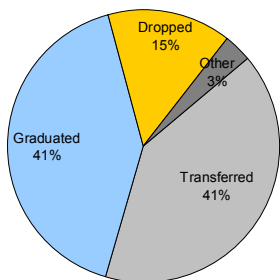


## Where Art Thou? Tracking Fall 2000 Freshman Six Years Later

Every year, we report graduation rates to the federal government via the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Full-time first-time freshmen who enrolled in either the summer or fall semester of 2000 are counted as a cohort, and we track whether or not they graduated within six years. This year our graduation rate was 41%, a slight increase from last year.

While 41% may be the highest graduate rate in UCCS history, you might be wondering what happened to the remaining 59%.

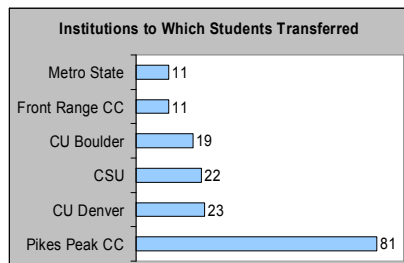
Fall 2000 First Year Cohort



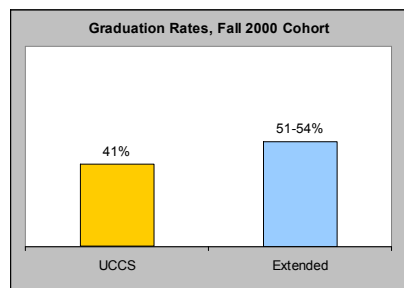
Of the original 2000 cohort of freshmen, 41% graduated from UCCS within six years. Another 41% transferred to another institution, 15% are unaccounted for (and assumed to have dropped

out), and 3% of the students have either died, been assigned to active duty, or are still enrolled.

**Transfers.** According to data available from the National Student Clearinghouse, 41% (298) of students in the cohort transferred to another institution. Of these students, 27% transferred to Pikes Peak Community College.



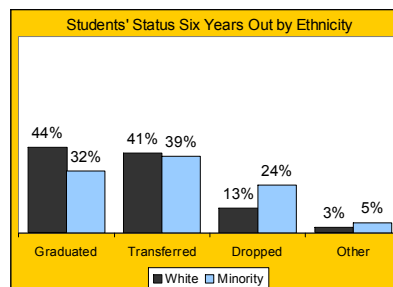
At least 70 and as many as 95 transfers-out (10-13% of the cohort) earned a baccalaureate degree from another institution within six years after starting their career at UCCS. The majority of transfers-out who earned a baccalaureate degree (72%) did so at Colorado State University, UCDHSC, CU-Boulder, or the University of Northern Colorado.



Appending these graduates to the UCCS graduation rate creates an

extended graduation rate of 51-54%.

**Ethnicity.** Minority students have a lower graduation rate (32%) than White students (44%). Whereas their transfer rates are similar, minority students are more likely than White students to both drop out or be assigned to active duty.

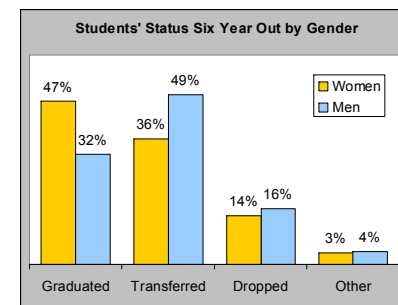


Among Native American, Asian, and Black students, the transfer rate is higher than the graduation rate. Hispanic students, the largest minority group, and White students have graduation rates that are slightly higher than their transfer rates.

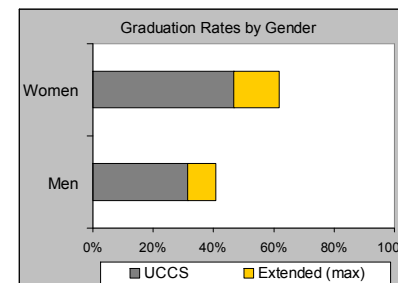
	Graduated	Transferred	Dropped & Other	Count
Native	13%	38%	50%	12
Asian	32%	41%	27%	53
Black	22%	44%	33%	38
Hispanic	38%	35%	27%	80
White	44%	41%	16%	705
Unknown	42%	42%	16%	49

**Gender.** There is a gender gap: 47% of women in the cohort graduated from UCCS within six

years, compared to 36% of the men.



Although men (49%) were more likely than women (32%) to transfer to another institution, men were less likely than women to graduate from those institutions. Thus, the gender gap is exacerbated in the extended graduation rate: 58-62% of women graduated compared to 38-41% of men.



**Suggestions.** The latest issue of "Recruitment & Retention" indicates that, nationally, entering students are highly motivated and want to improve their study habits. The authors also suggest that the best way to improve graduation rates is to institutionalize a comprehensive retention plan.