

When Do Students Transfer Early at LaGuardia and How Many Are There?

Nate Dickmeyer
Institutional Research & Assessment
February 27, 2013

When do students transfer?

- *Nearly half of all students who transfer before receiving their degree do so in the first year.*
- *Almost 80% of all students who transfer early from a cohort do so within two years.*
- *22% of the Fall 2006 new student cohort transferred early.*

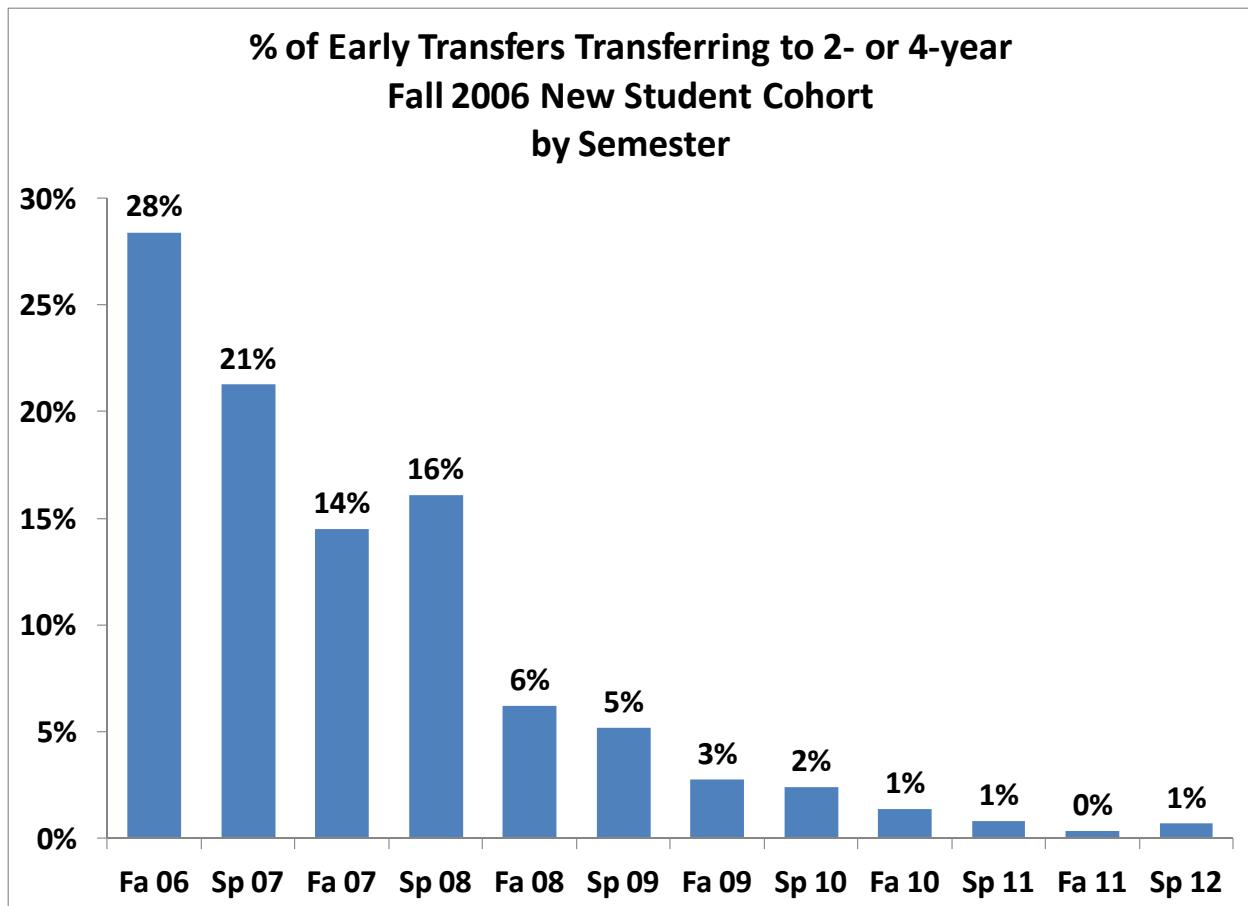


Figure 1

(National Clearinghouse data.)

