

**This issue's topic: Educational pathways of California community college students who finish bachelor's degrees**

**Overview:** The Research and Planning (RP) Group for the California Community Colleges recently completed the Student Transfer in Professional Pathways Project ([STP3](#)), a study examining the educational pathways of over 14,504 community college students who earned Bachelor's Degrees. The research centered on community college students who went on to complete bachelor's degrees in five career majors projected to have high workforce demand: engineering, accounting, nursing, teacher education, and administration of justice. The CHC Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research & Planning summarized the results in a [brief](#); a portion of those results are summarized here. The full STP3 report completed by the RP Group also includes the obstacles students encountered on their way to transfer and a degree, as well as effective strategies employed to help students complete their education.

<h3>Students Attend More than One California Community College</h3> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Major</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Engineering</td> <td>52%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accounting</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nursing</td> <td>63%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teacher Ed.</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Admin. Justice</td> <td>62%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall</td> <td>54%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Major	Percentage	Engineering	52%	Accounting	35%	Nursing	63%	Teacher Ed.	50%	Admin. Justice	62%	Overall	54%	<p>← More than half of transfer students "swirled," or attended more than one community college, before transferring to a four-year institution. Over 60% of nursing and administration of justice graduates swirled.</p> <p>More than half of transfer students did not earn an associate's degree before transferring to a four-year school. →</p>	<h3>Associate's Degree before Transfer</h3> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No AA/AS</td> <td>52%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AA/AS in Unrelated Field</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AA/AS in Related Field</td> <td>13%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	No AA/AS	52%	AA/AS in Unrelated Field	35%	AA/AS in Related Field	13%
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<h3>BA/BS Graduates Started in Courses Below Transfer Level</h3> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Subject</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Math</td> <td>53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>English</td> <td>37%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Subject	Percentage	Math	53%	English	37%	<p>← More than half of successful transfer students started below transfer level in math and more than a third started below transfer level in English.</p> <p>The median time from a student's first term at community college to time of transfer to a university varied from 3 years for teacher education to almost 4 years for nursing. →</p>	<h3>Median Time to Transfer</h3> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Major</th> <th>Median Time (Years)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Engineering</td> <td>3.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accounting</td> <td>3.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nursing</td> <td>3.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teacher Ed.</td> <td>3.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Admin. Justice</td> <td>3.7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Major	Median Time (Years)	Engineering	3.7	Accounting	3.3	Nursing	3.9	Teacher Ed.	3.0	Admin. Justice	3.7				
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<h3>Academic Challenges</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited course offerings at CCC</li> <li>Lack of guidance</li> <li>Conflicting transfer requirements at different universities</li> <li>Confusion between transfer requirements and AA/AS requirements</li> <li>Universities' not accepting units for transfer</li> </ul>	<p>← One of the challenges experienced by students was the confusion surrounding transfer requirements.</p> <p>More than 80% of graduates had a detailed education plan. →</p>	<h3>Effective Strategies</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed education plans with help from ASSIST.ORG, faculty, and staff</li> <li>Math labs</li> <li>Tutoring</li> <li>MESA</li> <li>Transfer articulation agreements</li> <li>Transfer Center</li> <li>EOPS</li> </ul>																						