### New Research on Transfer Students at CUNY

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INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT JOINT RETREAT JUNE 14, 2013

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### Agenda

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- Motivation for research
  - Gaps in existing CUNY research
  - Prevalence of transfer at CUNY
  - Importance of understanding transfer for analysis of
    - × Student diversity, impact of freshman admissions changes
    - Graduation and retention rates
    - Pathways: benchmarking
- Description of transfer patterns
  - Within CUNY
    - Associate to baccalaureate
    - Baccalaureate to baccalaureate
    - Baccalaureate to associate
  - Transfer into CUNY from external colleges and transfers out of CUNY
- Academic outcomes of transfers compared to freshmen
- Implications and plans for future research

#### Note to readers

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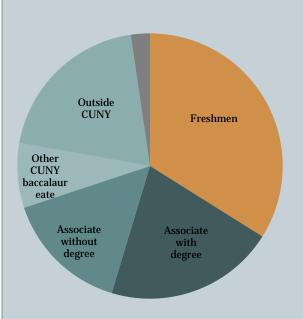
This presentation draws on many strains of existing research, which employ various methods for identifying and classifying transfer students to address particular research questions.

If you have questions about the counting methods used to produce a particular table or chart, or variations between slides, please contact Sarah Truelsch at <a href="mailto:sarah.truelsch@cuny.edu">sarah.truelsch@cuny.edu</a>.

## Prevalence of transfer: two-thirds of baccalaureate graduates entered as transfers

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#### **Baccalaureate Graduates by Admission Type: Academic Year 2010-11**



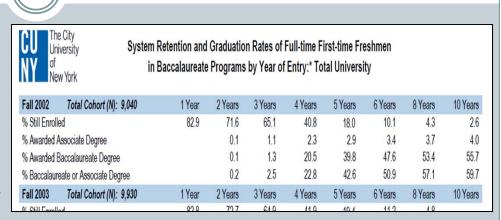
Admission Type	N	%
First-time freshmen	6,703	33.4
Total Transfers	12,893	64.3
Transfers from associate with degree	4,099	20.4
Transfers from associate without degree	3,013	15.0
Transfers from other CUNY baccalaureate	1,562	7.8
Transfers from outside CUNY	3,929	19.6
Admission type unknown	456	2.3
Total	20,052	100.0

#### Gaps in existing CUNY transfer research

- Emphasis in most research on freshmen
  - Admissions, characteristics, graduation
  - Inconsistent treatment of transfer as outcome (positive, negative, neutral)
- What reports do exist (e.g., retention and graduation) undercount transfers because they are designed for freshmen
  - Cohorts defined as students who enter in fall and attend full-time
    - Describes ~40% of transfers in an academic year, compared to ~90% of freshmen

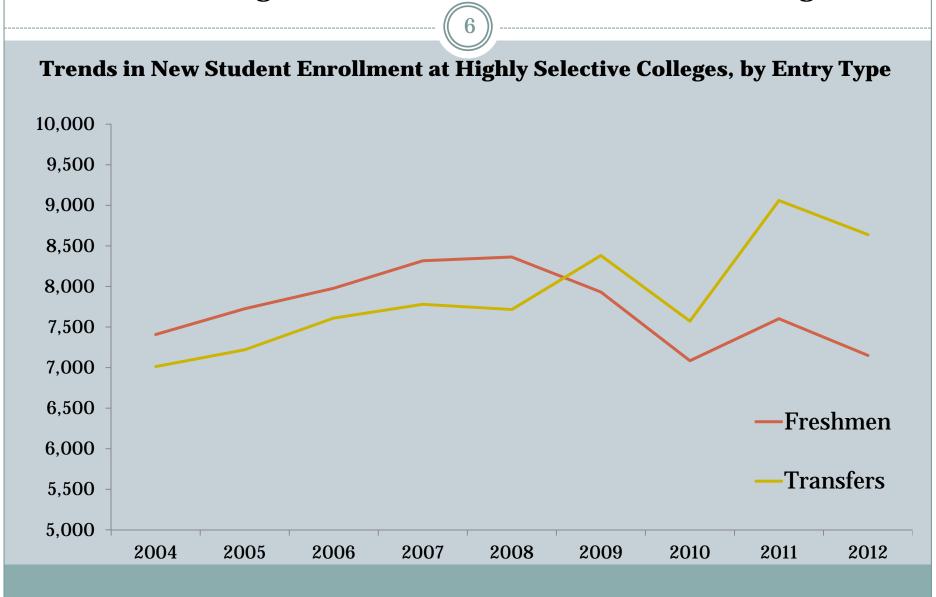
Baccalaureate Transfer Enrollment												
Full-time Part-time Total												
Fall 2002	6,405	3,137	9,542									
Spring 2003	4,538	2,561	7,099									

