Transfer student success: Does where you have been predict where you are going?

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Research on Transfer Students

• Focus on community college students
• Differences in success by transfer type
• Ultimately – understanding individual institution
Marymount University

• 3,600 students with 2,300 undergraduates.
• Smaller, Catholic, private school located in suburban Washington, DC.
• 76% of undergraduates come from the “DMV” with 56% from Virginia.
• 75% of undergraduates are female.
• 42% of students are racial or ethnic minorities and an additional 12% are non-resident aliens.
• Average undergraduate age of 23 years old.
Why We Care

- 39% of entering undergraduates are transfer students.
- Transfer students (77%) retain at a higher rate than first college (69%).
- Transfer students (64% vs. 54%) graduate at a higher rate too.
Why We Care

The Unspoken Truth

First College  Transfer

First Year
Sophomore
Junior
Senior
Our Study

- Does the likelihood of success (graduating) differ for students who make lateral transfers than for students who transfer from community colleges?
- Does the likelihood of graduating differ by type of 4 year school?
- Are there any individual characteristics that predict success?
Data

- National Clearinghouse Data
  - 655 students over three years

- Variables
  - 2 year or 4 year school
  - Number of credits transferred
  - Graduated?
  - Age
  - Race
  - Sex
Transfer Students by Previous Institution Type

- 2 Year Institution: 360
- 4 Year - Public: 135
- 4 Year - Private: 77
- Unknown: 83
Logistical Regression

1. Does it matter – 2 year or 4 year?
   - Yes – Odds higher for 2 year students

2. Individual characteristics matter?
   - Younger students – more likely to graduate
   - Odds > with transfer credits
Analysis – Results - 2 year transfers

The following were significant predictors of graduating:

- Number of transfer credits – more
- Ethnicity – African American students odds less than white students
Analysis – Lateral Transfers

• Significant predictors of graduating (or not)
  – Odds increase with transfer credits
  – Odds decrease with age and being Asian
Answering Research Questions

• Does the likelihood of success (graduating) differ for students who make lateral transfers than for students who transfer from community colleges?
• Does the likelihood of graduating differ by type of 4 year school?
• Are there any individual characteristics that predict success?
Implications

- Community Colleges
- Transfer Student Transition
- Future Research