

# Noncredit to Credit Student Transition Study

Prior Noncredit Student Enrollment and Outcomes

May 2012



Office of Institutional Research and Planning

# Overview

# Overview

## **Purpose**

- The purpose of this study is to provide information that will help facilitate the development of recruitment, retention and success strategies for noncredit students transitioning into college credit courses.

## **Group of Interest & Comparison Group**

- Prior Noncredit students are students who first started at Continuing Education and then enrolled at City, Mesa, or Miramar College.
- The General Credit students are all students who enrolled at City, Mesa, or Miramar College for the first time.

## **Focus of Study**

- The enrollment and course taking patterns of Prior Noncredit students were tracked to determine the rate at which students in Continuing Education noncredit courses migrate or transition into credit college courses and what their outcomes were.

# Enrollment

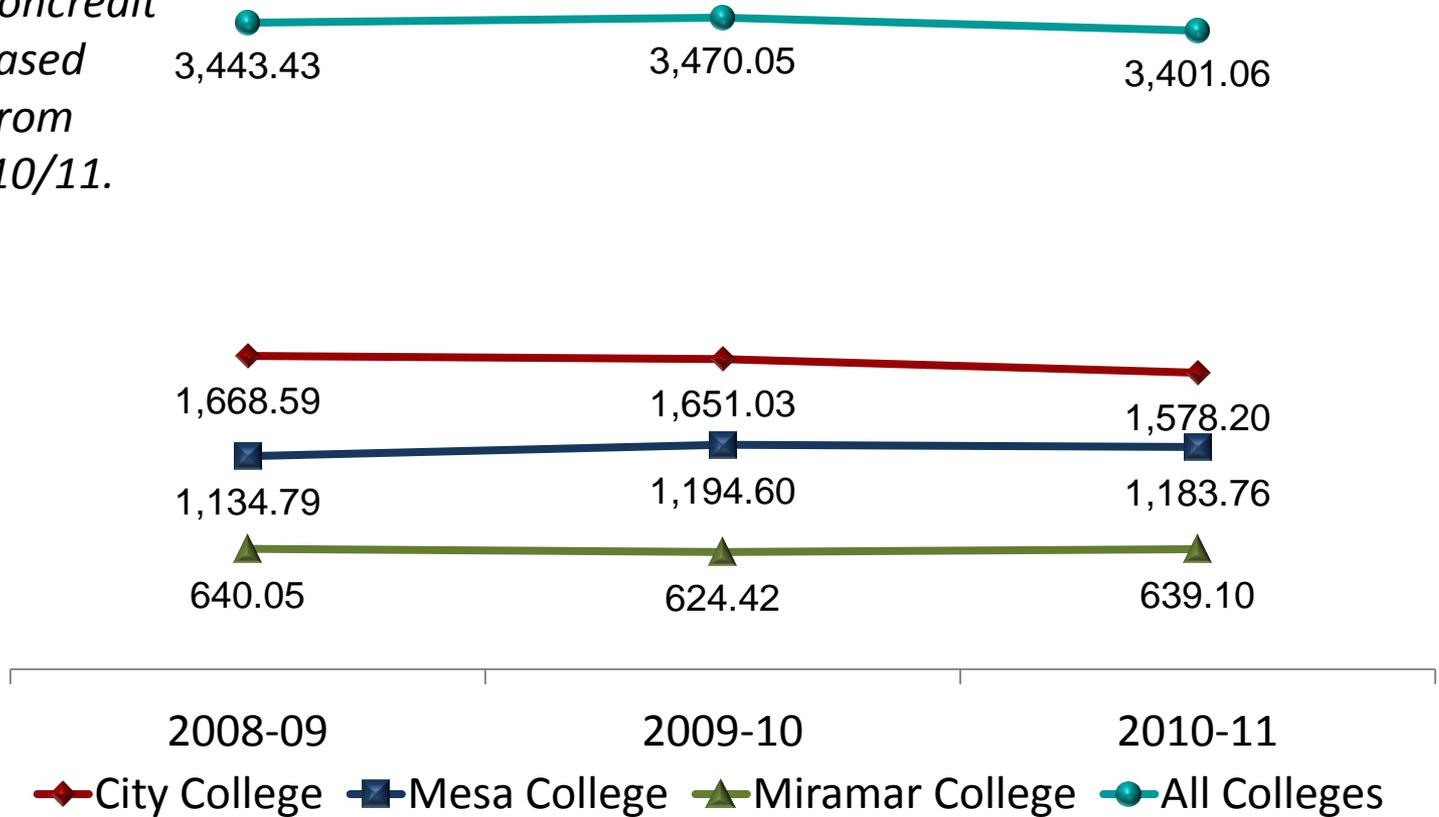
## 2010/11

# Enrollment

- FTES of Prior Noncredit students decreased overall by 2% from 2009/10 to 2010/11. The colleges varied such that the FTES at City College and Mesa College decreased (4% and 1%, respectively), and the FTES at Miramar College increased (2%).
- The number of First-Time Prior Noncredit students decreased by 11% between 2009/10 to 2010/11.
- The percentage of African Americans is higher among First-Time Prior Noncredit students than among General Credit students (19% and 7%, respectively).

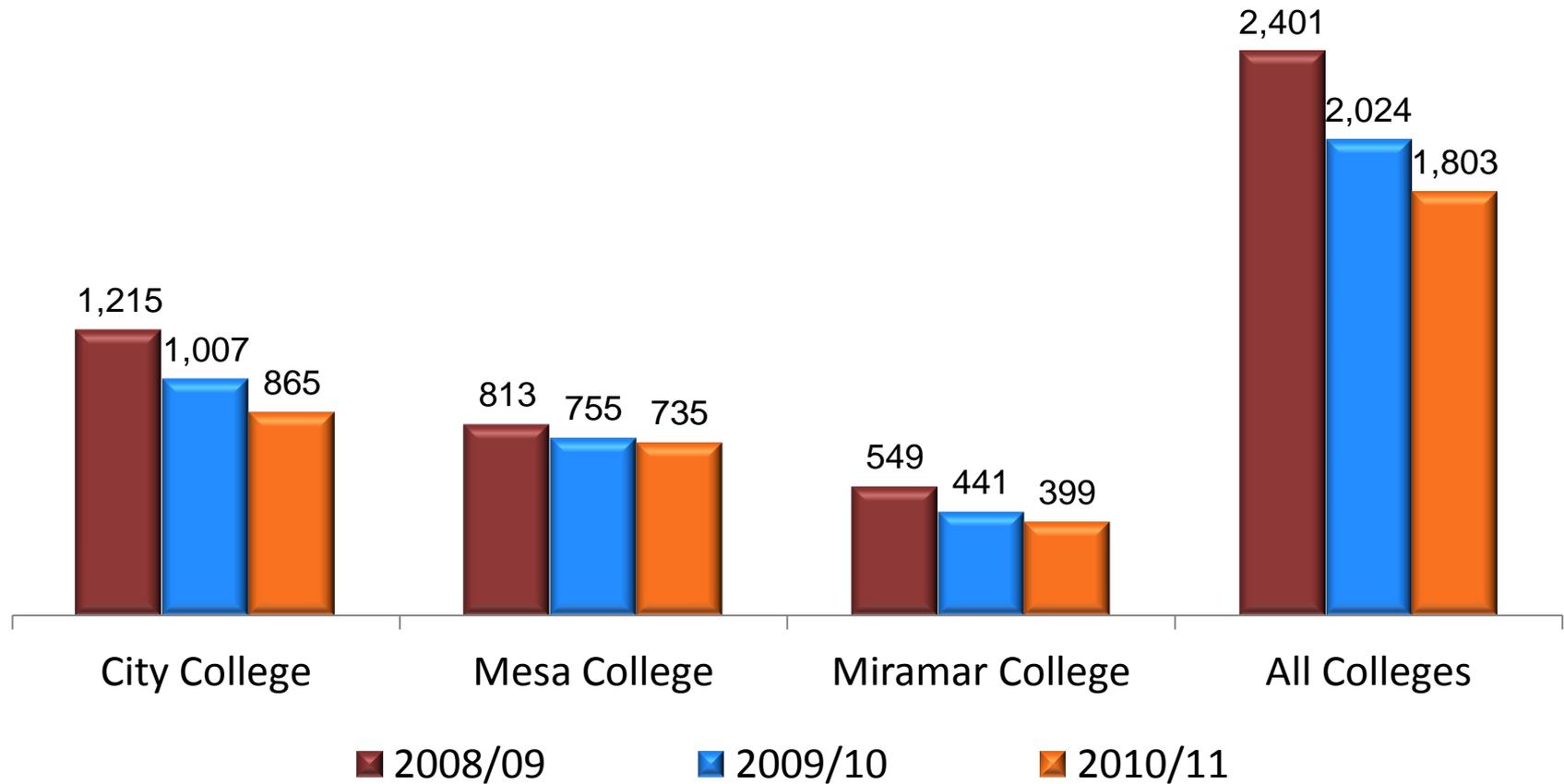
# FTES of All Prior Noncredit Students in College Credit Courses

