

Analysis of Transfers Entering UTC Based on College and Major

Report created by OPEIR

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¹ This analysis was produced by OPEIR in response to a request by Provost Hale. Results are not necessarily generalizable and attempts to use results outside the scope of this project should be avoided.

 THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
CHATTANOOGA

Introduction

Scope of Analysis

This report is a follow-up to a previous analysis of new transfer students that narrowly focused on the new transfer population at UTC generally. In addition to investigating transfer patterns at the college level, this report expands the population to include all transfers rather than just new transfers (i.e., students who began at UTC, transferred to another institution, and then transferred back). It is split into four sections; each section provides transfer student enrollment and academic outcomes by each degree-granting college. Additionally, for each college, a five-year trend for key metrics regarding transfer students is presented.

As the following analysis will show, despite the decrease in the number of new transfers that has occurred over the past five years, there are also some positive signs. The average first term GPA and percentage of student credit hours taken during the first term that were completed are up over the past five years. This could be an indication that while intake of new transfers may be down, those that are coming may be of higher academic standing than those who previously attended. A possible explanation of this phenomenon is that with the good job market and low unemployment rate over the past couple of years, academically marginal students are less likely to enroll at a community college and then become potential transfer students, instead electing to go straight into the workforce.

Example of Five-Year Trend for Key Metrics Table

	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	5 - Year Trend
<i>Demographic Data</i>						
Top Feeder Institution %	%	%	%	%	%	↑
Transfer Enrollment	#	#	#	#	#	↓
Female Enrollment	%	%	%	%	%	↓
Students of Color	%	%	%	%	%	↑
Most Common Incoming Major						N/A
Transfers with AA Degree	%	%	%	%	%	↑
Incoming Transfer Hours	#	#	#	#	#	↓
Incoming GPA	#	#	#	#	#	↑
<i>Outcome Data</i>						
Full-Time Enrolled	%	%	%	%	%	↑
Average First Term GPA	#	#	#	#	#	↑
Attempted/Earned SCH	%	%	%	%	%	↑
Overall Graduation Rate	%	%	%	%	N/A	N/A

College Breakdowns

College of Arts and Sciences - Demographic Data

Since Fall 2018, the number of transfers entering the College of Arts and Sciences has decreased by nearly 33%, going from 425 to 286. While this is part of a larger trend in the decline in transfer enrollment to UTC, it is not universal among all the feeder colleges where there was a great deal of variation in enrollment change over the years. Between Fall 2018 and Fall 2022, Chattanooga State and Cleveland State were the most common feeder colleges, producing more than 39% of transfers during that period. The number of transfers from the two between Fall 2018 and Fall 2022 decreased by 48.5% and 51.7% respectively. However, there was no decline in the number of transfers from UT-Knoxville, the fourth most common feeder college, increasing from 12 students in Fall 2018 to 17 in Fall 2022.

The percentage of transfers entering Arts and Sciences who are female has been steadily increasing since Fall 2018, going from 61.9% to 68.5%. This appears to be part of an overall trend in the college with the entire undergraduate enrollment increasing from 66.1% female to 69.1% over the same period.

The percentage of transfers who self-identify as students of color was slightly lower than that for the overall undergraduate Arts and Sciences population in Fall 2022, 22.7% versus 24.2%. In this case a student of color is defined as a student who self-reports as anything other than white or chooses not to self-identify.

The most common major for transfers entering Arts and Sciences is psychology, making up 20.9% of all transfers between Fall 2018 and Fall 2022. For comparison, in Fall 2022, 22.7% of all undergraduates with a primary major housed in Arts and Sciences were in the psychology program. The entire list of transfers by major can be found in Appendix A along with which majors have a Tennessee Transfer Pathway.

The number of transfers entering Arts and Sciences with an associate degree has hovered between 27% and 34% over the past five years. There is a significant amount of variation among the majors when it comes to the percentage of transfers who hold an associate degree. Among the three most common programs for entering transfers in Fall 2022, Psychology, Biology, and Art, the percentage holding an associate degree respectively were 29.9%, 22.2%, and 24.1%. All three have a Tennessee Transfer Pathway.