(New students include first-time freshmen and new transfer-in students, N=3,932.)

(The percentages shown are of all students who transferred from this cohort (N=870) and add to 100%.)

When do students transfer to 4-year colleges?

- 13% of the cohort will transfer to four-year colleges.
- 9% of the cohort will transfer to two-year colleges.
- A handful of students are still transferring to two-year colleges after two years.

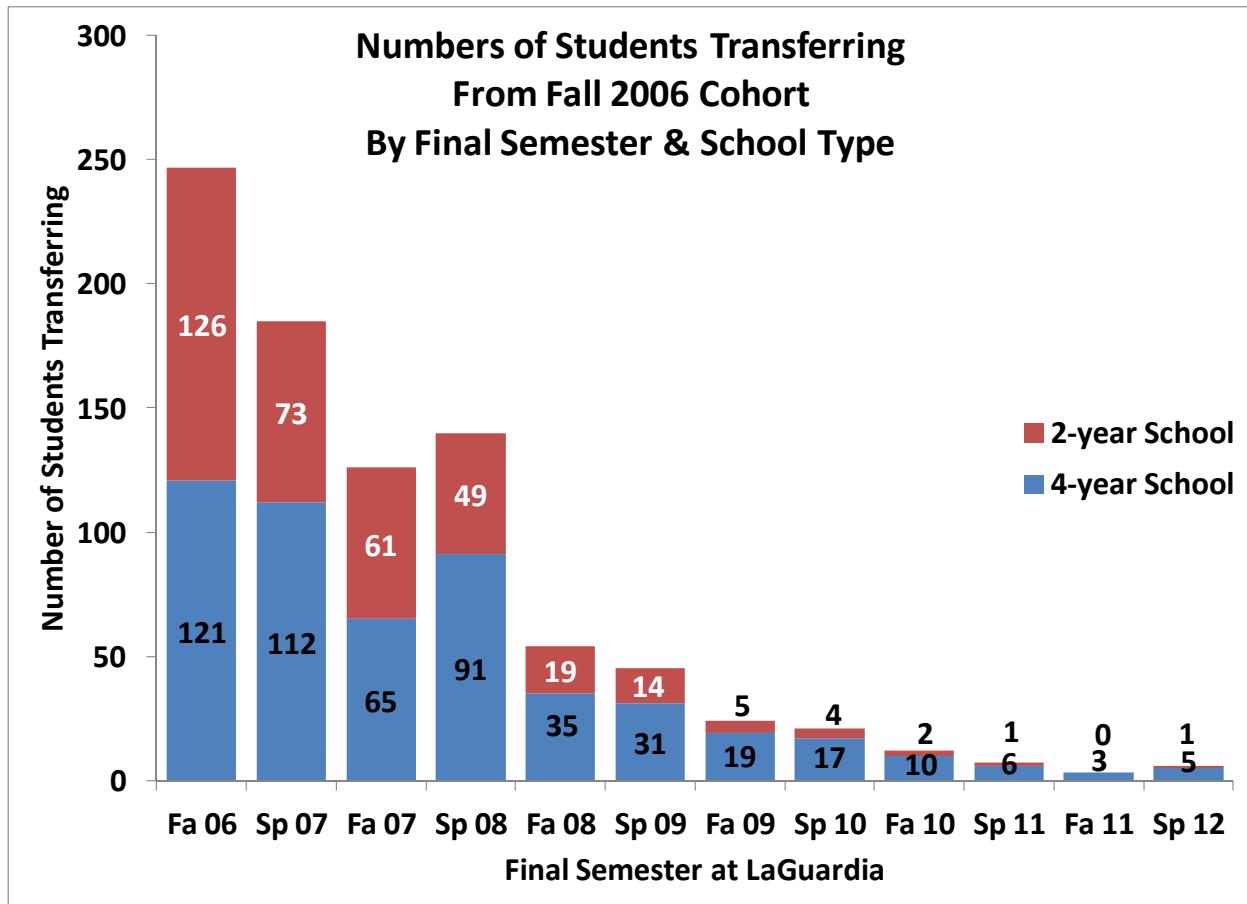


Figure 2

How many credits have students earned before they transfer?

