

**RESEARCH BRIEF**

**Student Achievement Criteria at NOVA:  
Transfer by Select Student Characteristics**

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) is deeply committed to the values of student access and student success. NOVA demonstrates this commitment by using evidence-based decision making to improve opportunities for students to succeed. After a long-standing history of evaluating outcomes related to retention, graduation, and other evolving priorities, NOVA refocused efforts in 2019 on a more comprehensive evaluation of eight critical measures of student achievement, which are as follows: 1) College Readiness; 2) Enrollment; 3) Course Success; 4) Retention; 5) Graduation; 6) Transfer; 7) Job Placement; and 8) Licensing Exams.<sup>1</sup>

**In This Brief**

This Brief highlights NOVA's performance on the Transfer criteria. In addition to graduation, transferring is an important goal for many community college students. NOVA tracks two measures of transfer: the total number of annual transfers and the transfer-out rate of first-time in college, full-time, program placed students. College-wide data are presented for both measures of transfer. For the transfer-out rate measure, this Brief disaggregates data by select student characteristics. Disaggregation by these characteristics allows the college to identify where achievement gaps exist within its eight student achievement criteria.

**Key Findings**

- **Annual Number of Transfers:** From 2014-15 to 2018-19, the number of students who transferred from NOVA to a four-year institution increased by 32 percent, reaching 12,101 transfers to four-year institutions in 2018-19.
- **Transfer-Out Rate:** Among the Fall 2015 first-time in college, full-time, program placed cohort, the following student groups had transfer-out rates that were lower than their respective counterparts and the College overall: students who identified as Hispanic or Latino; male students; older students; students who received a Pell Grant; and students who were the first in their family to attend college.

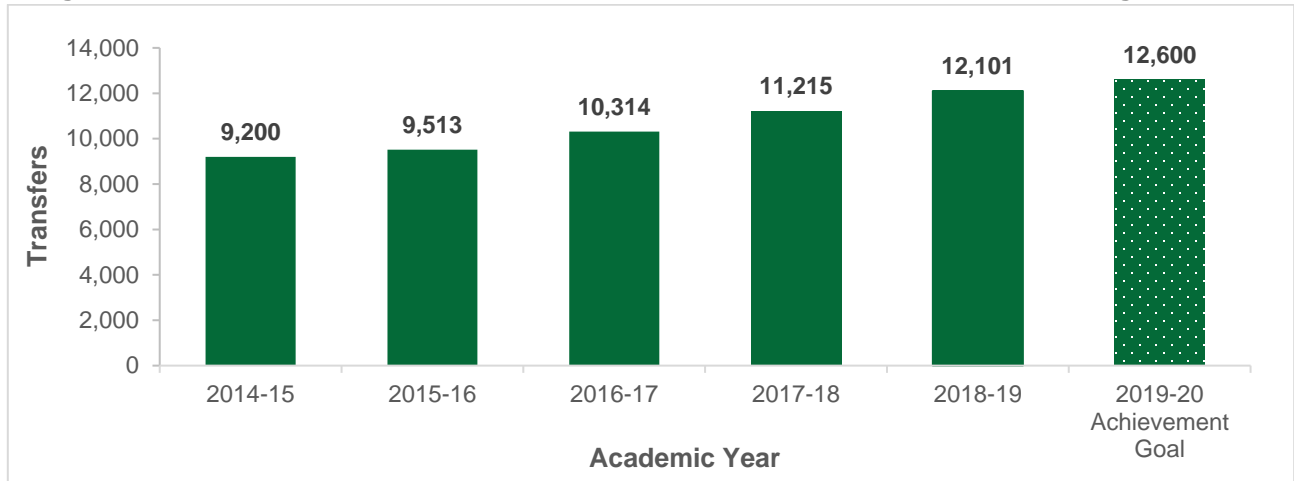
<sup>1</sup> For more information, see *Report 29-20: Student Achievement Criteria at NOVA: Comprehensive Evaluation Report 2020*.

## Section 1. Overall Transfer Trends

### Annual Number of Transfers

The annual number of transfers refers to the number of NOVA students who transferred to a four-year institution in a given academic year, regardless of when they were last enrolled at NOVA. From the 2014-15 to 2018-19 academic years, the annual number of transfers increased by 32 percent (from 9,200 transfers in 2014-15 to 12,101 transfers in 2018-19).