 Comparisons with freshmen flawed: not starting from comparable points



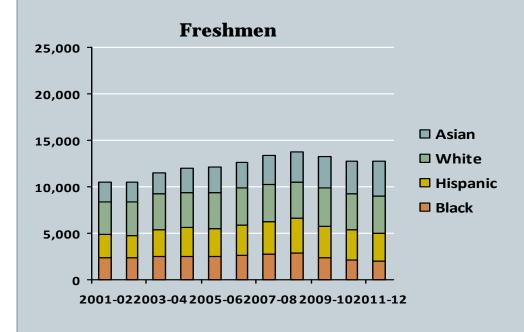
NV of	Baccalaureate Programs by Year of Entry:* Total University												
Fall 2002	Total Cohort (N): 6,405	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years	8 Years	10 Years				
% Still Enro	lled	76.1	53.3	26.9	13.3	7.1	4.7	2.5	1.4				
% Awarded	Associate Degree		2.2	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0				
% Awarded	Baccalaureate Degree		14.0	37.3	50.4	56.4	59.5	62.4	64.0				
% Baccalau	reate or Associate Degree		16.2	39.4	52.3	58.2	61.4	64.3	66.0				
Fall 2003	Total Cohort (N): 7,112	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years	8 Years	10 Years				
% Still Enro	lled	75.0	52.9	27.0	13.1	7.9	5.2	2.7					

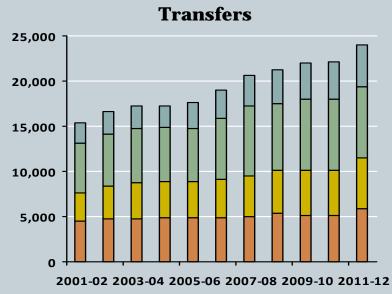
### Prevalence of transfer: Transfer cohorts at senior colleges are increasing in size; freshman cohorts decreasing



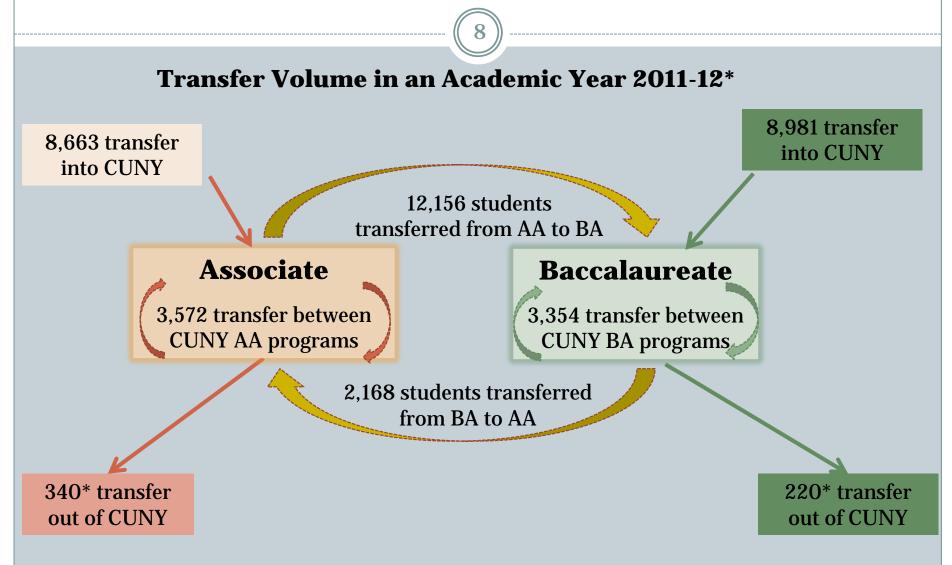
### Black and Hispanic students are better represented as transfers into baccalaureate programs than as freshmen

#### Trends in Freshman and Transfer Enrollment at Selective Colleges, by Race





## There is a large volume and variety of transfer activity throughout the system



<sup>\*</sup>Approximate expected annual transfer out number based on average transfer out of fall freshmen cohorts (associates: 2006-2008; baccalaureate: 2003-2005)

#### Complex data make transfer research challenging

- Inconsistent coding of transfers in data sources
- Students may attend several colleges
  - o Of fall 2012 ASTA applicants, total 36,908
    - **≈** 37% have more than one prior college record
    - **▼ 11% have more than two prior colleges**
    - **x** 3% have more than three prior colleges
- Different experiences of "transfer"
  - Transfer at comprehensive colleges (change in degree programs) likely different from transfer that involves change of campuses
  - Immediate transfer likely different from transfer after a delay

