Transfer Students Don’t Need Learning Communities, Do They?

Iowa State University
Learning Community Institute
May 8, 2006
“Based on the data, the 1990s could be dubbed the ‘Decade of the Community College’”

- ACE, June 2004
Enrollment Trends

- Total fall enrollment from 1990 to 2000
  - increased 700,913 or 14% at public 2-year institutions
  - decreased at 4-year public institutions by 10,342 or 0.5%.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics
Community Colleges: The Facts
American Association of Community Colleges

- **Number of Community Colleges:**
  - Public institutions - 992
  - Private institutions - 148
  - Tribal institutions - 31
  - Total - 1171

- **Student Profile:**
  - 46% of black undergraduate students
  - 55% of Hispanic
  - 46% of Asian/Pacific Islander
  - 55% of Native American

- **Enrollment:**
  - 10.4 million students
  - 5.4 million credit
  - 5 million noncredit

- 44% of all U.S. undergraduates
  - 45% of first-time freshmen
  - 58% women; 42% men
  - 63% part time; 37% full time
  (full time = 12 + credit hours)

*Source: State-By-State Profile of Community Colleges, 6th Edition, 2003*
Community colleges see enrollment spike

Sour economy, rising university tuition behind surge

September 18, 2002 Posted: 12:26 PM EDT (1028 GMT)

RED BANK, New Jersey (AP) -- When Jennifer Buono decided where to enroll after high school, she chose little-known Brookdale Community College in central New Jersey over Rutgers University.

The bottom line, Buono said, was the bottom line.

"Brookdale is cheaper and you're getting the same education for less," said the 18-year-old education major. "And when I get out of school, I won't have all those student loans to pay off."

Across the country, many students have made similar decisions this semester. Though official figures aren't available, community college administrators say enrollment is way up, a product of the sour economy and rising tuition rates at four-year schools, including state universities such as Rutgers.

Norma Kent, a spokeswoman for the American Association of Community Colleges, said many schools are reporting percentage increases in the double digits for enrollment. This comes at a time when community college costs also are creeping up and education budgets nearly everywhere are being squeezed by declining state revenues.
From the East…
To the West...
Enrollment climbing at community colleges

The president of DMACC wants more property tax money; one legislator says that's unlikely this year.

BY MEGAN HAWKINS
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Community colleges need more money as enrollment climbs, and some leaders propose more access to property tax money, Robert Denson, president of Des Moines Area Community College, said Friday.

Despite tuition increases, a record number of students are enrolling in Iowa community colleges, filling classrooms and creating a need for more programs, Denson said on "Iowa Press," an Iowa Public Television program.

Property taxes cover about 8.8 percent of DMACC's operating budget, compared with 40 percent of community college budgets paid by property taxes in surrounding states, Denson said.

The amount community colleges can collect from property taxes is set by the Iowa Legislature and has been capped at the same level — just over 20 cents per $1,000 of assessed valuation — since 1965.

All of Iowa's community colleges now impose the full rate.

"Most of DMACC's vocational programs are already at capacity for fall," Denson said.

"We need more dental hygienist programs, more nursing programs, more computer, welding, but they are extremely expensive. Property tax is one area where we could have growth. If the public realizes they get a good return on their investment ... I think they'd be willing to pay more."

Legislators are unlikely to address the issue this year as they struggle to pay for other programs already on the table, said Sen. Mike Conolly of Dubuque, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Education Committee.

Denson said economic struggles have forced institutions to work together.

"If there's one good thing from all the financial issues the state of Iowa faces, it has really forced us all to come to the table and look for creative ways to deliver education," Denson said. "We really partner in a lot of very good ways."

Drake University President David Maxwell, who also appeared on the program, spoke in favor of increased state money for the Iowa Tuition Grant program.

The program provides grants of up to $4,000 to Iowa students attending private colleges in the state.

Gov. Tom Vilsack has proposed a $700,000 increase to the program next year.
Projected Change in High School Graduates
2003-2012

Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
Great College...Great Education...Great Price...Awesome Experience...

It really is...a great place to start!