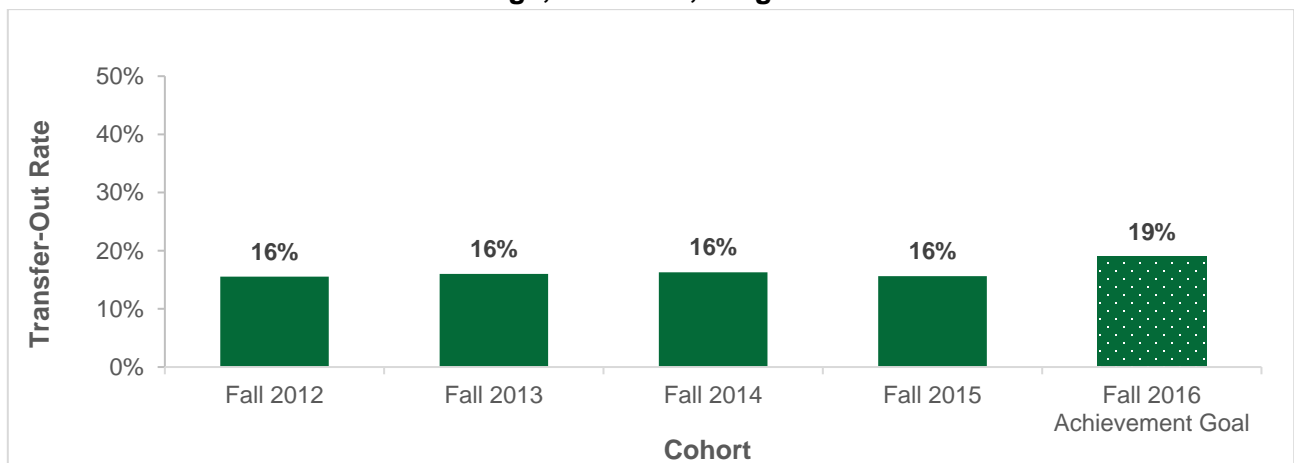
**Figure 1. Annual Number of Transfers to Four-Year Institutions: 2014-15 through 2019-20**



### Transfer-Out Rate

The transfer-out rate is defined as the percentage of first-time in college, full-time, program placed (degree- or certificate-seeking) students who transferred out of NOVA to another two- or four-year institution within 150 percent of normal time to program completion. The transfer-out rate does not include students who earned a degree from NOVA prior to transferring. From the Fall 2012 to Fall 2015 first-time in college, full-time, program placed cohorts, the transfer-out rate remained the same at 16 percent.

**Figure 2. Overall Transfer-Out Rate: Fall 2012 through Fall 2016  
First-Time in College, Full-Time, Program Placed Cohorts**



## Section 2. Transfer Rate by Select Student Characteristics

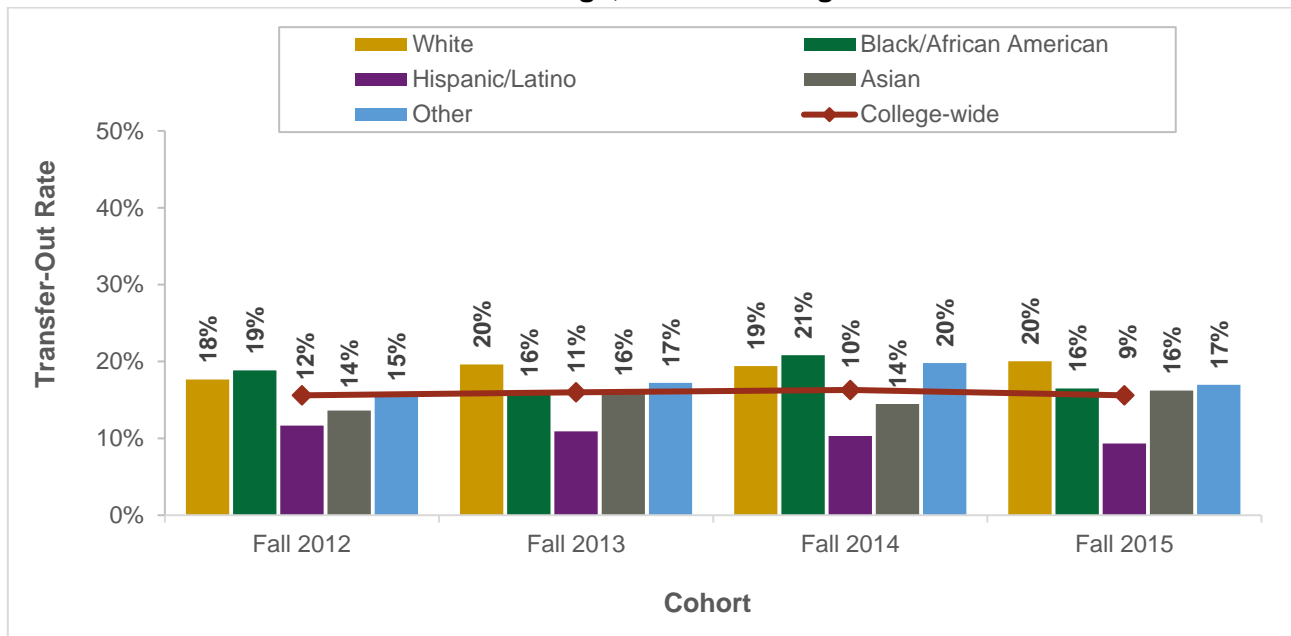
This section presents data regarding the transfer-out rate of first-time in college, full-time, program placed students at NOVA. The transfer-out rate is defined as the percentage of first-time in college, full-time, program placed (degree- or certificate-seeking) students who transferred out of NOVA to another two- or four-year institution within 150 percent of normal time to program completion. The transfer-out rate does not include students who earned a degree from NOVA prior to transferring. In this section, transfer-out rates are disaggregated by the following student characteristics: race/ethnicity, gender, age group, Pell Grant status, and first generation status.