## Similar numbers of associate transfers go outside CUNY as transfer to other CUNY school

- Associate transfer out rates appear similar to national averages
- Note that not all transfer are to baccalaureate programs, many are to other associate programs

Profile of Full-time, First-time Freshmen in Associate Programs: Fall 2005, within 3 years

	Total Cohort	of C	er Outside CUNY e degree)		'ransfers degree)	Graduates		
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	
BMCC	4,188	398	9.5	461	11.0	498	11.9	
Bronx	1,335	116	8.7	63	4.7	107	8.0	
Hostos	829	69	8.3	44	5.3	69	8.3	
Kingsborough	2,198	173	7.9	209	9.5	482	21.9	
LaGuardia	2,268	136	6.0	190	8.4	308	13.6	
Queensborough	2,384	252	10.6	276	11.6	331	13.9	
Total	13,202	1,144	<i>8.7</i>	1,243	9.4	1,795	13.6	

#### Strong geographical driver of community college transfers

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	7	<b>Transfers</b>	from	Community	Col	leges*	by S	Sending and	d Receiving	College:	Fall 2012*
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		Receiving College																			
Sending College	Baruch	Brooklyn	City	Hunter	John Jay	Lehman	Medgar Evers	NYCCT	Queens	Staten Island	, York	Professional Studies	Senior College Total	BMCC	Bronx	Hostos	Kingsborough**	LaGuardia**	Queensborough	Community College Total	*
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
BMCC	34	26	39	32	28	23	32	31	11	17	19	24	26		48	42	55	30	25	33	27
Bronx	4	1	14	6	11	39	3	6	1	2	4	11	9	15		27	8	8	4	8	9
Hostos	2	2	7	6	5	22	1	4	1	1	2	4	5	6	10		3	3	3	4	5
Kingsborough	15	60	13	18	22	3	47	32	7	74	16	21	24	32	15	7		13	23	15	23
LaGuardia	30	8	18	23	19	10	7	16	30	2	23	19	18	30	20	20	17		46	17	18
Queensborough Community College Total	15 <b>100</b>	3 <b>100</b>	9 <b>100</b>	15 <b>100</b>	16 <b>100</b>	3 <b>100</b>	10 100	11 <b>100</b>	51 100	3 <b>100</b>	36 100	21 <b>100</b>	17 100	17 <b>100</b>	8 100	5 <b>100</b>	16 <b>100</b>	45 100	100	22 <b>100</b>	18 100

<sup>\*</sup>Consists of transfers into associate or baccalaureate programs.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Preliminary enrollment.

#### Strong geographical driver of community college transfers

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	Transfers from Community Colleges* by Sending and Receiving College: Fall 2012*																				
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										]	Recei	ving (	College								
Sending College	Baruch	Brooklyn	City	Hunter	John Jay	Lehman	Medgar Evers	NYCCT	Queens	Staten Island	York	SPS	Senior College Total	ВМСС	Bronx	Hostos	Kingsborough**	LaGuardia**	Queensborough	Community College Total	*
	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
BMCC	236	246	269	254	211	174	74	190	106	56	90	23	1,929		89	25	79	104	28	325	2,254
Bronx	26	10	93	45	82	294	8	36	12	7	19	11	643	20		16	12	29	4	81	724
Hostos	17	15	49	47	35	169	3	24	5	3	11	4	382	8	18		5	10	3	44	426
Kingsborough	100	556	92	144	162	24	108	198	70	247	75	20	1,796	42	27	4		44	26	143	1,939
LaGuardia	207	74	122	183	139	77	16	95	296	8	108	18	1,343	40	38	12	24		52	166	1,509
Queensborough	103	32	60	115	121	19	23	68	511	11	174	20	1,257	23	14	3	23	156		219	1,476
Community College Total	689	933	685	788	750	757	232	611	1000	332	477	96	7,350	133	186	60	143	343	113	978	8,328

<sup>\*</sup>Consists of transfers into associate or baccalaureate programs.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Preliminary enrollment.