College of Arts and Sciences Demographic

	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	5 - Year Trend
<i>Demographic Data</i>						
Top Feeder Institution %	38.4%	32.0%	32.9%	33.6%	29.4%	↓
Transfer Enrollment	425	362	316	321	286	↓
Female Enrollment	61.9%	63.5%	62.3%	64.5%	68.5%	↑
Students of Color	24.2%	24.3%	24.1%	20.2%	25.9%	↑
Most Common Incoming Major	Psychology	Biology	Psychology	Psychology	Psychology	N/A
Transfers with AA Degree	31.1%	32.9%	27.2%	34.3%	33.6%	↑
Incoming Transfer Hours	71.6	68.5	67.7	68.1	68.4	↓
Incoming GPA	3.07	3.08	3.12	3.06	3.14	↑

College of Arts and Sciences Outcome Data

The average first term GPA for Arts and Sciences transfers has been steadily increasing over the past five fall terms from 2.78 to 3.05. Among the academic programs with at least 20 transfers in Fall 2022, criminal justice had the highest first term GPA at 3.18. For comparison, the first term GPAs for biology, communication, and psychology, other high enrollment programs for transfers, were 2.86, 3.14, and 2.99 respectively.

Among students who entered the College of Arts and Sciences as transfers, if they graduate, they will most likely do so with an Arts and Sciences degree. For Fall 2018 transfers, overall graduation rate was 63.1%, with 60.7% of the transfer cohort having received a degree from Arts and Sciences and 2.4% having received a degree from a different college.

College of Arts and Sciences Outcome Data

	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	5 - Year Trend
<i>Outcome Data</i>						
Full-Time Enrolled	85.2%	86.5%	84.8%	85.0%	91.3%	↑
Average First Term GPA	2.78	2.85	2.78	2.91	3.05	↑
Attempted/Earned SCH	83.3%	84.9%	83.4%	85.6%	89.4%	↑
Overall Graduation Rate	63.1%	55.0%	34.5%	5.6%	N/A	N/A

College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS) - Demographic Data

The College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS) has experienced a similar drop in transfer enrollment to that which has happened in Arts and Sciences, decreasing by nearly 32% since Fall 2018. Like with Arts and Sciences, the top two feeder colleges are Chattanooga State and Cleveland State with transfers enrollment drops of 42.1% and 35.7% respectively. One notable difference is that the third most common feeder college for CECS between Fall 2018 and Fall 2022 was Dalton State which is not a significant feeder college for Arts and Sciences. The number of CECS transfers from Dalton State increased from 3 in Fall 2018 to 12 in Fall 2022.

The gender split for transfers entering CECS has remained relatively stable over the past five, oscillating between 15% to 18% female. The transfer population is slightly more likely to be male than the overall undergraduate population of CECS. In Fall 2022, 82.8% of all undergraduates self-reported as male compared with 84.4% of the transfers.

CECS transfers in Fall 2022 were more likely to self-identify as students of color than the overall undergraduate population, 29.5% versus 23.7%. The racial categories which showed the most difference were Black or African-American and Asian. Among transfers, 13.1% self-reported as Black or African-American versus 7.9% for all undergraduates. For Asians, it was 12.3% compared with 4.6%.

The most common majors for transfers entering CECS are computer science and mechanical engineering, making up 27.5% and 22.1% of all transfers between Fall 2018 and Fall 2022 respectively. For comparison, in Fall 2022, only 17.5% of all undergraduates with a primary major housed in Arts and Sciences were in the mechanical engineering program. The entire list of transfers by major can be found in Appendix B along with which majors have a Tennessee Transfer Pathway.

The percentage of transfers entering CECS with an associate degree has varied significantly from year-to-year, ranging from 14.6% to 25.2%. Notably, the civil engineering program has a particularly low percentage of transfers entering with an associate degree, 7.7%. It's unlikely that this result is connected to the transfer pathways program because civil engineering has a transfer pathway whereas, chemical engineering, which does not have a pathway, has a substantially higher percentage of incoming transfers entering with an associate (27.3%).