- *Students transfer before earning their degree at all credit levels.*
- *As expected, students transferring to two-year colleges accumulate fewer earned credits before transferring.*
- *18% of those transferring before earning a degree have earned more than 45 credits.*

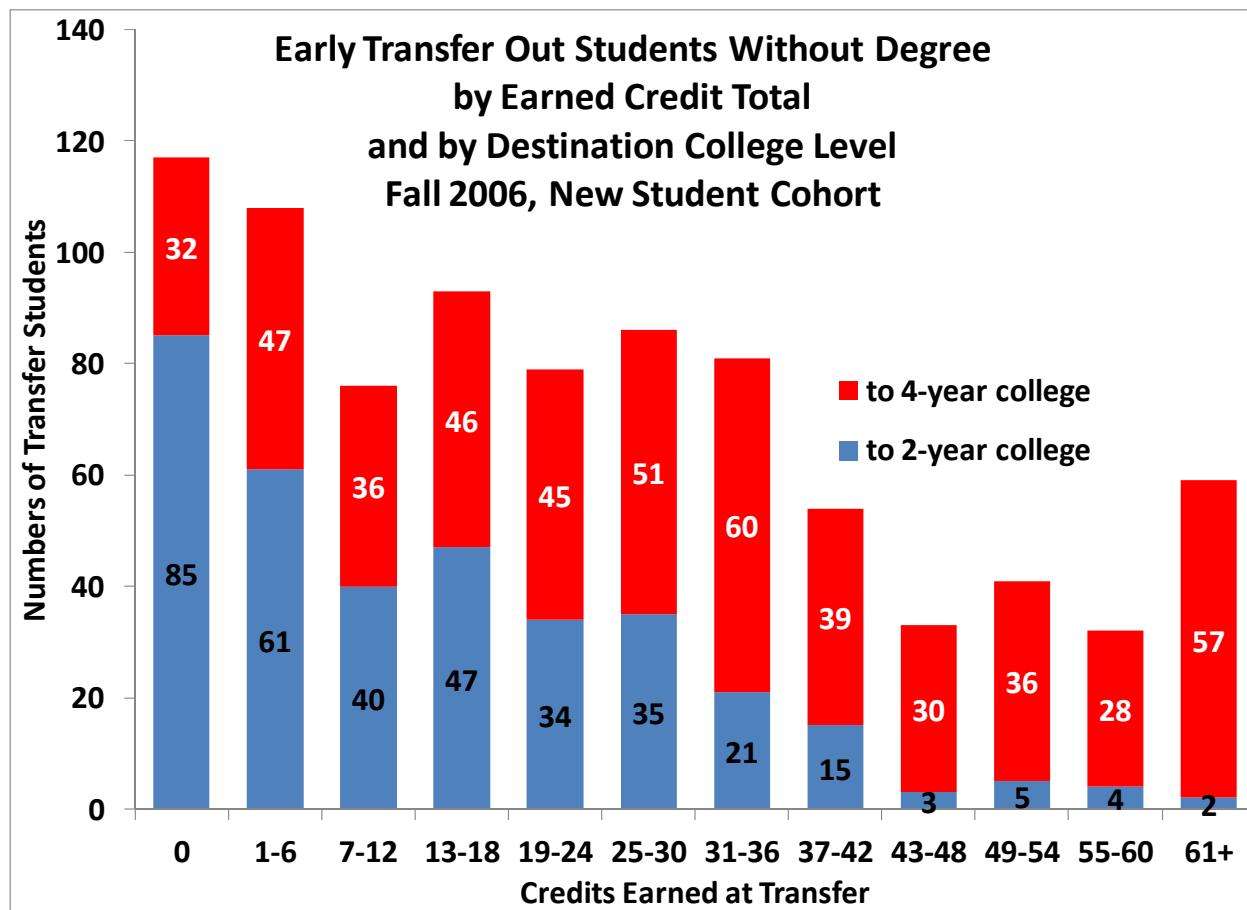


Figure 3

What is the GPA of students when they transfer early?