*FTES of Prior Noncredit students decreased overall by 2% from 2009/10 to 2010/11.*



*Excludes non-residents.*

# Headcount of First-Time Prior Noncredit



# Top Credit College Courses Taken

## 2010/11

### Prior Noncredit Students

Child Development

Computer Business Tech

English

English as a Second Language

Mathematics

Physical Education

Psychology

### General Credit

Biology

Chemistry

English

History

Mathematics

Physical Education

Psychology

*Mathematics was the top course at each college.*

# Placement

Fall 2010

**Reading Placement :** Prior Noncredit students and General Credit students had equal percentages of transfer-level reading placements in their first term in credit (73% and 73%, respectively).

**Writing Placement :** Prior Noncredit students had a greater percentage of transfer-level writing placements in their first term in credit than General Credit students in their first term (52% and 49%, respectively).

**Math Placement:** Prior Noncredit students and General Credit students had equal percentages of transfer-level math placements in their first term in credit (36% and 36%, respectively).

**ESOL Placement:** Prior Noncredit students had a greater percentage of ESOL placements that were six levels below transfer in their first term in credit than General Credit ESOL students in their first term (44% and 38%, respectively). This pattern was true for each of the colleges.

# Unit Completion Rate

Fall 2010

- Overall, the unit completion rate of First-Time Prior Noncredit students (67%) was lower than the General Credit Population (72%). The opposite was true for Miramar College.
- Among First-Time Prior Noncredit students who were enrolled full-time at the colleges, nearly half (44%) completed their attempted units (City, 41%; Mesa, 38%; Miramar, 61%).

# Noncredit to Credit Student Tracking 2004/05 to 2007/08

# Research Design

## Comparison Groups

### Recent Noncredit students

- Recent Noncredit students in credit are students who attended 8 or more hours in Continuing Ed courses within the immediate 2 years prior to enrolling at City, Mesa, or Miramar College for the first time. Four cohort years are studied: 2004/05 – 2007/08.
  - Between 2004/05 and 2007/08, an average of 993 Recent Noncredit students enrolled in their first credit year (City=533; Mesa=355; Miramar=203).