### Transfer-Out Rate by Race/Ethnicity

Among the Fall 2015 cohort of first-time in college, full-time, program placed students, students who identified as Hispanic/Latino had the lowest transfer-out rate (9 percent), which was 7 percentage points below the College-wide transfer-out rate. Additionally, the transfer-out rate Hispanic/Latino students was between 7 and 11 percentage points lower than all other race/ethnic groups.

Conversely, the other four racial/ethnic groups either met or exceeded the College-wide transfer-out rate of 16 percent. Students who identified as white had the highest transfer-out rate (20 percent), followed by students who identified as another race or ethnicity (17 percent), and Black/African American students and Asians students (16 percent each).

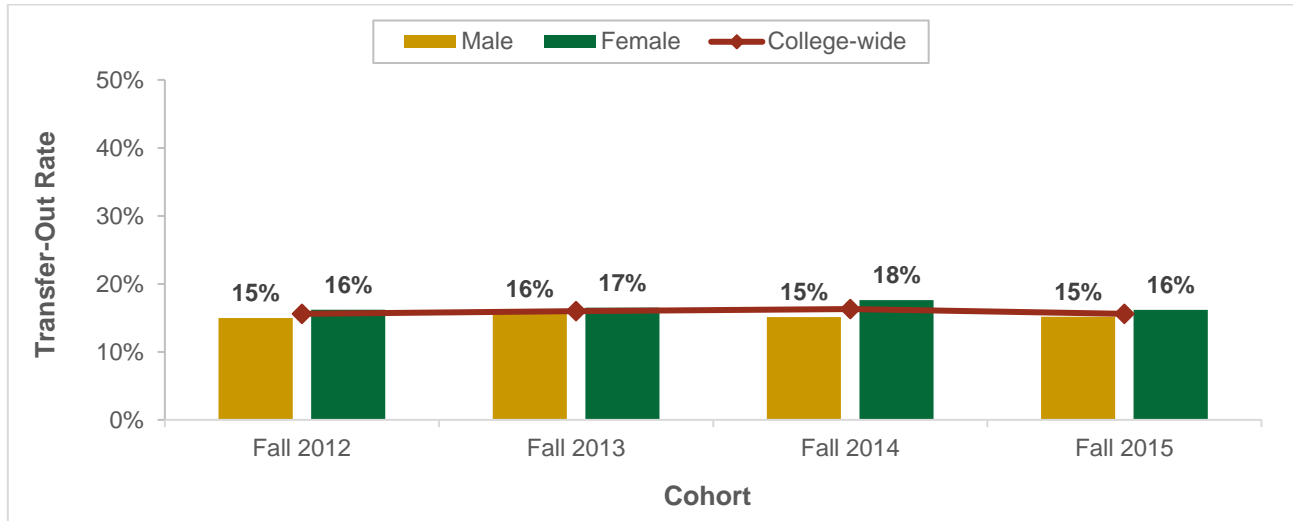
**Figure 3. Transfer-Out Rate by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2012 through Fall 2015 First-Time in College, Full-Time Program Placed Cohorts**



### Transfer-Out Rate by Gender

Among the Fall 2015 cohort of first-time in college, full-time, program placed students, female students had a slightly higher transfer-out rate than male students (16 versus 15 percent). While the transfer-out rate for female students was the same as the College-wide average of 16 percent, the transfer-out rate of male students was one percentage point below the College.

