10, funding for CPEC ceased. Beginning in 2010-11, UC and CSU counts were collected from UC Office of the President and CSU Analytic Studies, respectively.

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission, UC Office of the President, CSU Analytic Studies
 Green (lighter) highlights are medium pathways (20-99); blue (darker) highlights are larger pathways 100+).

Institutional Research BRIEF



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Table 4. El Camino College Compton Center CSU/UC Transfer Counts Reported by CPEC*

Four-Year Institution	Distance	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
UC, Berkeley	357 mi	0	0	0	1	0
UC, Davis	378 mi	0	0	0	0	1
UC, Irvine	26 mi	0	0	0	0	0
UC, Los Angeles	19 mi	1	0	0	1	0
UC, Merced	272 mi	0	0	0	0	2
UC, Riverside	52 mi	0	0	0	0	0
UC, San Diego	90 mi	0	0	0	0	0
UC, Santa Barbara	101 mi	0	0	0	0	0
UC, Santa Cruz	305 mi	0	0	0	0	0
University of California Total		1	0	0	2	3
California Maritime Academy	367 mi	0	0	0	0	0
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	171 mi	0	0	0	0	0
Cal Poly, Pomona	26 mi	2	1	0	0	0
CSU, Bakersfield	115 mi	0	0	1	0	0
CSU, Channel Islands	52 mi	0	0	0	0	0
CSU, Chico	452 mi	0	0	0	0	0
CSU, Dominguez Hills	3 mi	74	62	44	26	19
CSU, East Bay	339 mi	4	1	0	0	0
CSU, Fresno	221 mi	0	0	0	0	0
CSU, Fullerton	19 mi	0	0	0	1	0
CSU, Long Beach	9 mi	8	10	1	4	2
CSU, Los Angeles	14 mi	7	6	3	0	1
CSU, Monterey Bay	280 mi	0	0	0	0	0
CSU, Northridge	31 mi	2	0	2	0	1
CSU, Sacramento	371 mi	0	0	0	1	0
CSU, San Bernardino	55 mi	3	3	1	0	2
CSU, San Marcos	80 mi	0	0	0	0	0
CSU, Stanislaus	293 mi	0	0	0	0	0
Humboldt State University	581 mi	0	1	0	0	0
San Diego State University	101 mi	1	0	0	0	0
San Francisco State University	358 mi	0	0	0	1	0
San José State University	316 mi	3	0	0	1	0
Sonoma State University	397 mi	0	0	0	0	0
California State University Total		104	84	52	34	25
Grand Total (UC and CSU)		105	84	52	36	28

*In 2009-10, funding for CPEC ceased. Beginning in 2010-11, UC and CSU counts were collected from UC Office of the President and CSU Analytic Studies, respectively.

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission, UC Office of the President, CSU Analytic Studies

Green (lighter) highlights are medium pathways (20-99); blue (darker) highlights are larger pathways 100+).

Institutional Research BRIEF



Number 13

Table 5. El Camino College CSU/UC Transfer Counts Reported by NSC

Four-Year Institution	Distance	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
UC, Berkeley	353 mi	9	25	30	29	35
UC, Davis	375 mi	6	17	19	21	42
UC, Irvine	32 mi	35	67	59	46	44
UC, Los Angeles	15 mi	77	131	98	112	88
UC, Merced	268 mi	7	9	9	4	2
UC, Riverside	58 mi	5	4	7	0	0
UC, San Diego	94 mi	26	37	54	41	23
UC, Santa Barbara	95 mi	26	40	29	28	23
UC, Santa Cruz	300 mi	18	15	26	17	20
University of California Total		209	345	331	298	277
California Maritime Academy	363 mi	2	1	2	1	2
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	165 mi	7	6	5	11	11
Cal Poly, Pomona	32 mi	20	20	17	19	33
CSU, Bakersfield	111 mi	1	12	14	7	2
CSU, Channel Islands	46 mi	1	3	1	1	4
CSU, Chico	449 mi	5	1	4	7	6
CSU, Dominguez Hills	5 mi	269	308	300	216	221
CSU, East Bay	335 mi	1	2	3	1	3
CSU, Fresno	218 mi	1	3	1	1	0
CSU, Fullerton	26 mi	49	85	15	25	45
CSU, Long Beach	14 mi	257	187	158	196	237
CSU, Los Angeles	16 mi	36	55	78	53	45
CSU, Monterey Bay	275 mi	2	4	2	3	3
CSU, Northridge	27 mi	34	81	91	82	60
CSU, Sacramento	367 mi	12	14	5	4	4
CSU, San Bernardino	61 mi	4	4	0	3	0
CSU, San Marcos	85 mi	2	1	1	0	3
CSU, Stanislaus	289 mi	0	0	0	1	0
Humboldt State University	577 mi	2	8	12	6	4
San Diego State University	106 mi	22	6	6	4	15
San Francisco State University	353 mi	14	19	11	9	8
San Jose State University	312 mi	2	2	7	10	0
Sonoma State University	392 mi	2	1	0	1	2
California State University Total		745	823	733	661	708
UC/CSU Grand Total		954	1,168	1,064	959	985

Source: National Student Clearinghouse

Green (lighter) highlights are medium pathways (20-99); blue (darker) highlights are larger pathways (100+).



Table 6. El Camino College Compton Center CSU/UC Transfer Counts Reported by NSC

Four-Year Institution	Distance	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
UC, Berkeley	353 mi	1	2	4	8	12
UC, Davis	375 mi	2	0	3	7	0
UC, Irvine	32 mi	3	3	8	14	24
UC, Los Angeles	15 mi	2	6	6	23	27
UC, Merced	268 mi	0	0	1	3	2
UC, Riverside	58 mi	1	0	1	0	0
UC, San Diego	94 mi	1	3	6	7	10
UC, Santa Barbara	95 mi	1	1	5	9	5
UC, Santa Cruz	300 mi	1	1	2	5	6
University of California Total		12	16	36	76	86
California Maritime Academy	363 mi	0	0	0	0	1
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	165 mi	1	2	1	4	5
Cal Poly, Pomona	32 mi	0	0	3	3	15
CSU, Bakersfield	111 mi	0	4	7	6	1
CSU, Channel Islands	46 mi	0	0	0	1	4
CSU, Chico	449 mi	0	0	1	0	3
CSU, Dominguez Hills	5 mi	74	68	131	178	172
CSU, East Bay	335 mi	0	0	2	2	6
CSU, Fresno	218 mi	0	0	2	2	1
CSU, Fullerton	26 mi	5	5	3	6	22
CSU, Long Beach	14 mi	19	19	33	39	91
CSU, Los Angeles	16 mi	6	14	15	32	34
CSU, Monterey Bay	275 mi	0	0	1	1	2
CSU, Northridge	27 mi	5	6	23	25	35
CSU, Sacramento	367 mi	1	1	0	0	4
CSU, San Bernardino	61 mi	2	1	3	2	2
CSU, San Marcos	85 mi	0	0	1	1	0
CSU, Stanislaus	289 mi	0	0	0	1	0
Humboldt State University	577 mi	1	0	3	1	4
San Diego State University	106 mi	0	1	0	6	8
San Francisco State University	353 mi	0	0	2	2	0
San Jose State University	312 mi	0	1	3	3	1
Sonoma State University	392 mi	0	1	1	0	3
California State University Total		114	123	235	315	414
UC/CSU Grand Total		126	139	271	391	500

Source: National Student Clearinghouse

Green (lighter) highlights are medium pathways (20-99); blue (darker) highlights are larger pathways (100+).