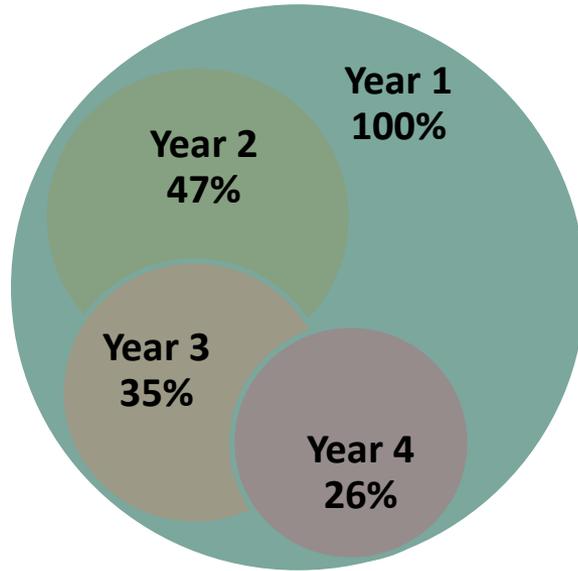
### General Credit Students

- The General Credit students are all students who enrolled at City, Mesa, or Miramar College for the first time. Four cohort years are studied: 2004/05 – 2007/08.
  - Between 2004/05 and 2007/08, an average of 27,550 General Credit students enrolled in their first credit year (City=10,270; Mesa=13,824; Miramar=6,551).

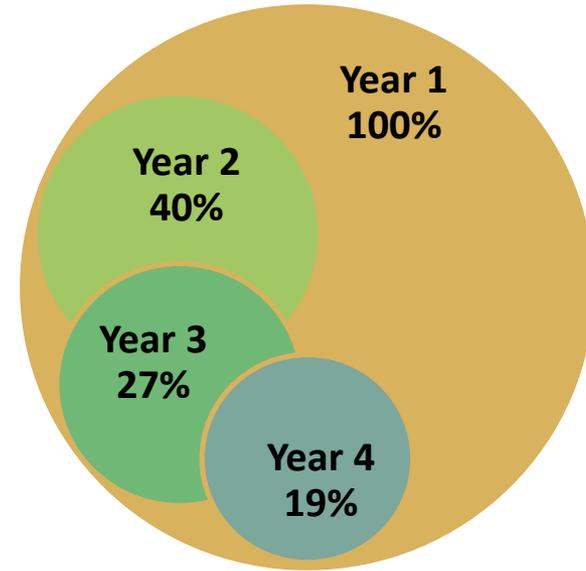
# Enrollment Tracking

2004/05-2007/08 Cohorts

## Recent Noncredit Students in Credit



## General Credit Students



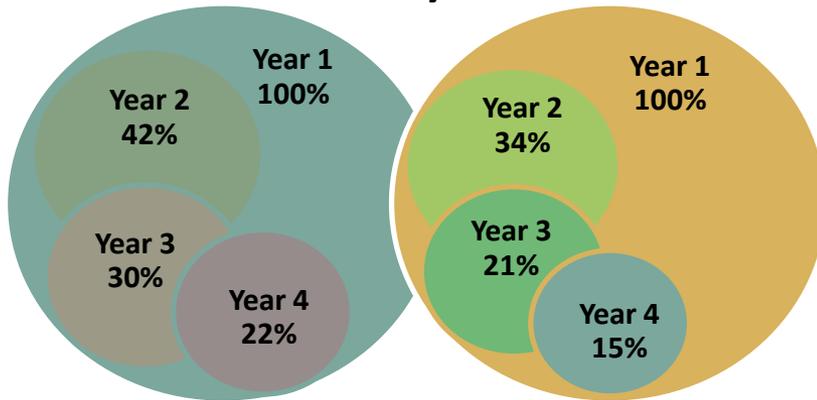
- First-year student enrollments are tracked up to four years. A greater percentage of Recent Noncredit students re-enrolled after their first credit year than General Credit students.
- Almost half of the Recent Noncredit students enrolled a second year and one-quarter were enrolled four years after their first term in credit courses.

