



New England Fast Facts

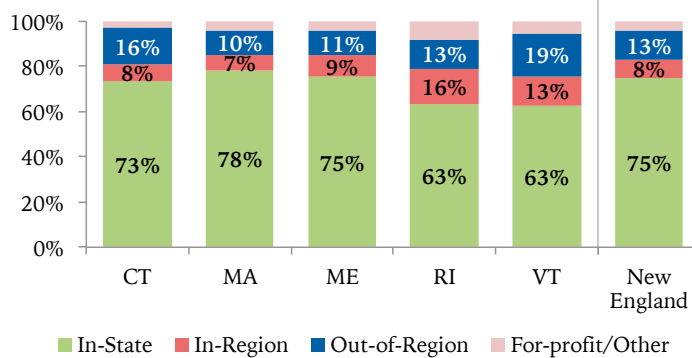
Student Transfer

Students take increasingly varied pathways to a degree, moving between institutions, sectors, and states. One result of this mobility is the loss of credits, time, and, sometimes, faith in higher education at large—all of which cost students dearly. Institutions, systems, and states in New England have been hard at work on improving student transfer for decades. This *New England Fast Facts* sheds light on recent student transfer patterns to help policymakers and practitioners currently serving students envision and implement plans to better serve them in the future.

Four in 10 students who begin at a community college, public 4-year college or private nonprofit 4-year college in New England transfer at least once in their college careers.

Where Do Community College Students Go When They Transfer?

Figure 1: Destination of Community College Transfer Students, by State of College Where Student Originally Enrolled



- **Three of four community college students stay within the state when they transfer.** (See Figure 1.)
- Nearly one in 10 students transfer within the region (i.e. to a New England state other than the state of the college when they began).
- 13% of students leave the region when they transfer.

Note: NH data have been suppressed because of inability to confirm first-time status of students. Students moving within a multi-campus institution (e.g. in RI, VT) are not counted as transfers.

Do Community College Students Receive Associate Degrees Before Transferring?

- **Most community college students transferring to a 4-year institution do so before receiving an associate degree.**
- The most popular destination of community college transfer students is an in-state public 4-year college.
- In some states, almost as many students who transfer to an in-state public 4-year college do so after earning a degree as do students who transfer before earning a degree. (See Figure 2.)

Figure 2: All Students who Began at Community Colleges, by State of College

State	% who Transferred to In-State Public 4-Year College		Total
	Transferred Before Receiving Degree	Transferred After Receiving Degree	
Connecticut	9.4%	6.3%	15.7%
Massachusetts	9.3%	9.1%	18.3%
Maine	9.4%	6.3%	15.8%
Rhode Island	10.9%	6.1%	17.0%
Vermont	15.0%	4.9%	19.9%
New England	9.6%	7.6%	17.3%

Note: NH data have been suppressed because of inability to confirm first-time status of students.

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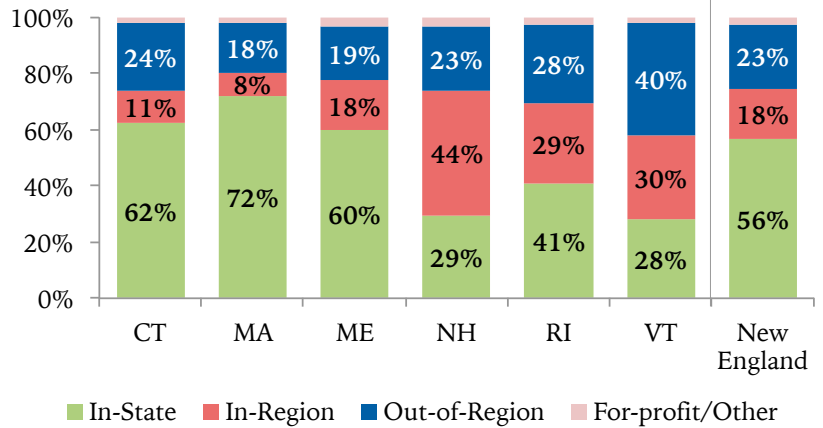
New England Board of Higher Education

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Where Do Public 4-Year Students Go When They Transfer?

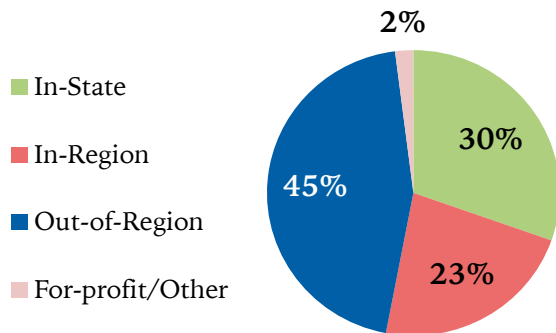
- Overall, three of four public 4-year college students stay within the state or region when they transfer. (See Figure 3.)
- The share of students transferring to another institution within the state ranges widely, from 28% in Vermont to 72% in Massachusetts.
- In the region, students transferring within the state where they began studies are just as likely to enroll at a 2-year college as they are to enroll at a 4-year college.
- Over 40% of transfer students go to a community college, and this is most often within the same state as the public 4-year college where they originally enrolled.

Figure 3: Destination of Public 4-Year College Transfer Students, by State of College Where Student Originally Enrolled



Where Do Private Nonprofit 4-Year Students Go When They Transfer?

Figure 4: Destination of Private Nonprofit 4-Year Transfer Students



- The destination of private nonprofit 4-year college students who transfer is split fairly evenly between in-state or in-region (53%) and outside the region (45%). (See Figure 4.)
- These students are more likely to transfer to another New England state or out of New England than students who begin at public colleges.
- Students transferring from private nonprofit 4-year colleges most often go to another 4-year college.
- Still, over a quarter of students transfer to 2-year colleges in- and outside the region.

Many students who begin college in the region transfer to a New England state other than where they began studies or transfer from a 4-year school to a 2-year school — not the traditional transfer pattern many policies and programs were designed to serve.

Note: All students in these analyses were first-time degree-seeking students who began at New England public 2-year, public 4-year or private nonprofit 4-year institutions in fall 2007. Many students who begin at New England colleges are not native to the region. Per National Student Clearinghouse methodology, transfer is recorded as the first time a student changes institutions within six years. The "For-profit/Other" category includes transfers to for-profit institutions or other colleges whose data were not collected for this analysis. Students who began at New Hampshire's public 2-year colleges were not included due to inability to confirm first-time status; students who transferred into NH public 2-year colleges were not impacted.

Source: NEBHE analysis of data from the National Student Clearinghouse

Established in 1955, the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) develops and implements strategies to increase regional competitiveness through expanded college readiness, participation and success. NEBHE assists state, system and institution leaders in developing and implementing education programs, policies and best practices to increase college completion and to promote collaboration and efficient use of innovative resources.



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