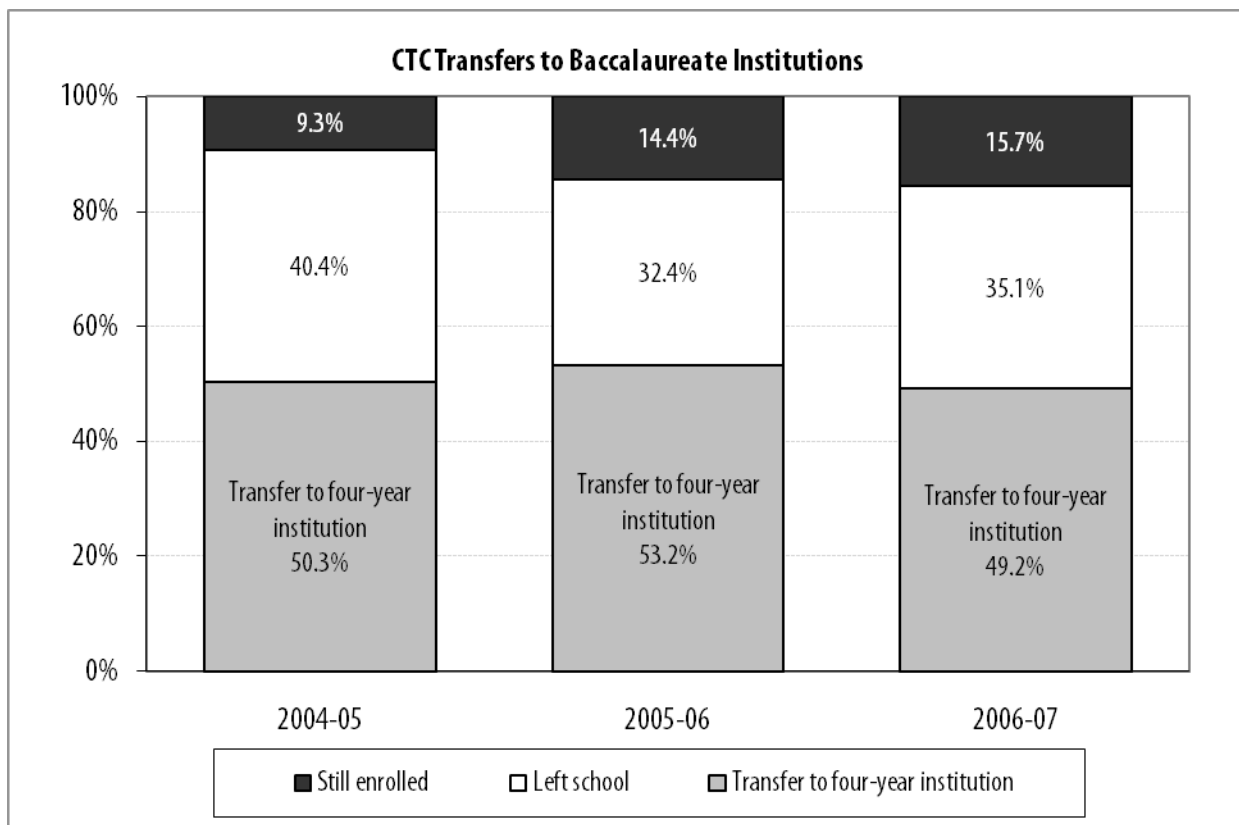


# COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS TRANSFERRING TO BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTIONS

**Many baccalaureate students in Washington complete most or all** of their first two years of college at a community or technical college. In the class of 2000-2001, 41% of baccalaureate graduates in Washington had transferred from the Washington Community and Technical College (CTC) system<sup>7</sup>. A transfer rate is one way to measure how many students are making the transition from community colleges into baccalaureate institutions.

## TRANSFER RATE:

Three years after enrolling at a community or technical college:



<sup>7</sup> "Transfer" in this statement means that a student must have earned at least 40 quarter credits elsewhere than the degree-granting institution. State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, "Role of Transfer in the Bachelor's Degree at Washington Public Baccalaureate Institutions" (June 2003) [[www.sbctc.ctc.edu/docs/data/research\\_reports/transfer/2003june\\_role\\_of\\_transfer.pdf](http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/docs/data/research_reports/transfer/2003june_role_of_transfer.pdf)]

**DEFINITION:**

There are numerous ways to define a “transfer.” The three-year transfer rate (above) measures those students who, when they start college, have a goal to transfer *and* who complete 15 college-level credits in their first year. Among those, how many enroll at a baccalaureate institution within three years of starting at the community college?

A number of other states measure the transfer rate on a six-year basis. This is because many transfer students proceed at a slower pace through college, such as part-time student, students who stop in and out, and those who need remediation. The longer time-frame in a six-year transfer rate captures some of those students that transfer successfully, but do so in a longer period of time than three years. Washington’s State Board for Community and Technical Colleges is working to develop transfer rates at four, five and six years and will measure and report those rates as they become available. Calculating a six-year transfer rate will also allow Washington to compare its rate to other states that make the calculation in the same way.

**SOURCES:** Higher Education Coordinating Board  
[<http://www.hecb.wa.gov/news/newsreports/documents/AccountabilityFullReport.pdf>]  
State Board for Community and Technical Colleges [[www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/d\\_transfer.aspx](http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/d_transfer.aspx)]