*Note that 7% of Recent Noncredit students in credit and General Credit students stopped out in years two or three, and re-enrolled in year four.*

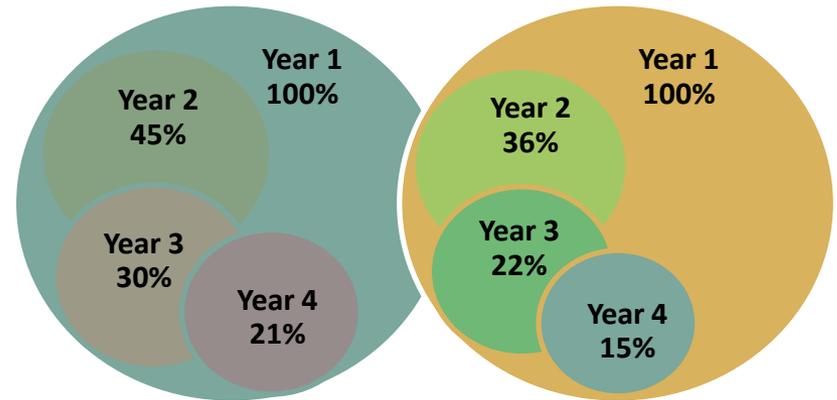
# Enrollment Tracking

## 2004/05-2007/08 Cohorts

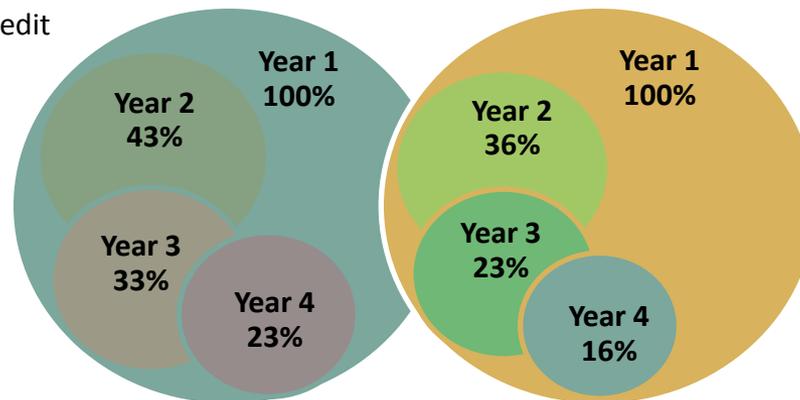
### City



### Mesa



### Miramar



- Recent Noncredit Students in Credit
- General Credit Students

At each of the colleges, a greater percentage of Recent Noncredit students re-enrolled than General Credit students.

# Enrollment Tracking

## 2004/05-2007/08 Cohorts

- Overall, with the exception of their first year in credit, the Recent Noncredit students completed a greater percentage of the units they attempted (67%-68%) than General Credit students (63%-64%) over the four years tracked.
- Overall, the unit completion rate for the Recent Noncredit students was lowest in their first year in credit (65%), while the unit completion rate for General Credit students was highest in their first year in credit (66%).
  - The unit completion rate of Recent Noncredit students at City College increased with each year.
  - The unit completion rate remained steady across the four years tracked at Mesa College.
  - The unit completion rate peaked in the second year at Miramar College.

# Retention

## 2004/05-2007/08 Cohorts

- Overall, the rate of student retention in their courses through the end of the term was higher for Recent Noncredit students (83%-86%) than for General Credit students (83%-84%).
  - Recent Noncredit student retention at City College was lowest in the first year and remained steady in subsequent years.
  - Mesa College student retention remained steady throughout all four years.
  - Student retention at Miramar College remained steady over the first three years and declined in the fourth year.
- On average over four years, Asian Recent Noncredit students had the highest overall classroom retention (88%), while African American (79%) and American Indian (75%) students had the lowest overall classroom retention. The pattern was similar among General Credit students. White, Filipino, and Latino Recent Noncredit student retention ranged between 83% and 85%.

# Success

## 2004/05-2007/08 Cohorts

- Overall, among Recent Noncredit students and General Credit students who were tracked over four years, success rates were lowest in their first year in credit (66% each), and then maintained an increased range in ensuing years (71%-73% and 68%-69%, respectively).
  - The trend for Recent Noncredit students is similar at Mesa College.
  - The success rates of Recent Noncredit students at City and Miramar colleges peaked in the second and third years.
- On average, Asian, African American, and American Indian Recent Noncredit students had the highest and lowest overall success (79%, 58%, and 55%, respectively) in the four years studied. The pattern was similar among General Credit students. White, Filipino, and Latino Recent Noncredit student success ranged between 66% and 72%.