College of Engineering and Computer Science Demographic Data

	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	5 - Year Trend
<i>Demographic Data</i>						
Top Feeder Institution %	42%	46%	46%	39%	36%	↓
Transfer Enrollment	179	198	160	147	122	↓
Female Enrollment	15.6%	16.2%	17.5%	16.3%	15.6%	↓
Students of Color	26.3%	24.7%	18.1%	23.8%	29.5%	↑
Most Common Incoming Major	Mech. Eng.	Comp. Sci.	Mech. Eng.	Comp. Sci.	Comp. Sci.	N/A
Transfers with AA Degree	17.3%	14.6%	18.8%	25.2%	15.6%	↓
Incoming Transfer Hours	83.4	82.2	82.4	80.6	77.0	↓
Incoming GPA	3.07	3.06	3.10	3.10	3.14	↑

College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS) - Outcome Data

The average first term GPA for CECS transfers reached its highest point over the past five fall terms in 2022 at 2.95. Among programs with at least five transfers, mechatronics had the highest average first term GPA among the CECS programs at 3.35. However, there were only nine students which could have skewed the average. Mechanical engineering, which had significantly more transfers at 26, had a relatively low first term GPA at 2.68.

Among students who entered CECS as transfers, if they graduate, they will most likely do so with a CECS degree. For Fall 2018 transfers, the overall graduation rate was 64.3%, with 58.7% of the transfer cohort having received a degree from CECS and 5.6% having received a degree from a different college.

College of Engineering and Computer Science Outcome Data

	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	5 - Year Trend
<i>Outcome Data</i>						
Full-Time Enrolled	83.8%	87.9%	80.6%	85.7%	84.4%	↑
Average First Term GPA	2.70	2.78	2.91	2.78	2.95	↑
Attempted/Earned SCH	82.2%	85.2%	81.1%	83.7%	85.9%	↑
Overall Graduation Rate	64.2%	61.1%	22.5%	0.7%	N/A	N/A

College of Health, Education, and Professional Studies (CHEPS) - Demographic Data

The College of Health, Education, and Professional Studies (CHEPS) has experienced a higher proportional drop in the number of transfers than Arts and Sciences and CECS, decreasing by 41% since Fall 2018. Once again, Chattanooga State and Cleveland State were the most significant feeder colleges, making up 42.9% of all transfers between Fall 2018 and Fall 2022, and decreasing by 37.8% and 44.0% respectively. Notably, Volunteer State, the fourth most significant feeder college for CHEPS, decreased by 93%, going from 15 transfers in Fall 2018 to one in Fall 2022.

The gender split for transfers entering CHEPS has narrowed over the past five years with self-identified males making up 28.2% of the population in Fall 2018 versus 35.1% in Fall 2022. The transfer population is much more likely to be male than the overall undergraduate population of CHEPS with 24.4% of all undergraduates self-reporting that way in Fall 2022. The increase appears to be driven by a higher proportion of male transfers in the nursing and social work programs in Fall 2022. In social work, 28.6% of transfers were male in Fall 2022 versus 9.5% in Fall 2018. For nursing, it was 25.0% compared with 14.8%.

CHEPS transfers in Fall 2022 were slightly more likely to self-identify as students of color than the overall undergraduate population, 21.6% versus 20.5%. Those self-identifying as Black or African-American had the largest gap between the transfers and the overall undergraduate population with transfers being 1.8% percentage points more of the population.

The most common majors for transfers entering CHEPS are health and human performance followed by nursing, making up 29.2% and 26.5% of all transfers between Fall 2018 and Fall 2022 respectively. The entire list of transfers by major can be found in Appendix C along with which majors have a Tennessee Transfer Pathway.

The percentage of transfers entering CHEPS with an associate degree has varied significantly from year-to-year, ranging from 21.0% to 27.3%. Among the programs which have produced at least 50 transfers over the past five fall terms, social work majors were the most likely to enter with an associate degree at 39.2%. Nursing majors were the least likely at 13.0%. Unlike with CECS where civil engineering had an extremely low rate of entering transfers with an associate degree despite there being a transfer pathway, there is no transfer pathway for nursing.