### Students leaving CUNY's two-year programs are drawn to a mix of public and private, traditional and on-line alternatives

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Top Receiving Schools from Associates Programs (pre-degree): Fall 2008 Cohort, tr	ansfer within thr	ee years
	N	%
TOTAL TRANSFER OUTSIDE CUNY	1,144	
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE	90	7.9
TECHNICAL CAREER INSTITUTE	60	5.2
TOURO COLLEGE	51	4.5
UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX	43	3.8
MONROE COLLEGE	39	3.4
SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	34	3.0
BERKELEY COLLEGE	29	2.5
SUNY FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	25	2.0
MERCY COLLEGE	23	2.0
SUNY STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY	23	2.0
SUNY UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO	17	1.5
ADELPHI UNIVERSITY	15	1.3
DEVRY UNIVERSITY - NEW YORK	15	1.3
VAUGHN COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS	15	1.3
SUNY COLLEGE – OLD WESTBURY	14	1.2
ST JOHNS UNIVERSITY	13	1.1
SUNY HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLG	13	1.1
COLLEGE OF NEW ROCHELLE – NEW RESOUR	12	1.0
BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE	10	0.9
SUNY COLLEGE AT PURCHASE	10	0.9
284 colleges with <=9 students		

## Baccalaureate Transfer is more common at CUNY than at other institutions

• Around 29% of CUNY BA freshmen transfer out of their native college, compared to 20% nationally

### Percent of Baccalaureate Freshman Cohort who Transfer Within Six Year of Entering

Cohort Entered	CUNY	National Public	National Public Commuter	National Public Commuter Large City
	%	%	%	%
2000	29.5	19.4	21.8	28.2
2001	27.2	20.4	22.4	28.1
2002	28.4	20.6	22.3	26.9
2003	28.8	18.8	18.8	20.2
2004	27.8	19.0	18.1	18.1
2005	29.9	19.0	18.1	16.8

Source: IPEDS

Note: : National statistics exclude CUNY. Reporting of transfer rates to IPEDS is voluntary. In 2011, only 58 percent of public colleges reported transfer data.

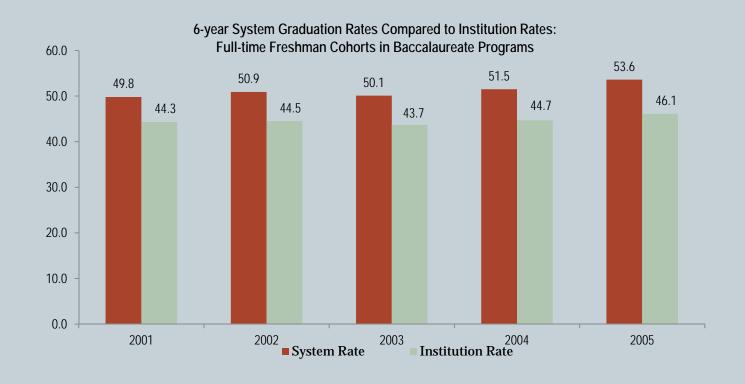
# 58% of CUNY BA transfers go to another CUNY college, 42% transfer outside CUNY

Profile of Full-time, First-time Freshman Enrollees: Fall 2005, within 6 years

	Total Cohort		Outside of NY	CUNY T	ransfers	Graduates		
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Baruch	1,625	140	8.6	184	11.3	1,029	63.3	
Brooklyn	1,354	147	10.9	225	16.6	656	48.4	
City	1,278	145	11.3	281	22.0	511	40.0	
Hunter	1,776	260	14.6	326	18.4	816	45.9	
John Jay	1,168	188	16.1	195	16.7	460	39.4	
Lehman	788	97	12.3	97	12.3	318	40.4	
Medgar Evers	18	1	5.6	2	11.1	7	38.9	
NYCCT	204	23	11.3	36	17.6	48	23.5	
Queens	1,470	170	11.6	162	11.0	780	53.1	
Staten Island	246	33	13.4	22	8.9	118	48.0	
York	742	102	13.7	245	33.0	147	19.8	
Total	10,669	1,306	12.2	1,775	16.6	4,890	45.8	