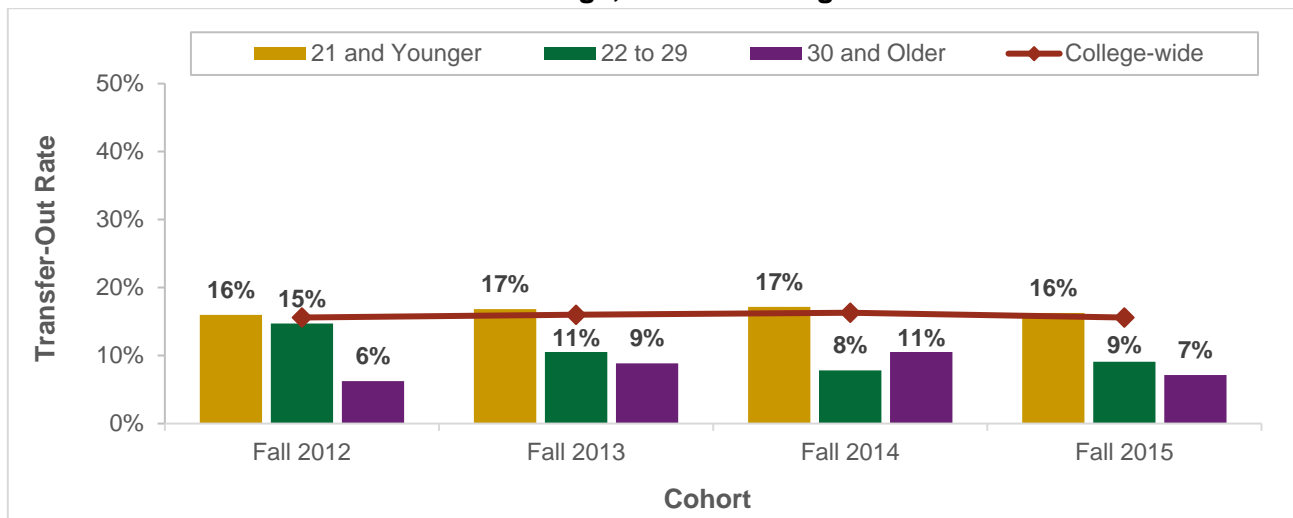
**Figure 4. Transfer-Out Rate by Gender: Fall 2012 through Fall 2015 First-Time in College, Full-Time Program Placed Cohorts**



### Transfer-Out Rate by Age Group

Among the Fall 2015 cohort of first-time in college, full-time, program placed students, students aged 21 and younger had a higher transfer-out rate than older students (16 percent versus 9 percent for students aged 22 to 29; and 7 percent for students aged 30 and older). The transfer-out rate for both older age groups was below the College-wide average of 16 percent, whereas the transfer-out rate for students aged 21 and younger was the same as the College.

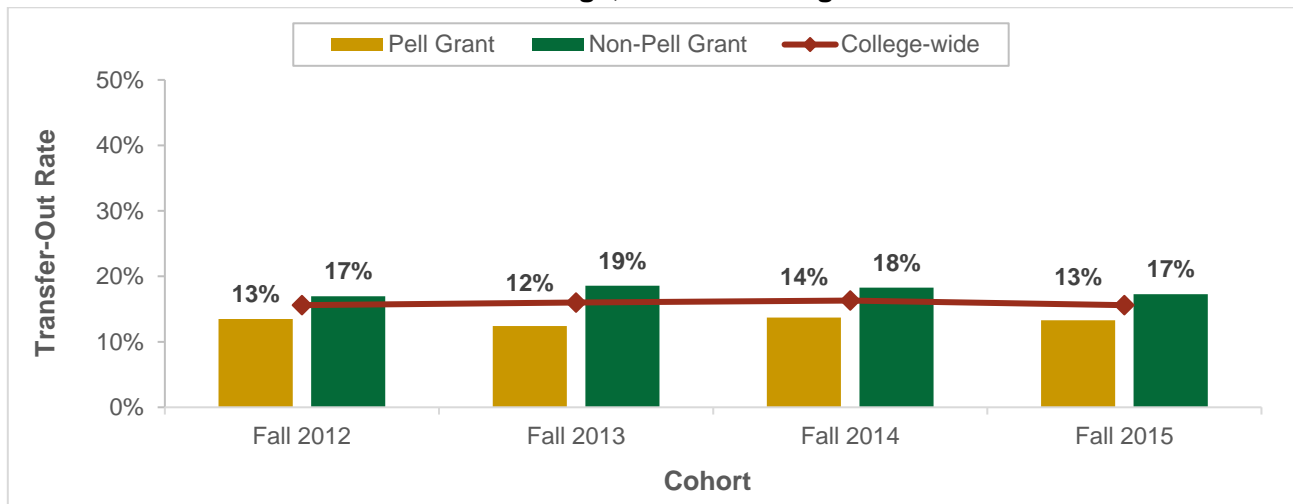
**Figure 5. Transfer-Out Rate by Age Group: Fall 2012 through Fall 2015 First-Time in College, Full-Time Program Placed Cohorts**



