

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 prompted 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.

To approach a more accurate reflection of transfers from each location, the new methodology counts students at each institution where enrollment in the academic year prior to transfer term exists. Additionally, students must earn at least 12 units across ECC and Compton Center to be counted as transfers. This unit threshold helps exclude students who "drop in" to complete one or two courses and most K-12 Special Admit students. Because students can be counted at both ECC and Compton Center, this methodology yields duplicated counts, as would occur with data for any two colleges.¹

Reporting Differences: CPEC vs. NSC

Table 1 outlines the total unduplicated transfer counts for El Camino College and the Compton Center by academic year and data source. Counts for the two campus locations

¹ IRP originally proposed a methodology that utilized Compton cohorts to identify unique ECC and Compton Center transfers. However, this method inflated counts for Compton and undercounted ECC data, particularly because of the high rate of cross-over enrollment between the two locations.



are combined and unduplicated 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. A higher percentage connotes a larger difference between the two data sources.

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

Year	CPEC*	NSC	Difference
2007-08	1,624	890	-45%
2008-09	1,411	1,021	-28%
2009-10	1,300	995	-23%
2010-11	1,574	1,089	-31%
2011-12	1,434	1,183	-18%

*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.

Over the past five years, CPEC or four-year system offices had higher transfer counts compared to NSC. The differences may be attributed to methodological differences between the two data sources. Four-year system offices count all students who transfer in a given term. Some of these students may not have attended ECC or Compton during the academic year preceding the transfer term. NSC, however, counts only students who were enrolled at ECC or Compton Center during the preceding academic year. Additionally, the UC system office recognizes the transfer source institution as the community college where students most recently attended. Consequently, some students included in the CPEC counts may have less than 12 units whereas NSC includes only students with 12 or more combined units.

Methodological and technical issues surrounding NSC may also attribute to the count differences. NSC cannot match data based on universal student identifiers but instead must link data using students' first names and birth dates. This limitation 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. Over the course of years, however, the difference between CPEC and NSC counts has progressively decreased.

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	830	87
2008-09	1,327	84	1,021	99
2009-10	1,248	52	993	160
2010-11	1,538	36	1,076	290
2011-12	1,406	28	1,182	381

*NSC counts by campus location are duplicated.

Investigation of these discrepancies revealed that the UC system office recognizes Compton Center students as ECC students. The CSU system office considers 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. 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



Number 13

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+.

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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	6	8	16	32	34
UC, Davis	375 mi	5	14	16	21	26
UC, Irvine	32 mi	35	55	51	46	40
UC, Los Angeles	15 mi	72	111	88	116	89
UC, Merced	268 mi	4	7	4	7	2
UC, Riverside	58 mi	3	4	8	0	0
UC, San Diego	94 mi	26	34	43	41	22
UC, Santa Barbara	95 mi	24	29	29	28	21
UC, Santa Cruz	300 mi	11	10	19	16	18
University of California Total		186	272	274	307	252
California Maritime Academy	363 mi	2	1	1	1	2
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	165 mi	5	5	4	12	12
Cal Poly, Pomona	32 mi	19	19	13	16	35
CSU, Bakersfield	111 mi	1	8	6	6	3
CSU, Channel Islands	46 mi	0	3	1	1	5
CSU, Chico	449 mi	5	1	1	6	9
CSU, Dominguez Hills	5 mi	226	311	333	293	325
CSU, East Bay	335 mi	0	1	3	3	5
CSU, Fresno	218 mi	1	0	3	1	1
CSU, Fullerton	26 mi	48	79	13	27	54
CSU, Long Beach	14 mi	236	150	157	212	289
CSU, Los Angeles	16 mi	30	58	71	67	67
CSU, Monterey Bay	275 mi	1	1	3	2	2
CSU, Northridge	27 mi	20	62	76	80	78
CSU, Sacramento	367 mi	12	15	5	4	6
CSU, San Bernardino	61 mi	3	3	0	4	0
CSU, San Marcos	85 mi	2	1	0	0	1
CSU, Stanislaus	289 mi	0	0	0	2	0
Humboldt State University	577 mi	1	5	10	5	6
San Diego State University	106 mi	20	6	4	7	19
San Francisco State University	353 mi	9	17	8	10	8
San Jose State University	312 mi	2	2	6	9	0
Sonoma State University	392 mi	1	1	1	1	3
California State University Total		644	749	719	769	930
UC/CSU Grand Total		830	1,021	993	1,076	1,182

Source: National Student Clearinghouse

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

Institutional Research BRIEF



Number 13

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	0	1	7	7
UC, Davis	375 mi	1	0	3	7	0
UC, Irvine	32 mi	2	4	6	9	13
UC, Los Angeles	15 mi	2	3	3	19	18
UC, Merced	268 mi	0	0	0	3	2
UC, Riverside	58 mi	0	0	1	0	0
UC, San Diego	94 mi	1	2	5	8	7
UC, Santa Barbara	95 mi	1	1	6	8	3
UC, Santa Cruz	300 mi	0	1	2	2	5
University of California Total		8	11	27	63	55
California Maritime Academy	363 mi	0	0	0	0	1
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	165 mi	0	0	0	5	3
Cal Poly, Pomona	32 mi	0	2	2	3	9
CSU, Bakersfield	111 mi	0	1	3	2	1
CSU, Channel Islands	46 mi	0	0	0	0	3
CSU, Chico	449 mi	0	0	0	0	3
CSU, Dominguez Hills	5 mi	54	54	75	116	143
CSU, East Bay	335 mi	0	0	1	2	4
CSU, Fresno	218 mi	0	0	2	2	1
CSU, Fullerton	26 mi	4	4	1	4	13
CSU, Long Beach	14 mi	12	10	22	37	78
CSU, Los Angeles	16 mi	3	12	10	27	26
CSU, Monterey Bay	275 mi	0	0	1	0	0
CSU, Northridge	27 mi	2	3	10	17	27
CSU, Sacramento	367 mi	1	1	0	1	4
CSU, San Bernardino	61 mi	2	0	0	1	0
CSU, San Marcos	85 mi	0	0	0	1	0
CSU, Stanislaus	289 mi	0	0	0	1	0
Humboldt State University	577 mi	1	0	2	1	2
San Diego State University	106 mi	0	0	0	4	6
San Francisco State University	353 mi	0	0	1	1	0
San Jose State University	312 mi	0	1	2	2	0
Sonoma State University	392 mi	0	0	1	0	2
California State University Total		79	88	133	227	326
UC/CSU Grand Total		87	99	160	290	381

Source: National Student Clearinghouse

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