Southwestern Classes Transfer!
More information about transfer planning and articulation agreements can be found on our Web site.

You Do the Math...

Cost Comparison Based on 2004-2005 In-State Fees
Based on 12 credit hours per semester for a full year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Southwestern</th>
<th>NWMSU*</th>
<th>Iowa State</th>
<th>Simpson</th>
<th>Drake Univ.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$2,184</td>
<td>$6,168</td>
<td>$4,702</td>
<td>$19,635</td>
<td>$20,200</td>
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<td>Mandatory Fees</td>
<td>$288</td>
<td>$1,056</td>
<td>$990</td>
<td>$205</td>
<td>$386</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room &amp; Board</td>
<td>$3,600</td>
<td>$5,080</td>
<td>$5,958</td>
<td>$5,469</td>
<td>$5,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>$820</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$900</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL COST</td>
<td>$6,872</td>
<td>$12,439</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
<td>$26,809</td>
<td>$27,431</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Costs reflect out-of-state tuition

NOTE: If you are planning to attend Southwestern and live at home, that will reduce the cost per year to $3,272, approximately $9,200 less than a year at Iowa State.

Apply Online at www.swccciowa.edu
## Iowa Regent & Community College Tuition 1994 - 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In-State Tuition</th>
<th>Relative Tuition</th>
<th>Gap</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regent</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>Regent/CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1994</td>
<td>$2,291</td>
<td>$1,491</td>
<td>154%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1995</td>
<td>$2,386</td>
<td>$1,557</td>
<td>153%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1996</td>
<td>$2,470</td>
<td>$1,613</td>
<td>153%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1997</td>
<td>$2,566</td>
<td>$1,644</td>
<td>156%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1998</td>
<td>$2,666</td>
<td>$1,698</td>
<td>157%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1999</td>
<td>$2,786</td>
<td>$1,762</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2000</td>
<td>$2,906</td>
<td>$1,856</td>
<td>157%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2001</td>
<td>$3,116</td>
<td>$1,937</td>
<td>161%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2002</td>
<td>$3,692</td>
<td>$2,162</td>
<td>171%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2003</td>
<td>$4,342</td>
<td>$2,378</td>
<td>183%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2004</td>
<td>$4,702</td>
<td>$2,571</td>
<td>183%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source for CC Tuition: Condition of Iowa Community Colleges, 2004
Did You Know?

- **Transfer Students at Iowa State**
  - Do as well as “native” students after the first semester
  - Make up almost 1/3 of the entering class each fall

- **Iowa Community Colleges**
  - 15 public two-year colleges
  - African-American students constitute largest minority enrollment of CC students
  - Largest number of awards is granted to College Transfer (Parallel)
  - AA and AAS degrees are most frequently granted awards
Iowa State University
New Undergraduate Transfers – Fall 2005

- Non-Iowa: 22%
- Iowa Comm Colleges: 59%
- Iowa Four Year Private: 8%
- Iowa Four Year Public: 6%
- Foreign: 3%
Serving Diverse Students

“Minority students favor community colleges, making up 30% of community college enrollments nationally. In urban areas, community college enrollments reflect the proportion of minorities in the local population.”
- National Profile of Community Colleges: Trends and Statistics, 2000

“Students of color continue to make significant gains in enrollment, but still lag behind their white counterparts in the rates at which they pursue a higher education.”
- American Council on Education, February 14, 2005

“These persistent gaps in college participation among whites and minorities tell us that we must be more creative and imaginative in developing strategies and finding additional resources so that more students of color are successful on our campuses.”
- William B. Harvey, ACE Vice President, February 14, 2005
# Minority Student Increase by Sector

## Fall 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>% of Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regents</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Year Independent</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Year Other</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Iowa Student Aid Commission, Student and Faculty Ethnic Diversity Report, January 2005*
Survey Says:
“Majors and Career Plans”

- 49% of Iowa 2-year transfers and 42% overall had changed their major/career plans.
- 64% of transfers chose a major before deciding to transfer to Iowa State.
- Only 58% of Iowa 2-year transfers had chosen a major before choosing Iowa State.
Survey Says:
“Working with Advisors”

- 55% of Iowa 2-year transfers and 44% overall worked at least occasionally with an advisor at their previous institution on transfer issues.