# Degrees & Certificates Conferred 2004-2011

2004/05-2007/08 Cohorts

## Students Receiving Awards

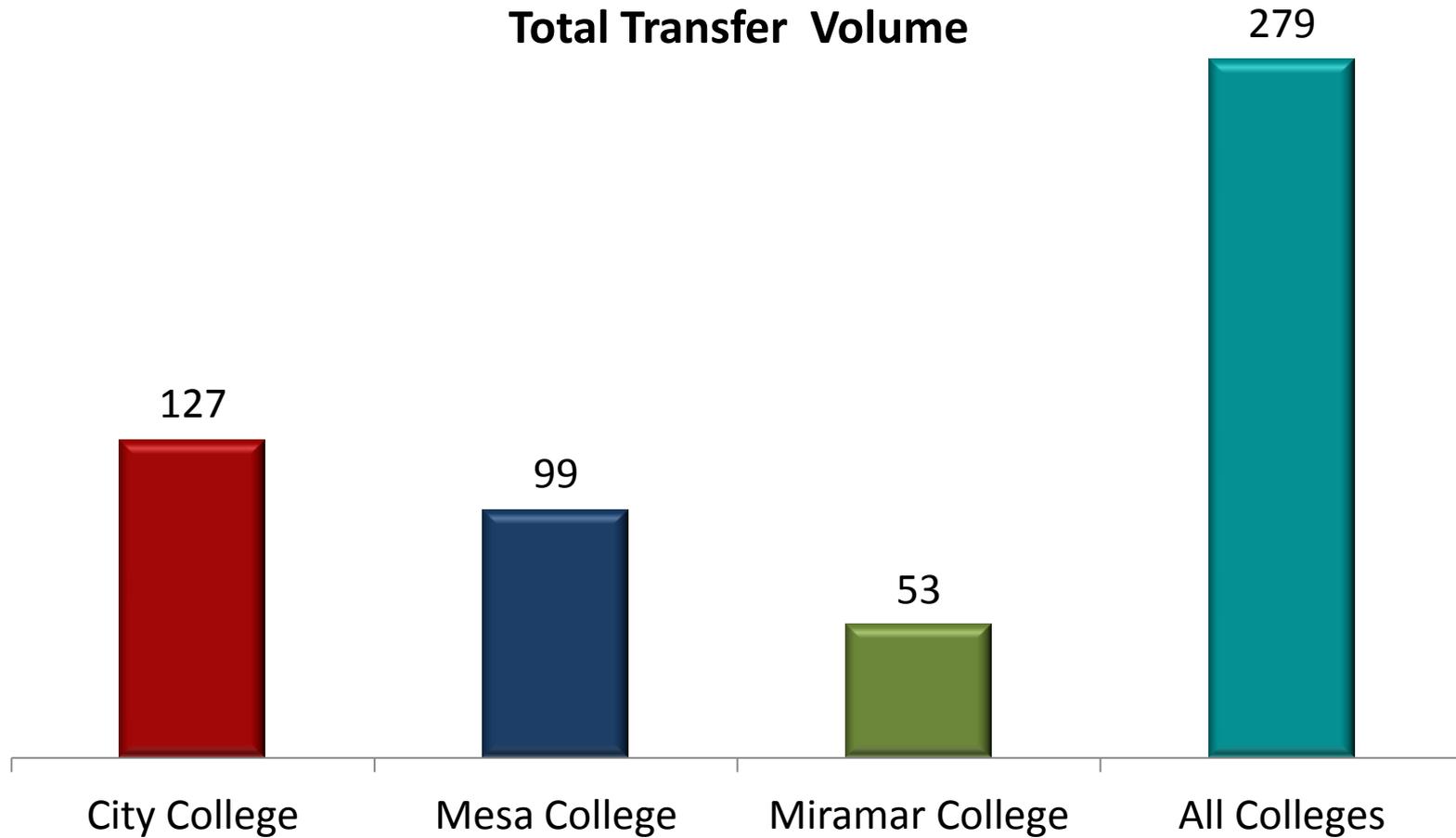
- Overall, after four years, 5% of the Recent Noncredit students received an award and 4% of the General Credit students received an award.
  - The college award rates varied from 4%-5% for Recent Noncredit students and 3%-4% for General Credit students.