### Transfer-Out Rate by Pell Grant Status

Among the Fall 2015 cohort of first-time in college, full-time, program placed students, students who did not receive a Pell Grant had a higher transfer-out rate than Pell Grant recipients (17 versus 13 percent). While the transfer-out rate for non-Pell Grant recipients was above the College-wide average of 16 percent, the transfer-out rate of Pell Grant recipients was three percentage points below the College-wide average.

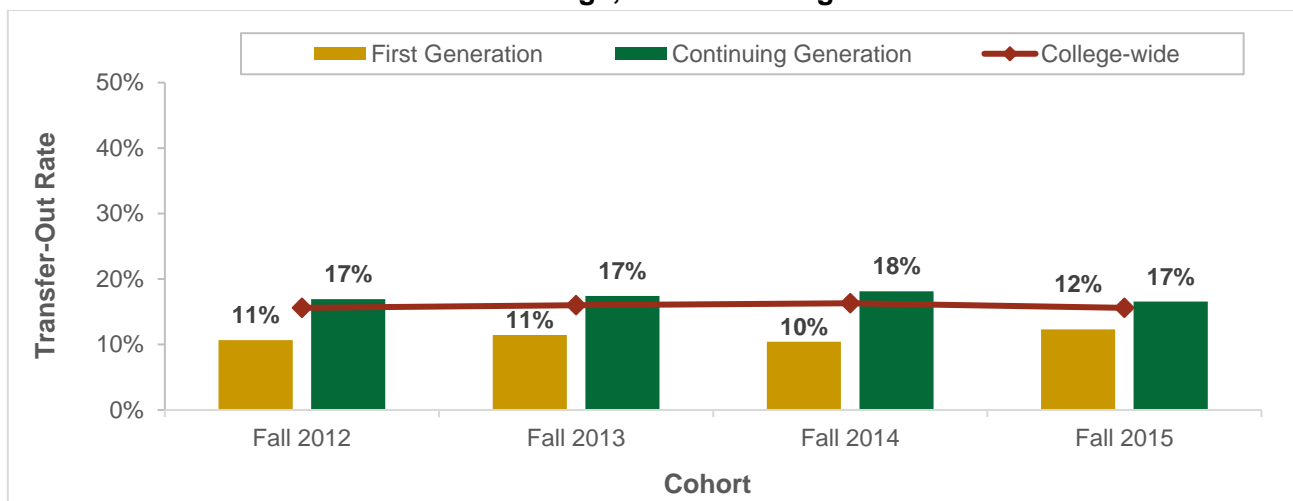
**Figure 6. Transfer-Out Rate by Pell Grant Status: Fall 2012 through Fall 2015 First-Time in College, Full-Time Program Placed Cohorts**



### Transfer-Out Rate by First Generation Status

Among the Fall 2015 cohort of first-time in college, full-time, program placed students, continuing generation students had a higher transfer-out rate than first generation students (17 versus 12 percent). While the transfer-out rate for continuing generation students was above the College-wide average of 16 percent, the transfer-out rate of first generation students was four percentage points below the College-wide average.