# Comparison of system vs. institutional baccalaureate graduation rates shows value of tracking transfers

System vs institutional graduation rates



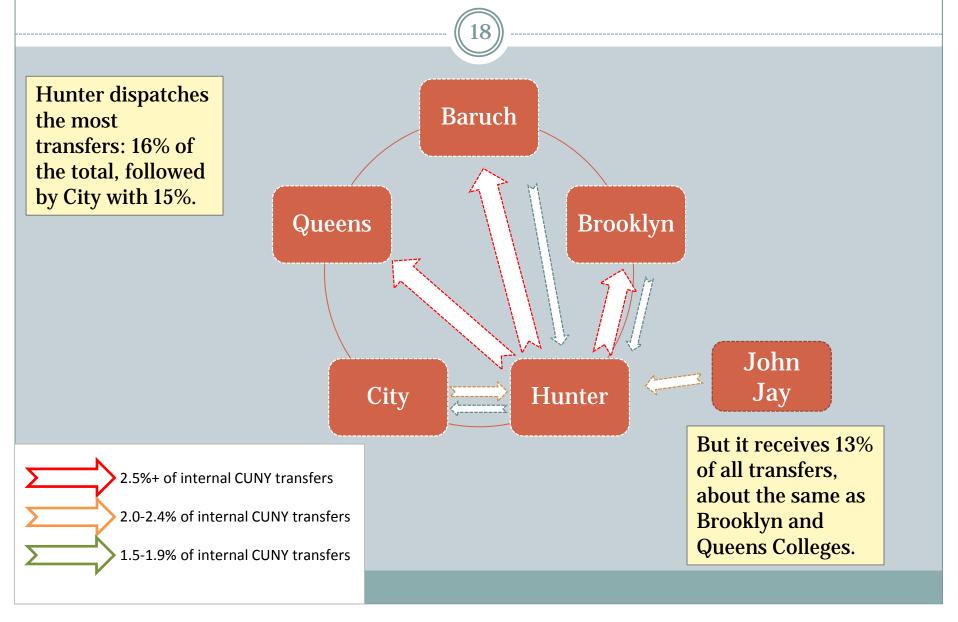
## The ratio of students transferring within CUNY compared to out of it jumped from 1.06 to 1.24

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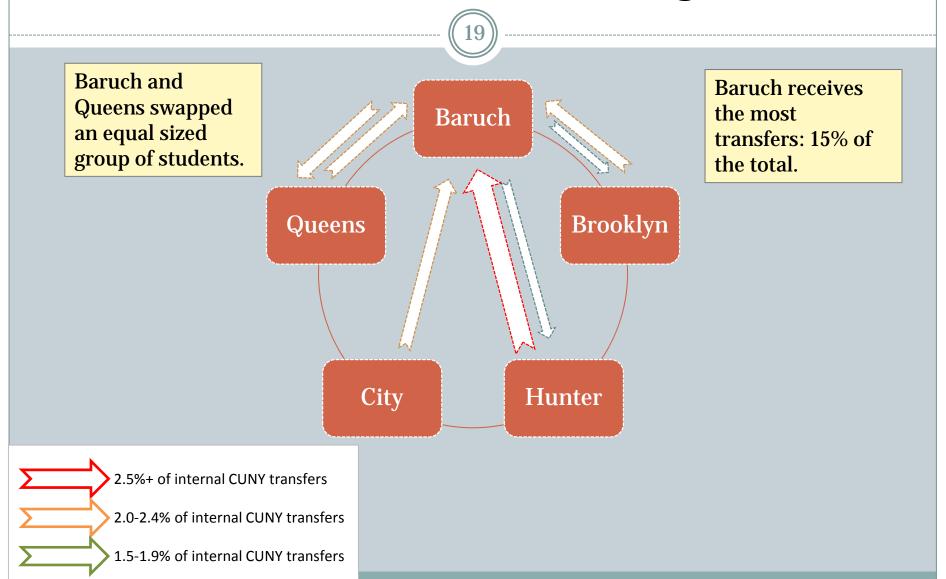
#### Ratio of internal to external transfer for freshman, baccalaureate cohorts

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Ratio>1 = more CUNY than outside transfers	Ratio CUNY/ x-CUNY Transfers				
	Ratio	Ratio	Ratio	Ratio	Ratio
Baruch	1.30	1.53	1.30	1.31	1.00
Brooklyn	1.36	1.41	1.56	1.53	1.54
City	1.53	1.61	2.04	1.94	1.59
Hunter	0.89	1.06	1.24	1.25	1.13
Queens	0.59	0.62	0.86	0.95	0.96
John Jay	0.82	0.89	0.90	1.04	1.04
Lehman	0.93	0.90	1.08	1.00	1.10
Medgar Evers	1.00	3.00	0.00	2.00	1.30
NYCCT	1.33	1.75	2.18	1.57	2.57
Staten Island	0.83	0.88	1.00	0.67	0.80
York	1.30	1.51	2.00	2.40	2.08
Total	1.06	1.24	1.32	1.36	1.24