*Note that the cohort does not necessarily reflect students with an intent to complete an award.*

# Student Transfers 2004-2011

2004/05-2005/06 Cohorts

## Total Transfer Volume



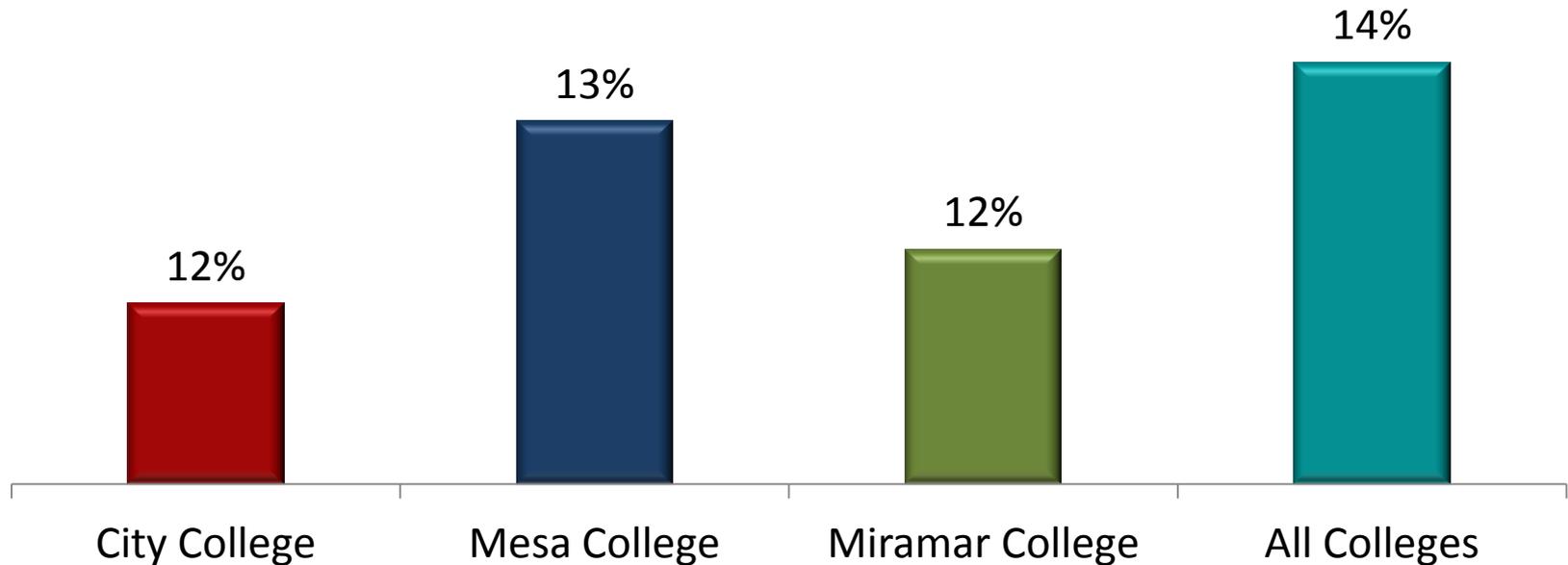
*Note that the total counts are for the two cohorts over a six year period.*

# Student Transfers 2004-2011

2004/05-2005/06 Cohorts

- The rates of Recent Noncredit students who transferred within six years of first entry into credit (14%) are lower than the rates of General Credit students who transferred within six years of first entry into credit (40%). However, the student groups do not necessarily reflect students with an intent to transfer.

## Average Transfer Rates



*Note that the rates of transfer are averages of the two cohorts measured over a six year period.*

**IRRP**

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