- 70% of Iowa 2-year transfers and 44% overall worked with an advisor at Iowa State.
The Good...

- “I had a good experience. The course work is more stimulating and the campus is beautiful.”
- “It was pretty darn easy. I didn’t have any trouble, and my classes transferred well.”
- “It was really good. The advisors and my friends helped a lot.”
- “I’d give it an 8 or 9 on a scale of 1 to 10.”
- “It was better than my other transfer experiences.”
…the Bad…

- “It was hard to come from a school where the class size was 20 students to a lecture with 300 people in it.”
- “It was different because I was living on my own and I had to take care of my own business and decide what classes I needed to take. I need to plan a lot more for myself here.”
- “I didn’t know what classes what transfer for what. They’ll always give you credit, but not necessarily toward the classes you need to graduate.”
...And the Ugly.

- “ISU made it a pain in the %#@. To get my credits transferred, they expected me to get signatures and original syllabi from the classes I had ten years ago.”
- “The hardest part was not knowing anyone—abandoning my friends. I never got my housing contract. My dad called and was upset.”
- “Lots of courses didn’t transfer after I was told they would. That is crap!”
ISU-Transfer Students’ Questionnaire
[ISU-TSQ] (Laanan, 2004)

- **Background Information**
  - Place of residence
  - Degree aspirations
  - Parental education level
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Racial/Ethnic Background

- **Community College Experiences**
  - General Courses
  - Academic Counseling Services
  - Transfer Process
  - Course Learning
  - Experiences with Faculty
  - Learning and Study Skills

- **ISU Experiences**
  - Reasons for attending ISU
  - Transfer Orientation
  - Course Learning
  - Experiences with Faculty
  - General Perceptions of ISU
  - Adjustment Process
  - College Satisfaction

- **Open-Ended Questions**
  - Factors contributing to (un)succesful adjustment to ISU
  - Role of CC to enhance success or ease transition to ISU
  - Advice to CC students
  - What have we not asked...
ISU-TSQ

- **CC Engagement**
  - High in Academic Counseling component
  - High in Transfer Process activities

- **Faculty Quality of Effort**
  - Very high in CC; Substantially low at ISU

- **ISU Experiences**
  - Factors influencing ISU attendance
    - > affordable tuition, reputation, grads get good job
    - < cc advisor, recruitment by ISU rep
  - Adjustment issues (culture shock)
  - Transfer Student Orientation
  - Academic & Social Component Experiences
    - Develop Transfer Student Organization
    - Transfer Honor Society
  - Overall high levels of satisfaction
WHY include transfer students?

- Transfer student enrollment from Iowa Area Community Colleges to Iowa State University
  - 1994 to 2003 = \(+16\%\) change
- Improve the university’s student recruitment efforts
- Position ISU to be the institution of “choice” among students from Iowa Area Community Colleges
- Community College and Iowa State Collaboration
  - Transfer students’ access to the baccalaureate
  - Increase student diversity and representation of women and minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors
- Strategies to foster a “transfer friendly” institution at ISU
  - Increase student success
  - Facilitate academic and social engagement
Transfer Students in Transition

- “I walked the first week because I was scared of trying CyRide.”
- “My first class blew me away. More than 250 students in one classroom.”
- “I didn’t understand why there was no free parking for students on campus.”
- I knew that I would be able to find friends; I just don’t like trying to find all new friends. It’s not very fun for me.”
- “Roommates...that was something I definitely had to get used to.”
Transfer LC’s Make a Difference

“The LC made my transition to ISU better. Just seeing people I knew from Transport was a great feeling. I FINALLY knew someone on campus besides myself.”
Resources

- *The College Transfer Student in America*
- American Association of Community Colleges Website [www.aacc.nche.edu](http://www.aacc.nche.edu)
- State-specific sources (i.e. Department of Education, Student Aid Commission, etc.)
- *NEW* Transfer Learning Community Subcommittee