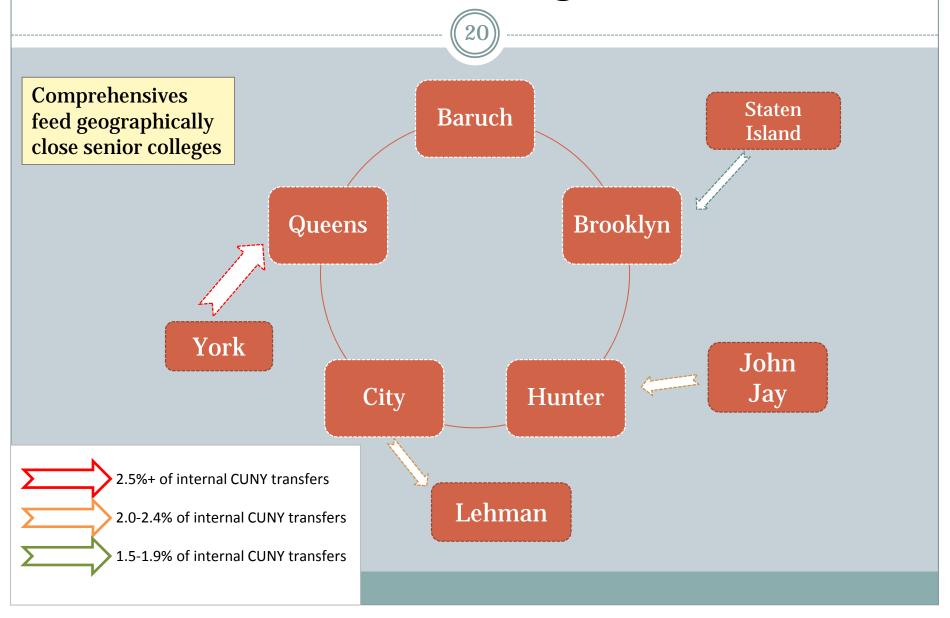
### Transfer Patterns 1: Sending School



### Transfer Patterns 2: Receiving School



### Transfer Patterns 3: Regional Transfer



### Surprising similarities in the schools from which baccalaureate programs receive students and to which they send them

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Top Sending Schools for Baccalaureate Programs: Fall 2012						
	N	%				
TOTAL EXTERNAL TRANSFER IN	6,438					
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE	454	7.1				
WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	189	2.9				
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	144	2.2				
SAINT JOHNS UNIVERSITY	109	1.7				
LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY	97	1.5				
ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE	92	1.4				
NON ACCR COLLEGE	83	1.3				
TOURO COLLEGE	78	1.2				
ASA INSTITUTE	77	1.2				
BARD COLLEGE	71	1.1				
MONROE COLLEGE	66	1.0				
SUNY STONY BROOK	65	1.0				
PACE UNIVERSITY		1.0				
MERCY COLLEGE	58	0.9				
SUNY ALBANY	53	0.8				
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	51	0.8				
BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	49	0.8				
SAINT FRANCIS COLLEGE	47	0.7				
NEW YORK INSTITUTE TECHNOLOGY	46	0.7				
SUNY BUFFALO	46	0.7				
DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	39	0.6				
ADELPHI UNIVERSITY	36	0.6				
BERKELEY SCHOOL	36	0.6				
800+ sending <=30 students						

Top Receiving Schools from Baccalaureate Programs: Fall 2005 Freshman Cohort, transfer within six years				
	N	%		
TOTAL TRANSFER OUTSIDE CUNY	1,306			
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE	124	9.5		
SUNY STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY	66	5.1		
SUNY BINGHAMTON	56	4.3		
SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	37	2.8		
UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX	36	2.8		
LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY	33	2.5		
SUNY FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	33	2.5		
SUNY UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO	32	2.5		
TOURO COLLEGE	28	2.1		
ST JOHNS UNIVERSITY	24	1.8		
SUNY ALBANY	22	1.7		
ADELPHI UNIVERSITY	21	1.6		
MONROE COLLEGE	20	1.5		
SUNY FARMINGDALE	20	1.5		
MERCY COLLEGE	18	1.4		
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	17	1.3		
TECHNICAL CAREER INSTITUTE	17	1.3		
NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	16	1.2		
SUNY SUFFOLK COUNTY CC - BRENTWOOD	15	1.1		
SUNY SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	15	1.1		
DEVRY UNIVERSITY - NEW YORK	14	1.1		
BERKELEY COLLEGE	11	0.8		
SUNY COLLEGE AT PURCHASE	11	0.8		
292 colleges with <=10 students				

# Baccalaureate to Associate transfers often have delays in transfers

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### Fall 2011 Within-CUNY Transfers, by last year in Previous Degree program

	Program Change					
	BA to AA		AA to BA		BA to BA	
Last term in previous						
degree program	N	%	N	%	N	%
Previous spring	344	23.1	4,936	62.6	1,835	54.6
1 year before	442	29.7	1,423	18.1	424	12.6
2 years before	246	16.5	436	5.5	264	7.9
More than 2 years	457	30.7	1,085	13.8	835	24.9
·						
Total	1,489	100.0	7,880	100.0	3,358	100.0

