

# RESEARCH BRIEF

No. 84-16

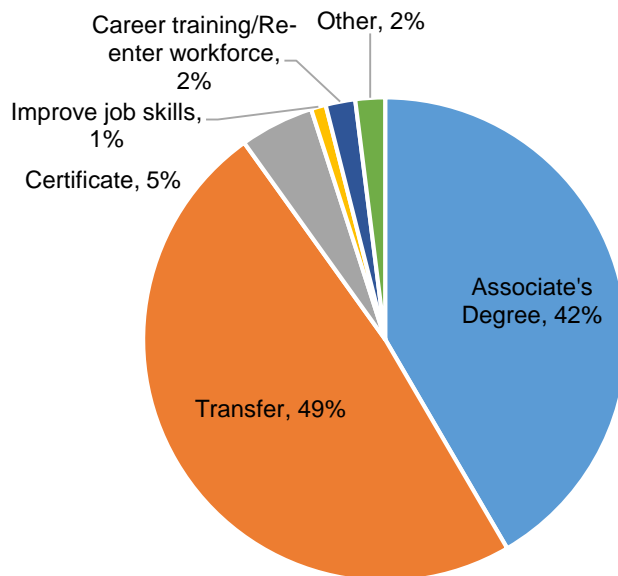
December 2016

## Graduate Survey 2016: Transfer Goals

This Research Brief presents data on the 2016 Graduate Survey<sup>1</sup>, focusing on students who entered NOVA with the primary goal of transferring to a four-year college or university.

Among survey respondents, nearly half (49 percent, 636 students) indicated their primary educational goal upon entering NOVA was to transfer to a four-year institution (Figure 1). Forty-two percent of 2016 graduates who responded to the survey indicated their primary goal was to earn an Associate's degree (538 students).

**Figure 1. What was Your Primary Educational Goal at NOVA?**



N=1,295 Survey Respondents

<sup>1</sup> The 2016 Graduate Survey had a 19 percent response rate (1,323 respondents of 6,939 graduates).

Survey respondents' primary educational goal upon entering NOVA varied by the type of degree received. As shown in Table 1 sixty-two percent of students (501 students) who earned a transfer degree (A.A. or A.S.) stated their primary goal was to transfer to another institution, compared to 28 percent of students (135 students) who earned an Occupational-Technical degree (A.A.A., A.A.S., or Certificate)

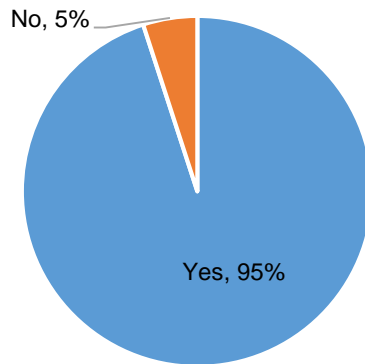
**Table 1. Primary Educational Goal by Type of Award Received**

Primary Goal at NOVA by Award Type	Occupational-Technical		Transfer		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Attain an Associate's Degree	252	52.0%	286	35.3%	538	41.5%
Attain a Certificate Award	67	13.8%	2	0.2%	69	5.3%
Transfer to a four-year college/university	135	27.8%	501	61.9%	636	49.1%
Improve job skills (without earning a degree or certificate)	6	1.2%	0	0.0%	6	0.5%
Attain career training in order to enter the workforce	15	3.1%	5	0.6%	20	1.5%
Other	10	2.1%	16	2.0%	26	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: Of the 1,323 respondents to the 2016 Graduate Survey, 1,295 responded to this particular question.

Of the 636 students who indicated their primary goal was to transfer to another institution, 602 (95 percent) responded that they did achieve their academic goal at NOVA. Thirty-three survey respondents (5 percent) indicated that they did not achieve their goal; one student did not respond.

**Figure 2. Did you Achieve Your Goal?**



N=635 Survey Respondents

Of survey respondents who earned a transfer degree at NOVA and indicated that their primary goal was to transfer, 96 percent (482 students) also indicated that they achieved their goal.

**Table 2. Goal Achievement by Type of Award Received**

Achieved Goal at NOVA by Award Type	Occupational-Technical		Transfer		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	120	88.9%	482	96.4%	602	94.8%
No	15	11.1%	18	3.6%	33	5.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>100.0%</b>