College of Health, Education, and Professional Studies Demographic Data

	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	5 - Year Trend
<i>Demographic Data</i>						
Top Feeder Institution %	33.7%	35.9%	31.6%	33.2%	35.7%	↑
Transfer Enrollment	291	256	231	187	171	↓
Female Enrollment	71.8%	69.9%	74.9%	78.6%	64.9%	↓
Students of Color	19.9%	20.3%	22.1%	21.4%	21.6%	↑
Most Common Incoming Major	HHP	HHP	HHP	Nursing	HHP	N/A
Transfers with AA Degree	21.0%	25.4%	27.3%	23.5%	22.8%	↑
Incoming Transfer Hours	69.2	70.9	72.5	70.3	68.5	↓
Incoming GPA	3.12	3.12	3.06	3.17	3.17	↑

College of Health, Education, and Professional Studies (CHEPS) - Outcome Data

The average first term GPA for CHEPS transfers reached its highest point over the past five fall terms in 2022 at 3.14. Social work had the highest average first term GPA among the CHEPS programs at 3.48. By comparison, interior architecture had one of the lower first term GPAs at 2.77. However, like with mechatronics, there were only nine transfers, so the average could be skewed.

Among students who entered CHEPS as transfers, if they graduate, they will most likely do so with a CHEPS degree. For Fall 2018 transfers, the overall graduation rate was 58.8%, with 52.9% of the transfer cohort having received a degree from CHEPS and 5.8% having received a degree from a different college.

College of Health, Education, and Professional Studies Outcome Data

	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	5 - Year Trend
<i>Outcome Data</i>						
Full-Time Enrolled	74.9%	77.3%	77.5%	77.0%	76.6%	↑
Average First Term GPA	3.00	3.11	2.91	3.06	3.14	↑
Attempted/Earned SCH	86.2%	89.4%	87.0%	86.3%	91.7%	↑
Overall Graduation Rate	58.8%	60.2%	28.1%	5.9%	N/A	N/A

Rollins College of Business (RCOB) - Demographic Data

The Rollins College of Business (RCOB) experienced the largest proportional drop in transfer enrollment among the four academic colleges, decreasing by nearly 42% between Fall 2018 and Fall 2022. However, the decrease was not universal across all programs, ranging from a 73.7% drop in entrepreneurship transfers, a 44.3% drop management majors, and a 28.9% drop in accounting majors. RCOB was the only college where Cleveland State was not one of the two most significant feeder colleges. Instead, it was Chattanooga State and Columbia State. While there was a 40% drop in Business transfers from Chattanooga State, that was not true for Columbia State which had the same number of Business transfers to UTC in both Fall 2018 and Fall 2022.

Historically, RCOB transfers have been more likely to be male than female. That changed in 2022 when a majority self-identified as female. This follows general trends in the college where the overall undergraduate population has shifted from 41.6% female to 45.2% between the Fall 2018 and Fall 2022 terms.

RCOB transfers entering in Fall 2022 were 5.6 percentage points more likely to self-identify as students of color than the overall undergraduate population. The largest gap among the different students of color groups were with Asian students, making up 8.5% of transfers versus 4.1% of all undergraduates.

The most common major for transfers entering RCOB is management, making up 35.7% of all transfers between Fall 2018 and Fall 2022. For comparison, in Fall 2022, approximately 32% of all undergraduates with a primary major housed in Business were in the management program. The entire list of transfers by major can be found in Appendix D along with which majors have a Tennessee Transfer Pathway.

The percentage of transfers entering RCOB with an associate degree has varied significantly from year-to-year, ranging from 21.3% to 33.1%. Among the programs which have produced at least 100 transfers over the past five fall terms, accounting majors were the most likely to enter with an associate degree at 32.9%. Finance majors were the least likely at 25.8%. Transfer pathways are available for all the Business programs except for entrepreneurship.