#### Do Transfer Students Perform as well as Firsttime Freshmen?





#### **Summary of Results**



- We focus on the performance of CUNY students who transfer into baccalaureate programs relative to students who commence study as first-time freshmen (FTF) at their first college
- Transfer Students:
  - Less likely to graduate with a bachelors degree within 4 years of earning 30-60 credits
  - Graduate at lower rates (partly because of socio-economic disadvantages and inadequate high school prep)
  - Make less efficient degree progress in the bachelors program

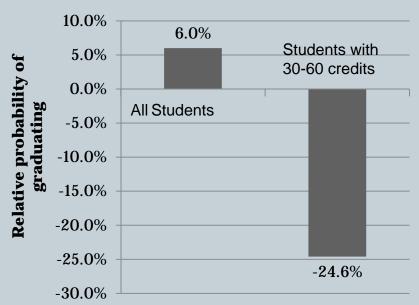
#### **Transfer Students at CUNY**



- Among CUNY's senior colleges, the percentage of fall entrants who are transfer students ranges from 42-60%.
- Previous research: not adequately addressed whether transfer students perform as well as students who begin baccalaureate study as FTF.
- We analyze the relative probability of graduation for transfer students and FTFs at CUNY, controlling for a variety of factors that may influence their academic performance.

# How do transfer students compare on graduation rates?



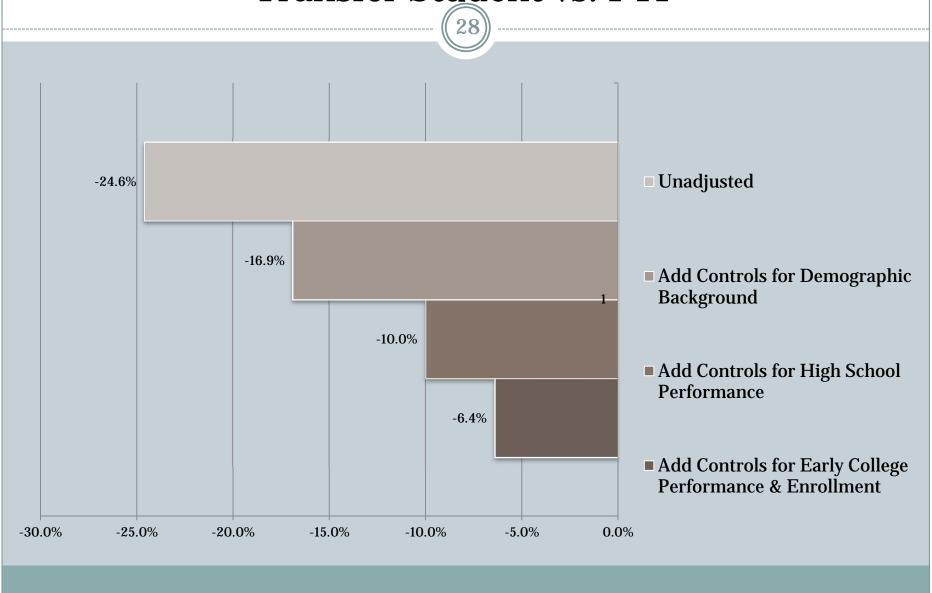


- Comparing all transfer students to FTF who entered a BA program in fall 2005:
  - transfer students are 6
     percentage points more likely
     to graduate by the spring of
     2009.
- But not a valid comparison
- Transfer students have an average of 50 credits
- Comparing to FTF w/30-60 credits
  - Transfer students are nearly 25 percentage points less likely to graduate

# Why are transfer students less likely to graduate than FTFs?

- Come from more disadvantaged backgrounds and are less academically prepared for the demands of a bachelor's level degree program.
- We control for these factors in our regression models to see what graduation gap remains. We focus on:
  - Controls for demographic background
  - Controls for high school performance
  - Controls for early college performance & enrollment

#### Relative Probability of Graduation, Transfer Student vs. FTF



#### In Summary

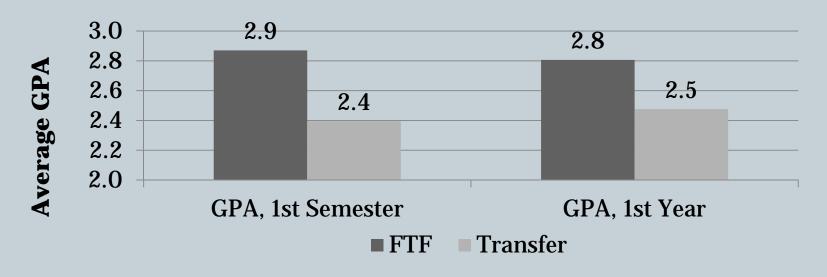


- These control variables substantially reduce but do not completely eliminate — the gap.
- Of the unadjusted 25 percentage point grad. gap
  - 7.7 points can be explained by demographic characteristics
    - (race/ethnicity, gender, age, and immigration status)
  - 6.9 percentage points are explained by academic preparation and performance in high school.
  - 3.6 percentage points account for academic performance in the first two semesters in the baccalaureate program and for enrollment decisions such as full-time attendance.
- But a gap of 6.4 percentage points remains

## A closer look at the college performance of transfer students: GPA

• Transfer students earn a substantially lower GPA in the first semester and first year of the baccalaureate program than native baccalaureate students.