**Figure 7. Transfer-Out Rate by First Generation Status: Fall 2012 through Fall 2015 First-Time in College, Full-Time Program Placed Cohorts**



## Data Tables

### Overall Transfer Trends

**Table 1. Annual Number of Transfers: 2014-15 through 2018-19**

Academic Year	
2014-15	9,200
2015-16	9,513
2016-17	10,314
2017-18	11,215
2018-19	12,101

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

**Table 2. Overall Transfer-Out Rate: Fall 2012 through Fall 2015  
First-Time in College, Full-Time, Program Placed Cohorts**

Cohort	N	Transferred Out of NOVA	
		#	%
Fall 2012	5,137	799	15.6
Fall 2013	5,819	932	16.0
Fall 2014	5,818	948	16.3
Fall 2015	5,881	919	15.6

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

### Transfer-Out Rate by Select Student Characteristics

**Table 3. Transfer-Out Rate by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2012 through Fall 2015  
First-Time in College, Full-Time, Program Placed Cohorts**

Race/ Ethnicity	Fall 2012			Fall 2013			Fall 2014			Fall 2015		
	N	Transferred		N	Transferred		N	Transferred		N	Transferred	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
White	1,778	314	17.7	1,927	378	19.6	1,835	356	19.4	1,868	374	20.0
Black/African American	870	164	18.9	1,011	161	15.9	970	202	20.8	891	147	16.5
Hispanic/Latino	1,227	143	11.7	1,430	156	10.9	1,601	165	10.3	1,620	151	9.3
Asian	918	125	13.6	1,021	163	16.0	1,023	148	14.5	1,060	172	16.2
Other*	344	53	15.4	430	74	17.2	389	77	19.8	442	75	17.0
<b>College-wide</b>	<b>5,137</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>5,819</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>5,818</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>5,881</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>15.6</b>

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

\*Other includes American Indian/Alaska Native, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Two or More Races, Unknown, and Not Specified.

**Table 4. Transfer-Out Rate by Gender: Fall 2012 through Fall 2015  
First-Time in College, Full-Time, Program Placed Cohorts**

Gender	Fall 2012			Fall 2013			Fall 2014			Fall 2015		
	N	Transferred		N	Transferred		N	Transferred		N	Transferred	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Male	2,723	408	15.0	3,064	477	15.6	3,063	463	15.1	3,216	488	15.2
Female	2,414	391	16.2	2,755	455	16.5	2,755	485	17.6	2,665	431	16.2
<b>College-wide</b>	<b>5,137</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>5,819</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>5,818</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>5,881</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>15.6</b>

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

**Table 5. Transfer-Out Rate by Age Group: Fall 2012 through Fall 2015  
First-Time in College, Full-Time, Program Placed Cohorts**

Age Group	Fall 2012			Fall 2013			Fall 2014			Fall 2015		
	N	Transferred		N	Transferred		N	Transferred		N	Transferred	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
21 and Younger	4,540	726	16.0	5,126	863	16.8	5,219	896	17.2	5,392	877	16.3
22 to 29	421	62	14.7	456	48	10.5	409	32	7.8	363	33	9.1
30 and Older	176	11	6.3	237	21	8.9	190	20	10.5	126	9	7.1
<b>College-wide</b>	<b>5,137</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>5,819</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>5,818</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>5,881</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>15.6</b>

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

**Table 6. Transfer-Out Rate by Pell Grant Status: Fall 2012 through Fall 2015  
First-Time in College, Full-Time, Program Placed Cohorts**

Pell Grant Status	Fall 2012			Fall 2013			Fall 2014			Fall 2015		
	N	Transferred		N	Transferred		N	Transferred		N	Transferred	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Pell Grant	2,075	280	13.5	2,417	300	12.4	2,511	344	13.7	2,417	321	13.3
Non-Pell Grant	3,062	519	16.9	3,402	632	18.6	3,307	604	18.3	3,464	598	17.3
<b>College-wide</b>	<b>5,137</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>5,819</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>5,818</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>5,881</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>15.6</b>

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

**Table 7. Transfer-Out Rate by First Generation Status: Fall 2012 through Fall 2015  
First-Time in College, Full-Time, Program Placed Cohorts**

First Generation Status	Fall 2012			Fall 2013			Fall 2014			Fall 2015		
	N	Transferred		N	Transferred		N	Transferred		N	Transferred	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
First Generation	1,134	121	10.7	1,370	157	11.5	1,382	144	10.4	1,283	158	12.3
Continuing Generation	4,003	678	16.9	4,449	775	17.4	4,436	804	18.1	4,598	761	16.6
<b>College-wide</b>	<b>5,137</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>5,819</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>5,818</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>5,881</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>15.6</b>

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.