Rollins College of Business (RCOB) Demographic Data

	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	5 - Year Trend
<i>Demographic Data</i>						
Top Feeder Institution %	33.2%	34.7%	39.7%	29.5%	34.0%	↑
Transfer Enrollment	241	190	184	166	141	↓
Female Enrollment	41.1%	38.9%	40.8%	38.6%	50.4%	↑
Students of Color	20.3%	18.4%	19.6%	20.5%	27.7%	↑
Most Common Incoming Major	Mgmt	Mgmt	Mgmt	Mgmt	Mgmt	N/A
Transfers with AA Degree	24.5%	30.5%	30.4%	33.1%	21.3%	↓
Incoming Transfer Hours	68.2	66.9	68.0	65.3	67.5	↓
Incoming GPA	3.02	3.03	3.04	3.04	3.03	↑

Rollins College of Business (RCOB) - Outcome Data

Among the four degree-granting colleges, the Rollins College of Business had the lowest average first term GPA in Fall 2022 at 2.91. Among the programs with at least 10 Fall 2022 transfers, accounting had the highest first term GPA at 3.03 while finance had the lowest at 2.76.

Among students who entered the Rollins College of Business as transfers, if they graduate, they will most likely do so with a Business degree. For Fall 2018 transfers, the overall graduation rate was 63.5%, with 58.9% of the transfer cohort having received a degree from RCOB and 4.6% having received a degree from a different college.

Rollins College of Business (RCOB) Outcome Data

	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	5 - Year Trend
<i>Outcome Data</i>						
Full-Time Enrolled	87.1%	90.5%	87.0%	94.0%	90.1%	↑
Average First Term GPA	2.57	2.74	2.87	2.80	2.91	↑
Attempted/Earned SCH	83.3%	84.2%	84.8%	87.7%	90.7%	↑
Overall Graduation Rate	63.5%	55.3%	34.8%	3.0%	N/A	N/A

Appendices

Appendix A. College of Arts and Science Transfer Enrollment

Program	TTP	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
Art	Y	36	21	13	27	29
Biology	Y	58	77	56	40	45
Chemistry	Y	23	15	10	7	4
Classical Languages	Y				1	1
Communication	Y	44	29	30	25	25
Criminal Justice	Y	44	37	28	27	26
English	Y	18	14	15	9	8
Environmental Science	N	27	24	27	25	22
French	Y	1				1
Geology	Y	5	4	6	1	2
History	Y	9	13	6	12	10
Humanities	N	1	6	5	2	5
Mathematics	Y	13	10	8	6	6
Music	Y	16	2	5	10	8
Philosophy and Religion	Y	6	6	1	5	1
Physics	Y	4	1	2	2	1
Political Science	Y	24	18	17	27	11
Psychology	Y	72	63	72	84	67
Sociology and Anthropology	Y	12	12	10	5	11
Spanish	Y	6	3	1	2	
Theatre	Y	6	7	4	4	3
Grand Total		425	362	316	321	286

Appendix B. College of Engineering and Computer Science Transfer Enrollment

Program	TTP	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
Chemical Engineering	N	6	6	6	11	4
Civil Engineering	Y	26	31	19	18	10
Computer Engineering	N	4	4	4	6	1
Computer Science	Y	45	53	34	46	44
Electrical Engineering	Y	30	30	20	9	12
Engineering Management	Y	20	24	20	13	16
Mechanical Engineering	Y	48	39	36	29	26
Mechatronics	Y		11	21	15	9
Grand Total		179	198	160	147	122

Appendix C. College of Health, Education, and Professional Studies Transfer Enrollment

Program	TTP	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
Applied Leadership	N				3	11
Early Childhood Education	Y	13	1			
Exceptional Learning	Y	2				
Health and Human Performance	Y	91	75	68	45	53
Integrated Studies	N	4	1	1	1	1
Interdisciplinary Educational Studies	Y	40	50	56	35	31
Interior Architecture	N	13	12	8	7	9
Middle Grades Education	Y	6	8	1	3	2
Nursing	N	81	66	59	55	40
Secondary Education	Y	19	20	17	14	10
Social Work	Y	21	23	21	23	14
Teacher Certification	Y	1			1	
Grand Total		291	256	231	187	171

Appendix D. Rollins College of Business Transfer Enrollment

Program	TTP	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
Accounting	Y	38	32	26	20	27
Economics	Y	13	10	9	8	5
Entrepreneurship	N	19	13	11	12	5
Finance	Y	24	27	32	26	23
Management	Y	88	66	73	53	49
Marketing	Y	59	42	33	47	32
Grand Total		241	190	184	166	141