Average GPAs, FTFs and Transfer Students

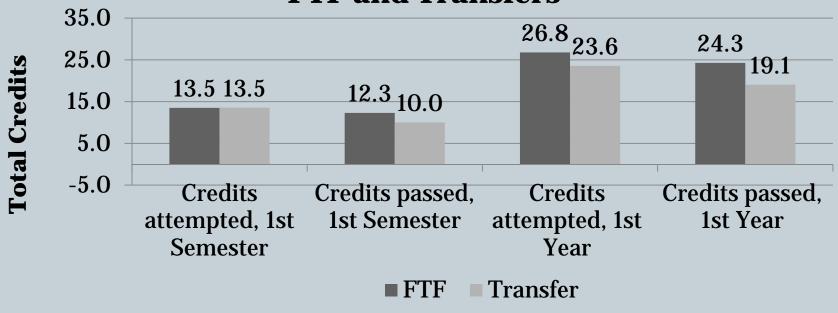


## A closer look at the college performance of transfer students: Credits

 Transfer students pass fewer credits in their 1st semester and 1st year.

 They also appear to decrease their course load in the second semester.

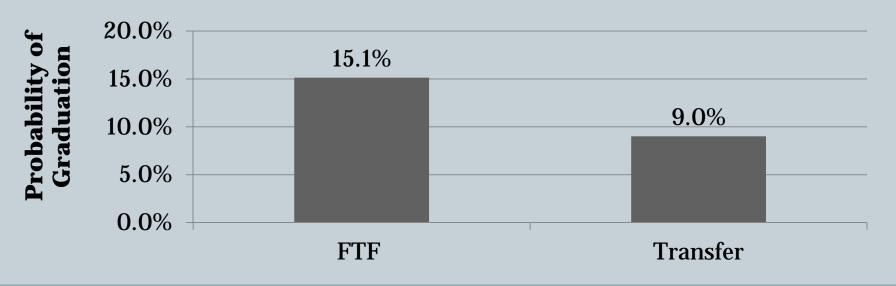
Credits Attempted and Passed, FTF and Transfers



#### Likelihood that a student will graduate

 Taking an additional semester of course work (12 credits) is associated with a 15% increase in the likelihood that an FTF will graduate, compared to only a 9% increase for transfers

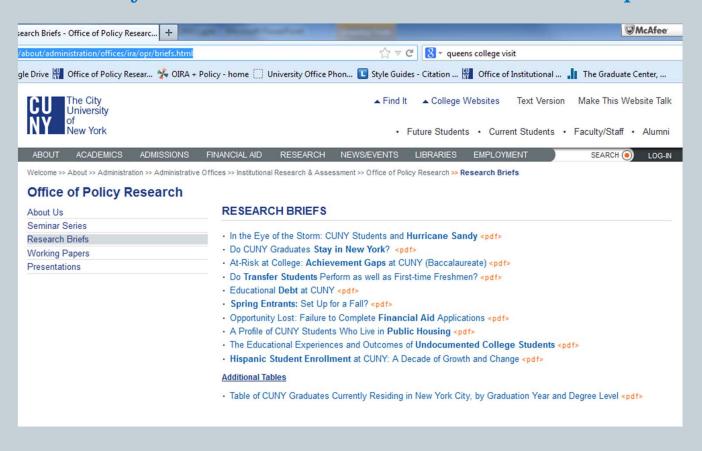
# Change in Probability of Graduating Associated with 12 Additional Credits, FTF and Transfers



#### More information available on OPR Web site

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http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/ira/opr/briefs.html



#### Implications and plans for future research

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- Future research: who transfers (and why)?
  - **Transfer within CUNY**
  - Transfers out of CUNY
- Goals: predict shifts in enrollment to help senior colleges prepare
  - Which students are most likely to transfer out of baccalaureate programs?
    - **Performance**, application choice order
  - Which students are most likely to make successful transfer from associate to baccalaureate?

#### Questions



- What analyses have you done at your campuses?
  - Transfer out to CUNY
  - Transfer our external colleges
  - Top feeder schools
- What data sources do you use?