- *Most students transferring early to a two-year college have GPA's below 1.50.*
- *The largest proportion of students transferring early to a four-year college has a GPA between 3.00 and 3.50.*
- The GPA distribution among graduates and students transferring early to a four-year college is similar, except that 24% of the transferring students have GPAs below 2.00.

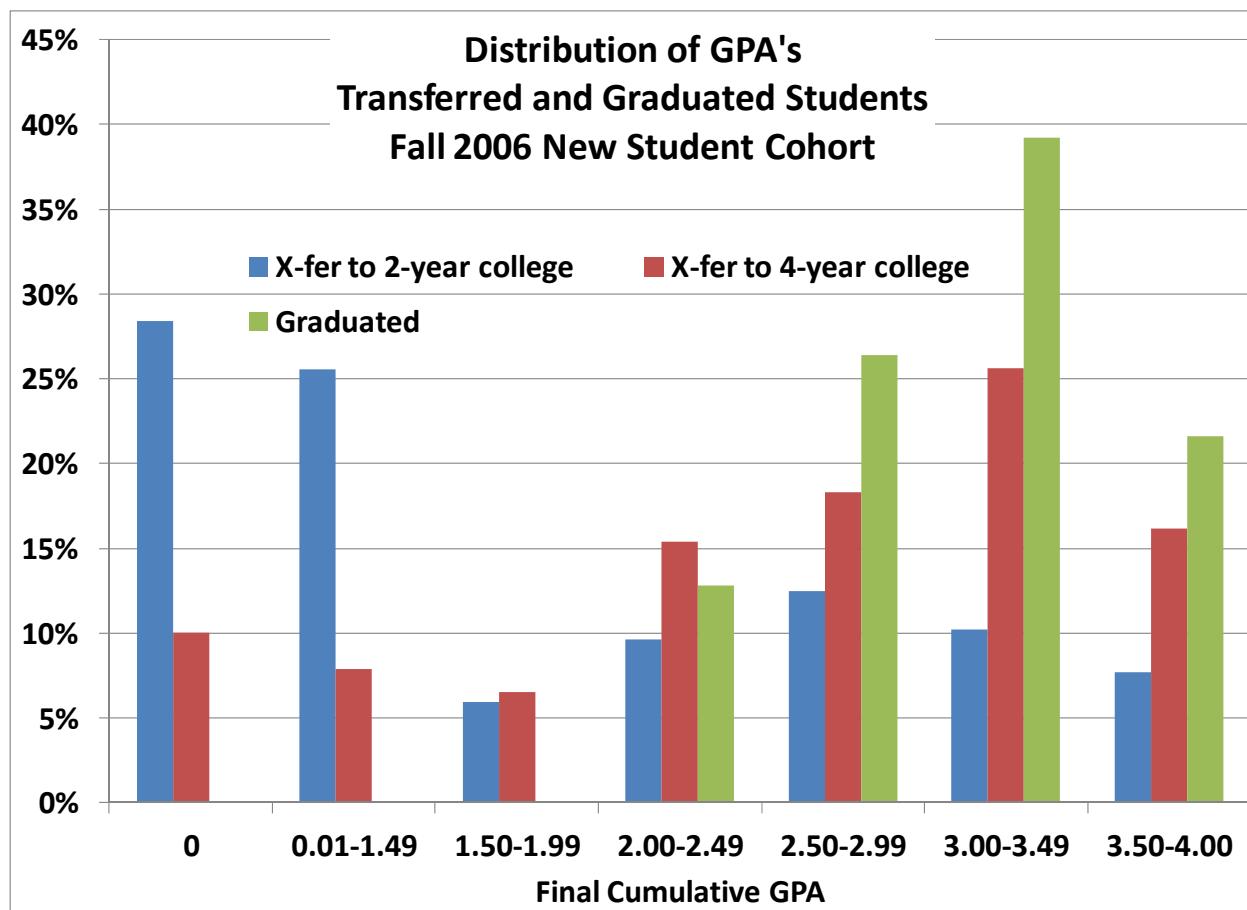


Figure 4

Are more students transferring now than before?

- *Total numbers of early transfer students (from all cohorts) began increasing in 2003.*

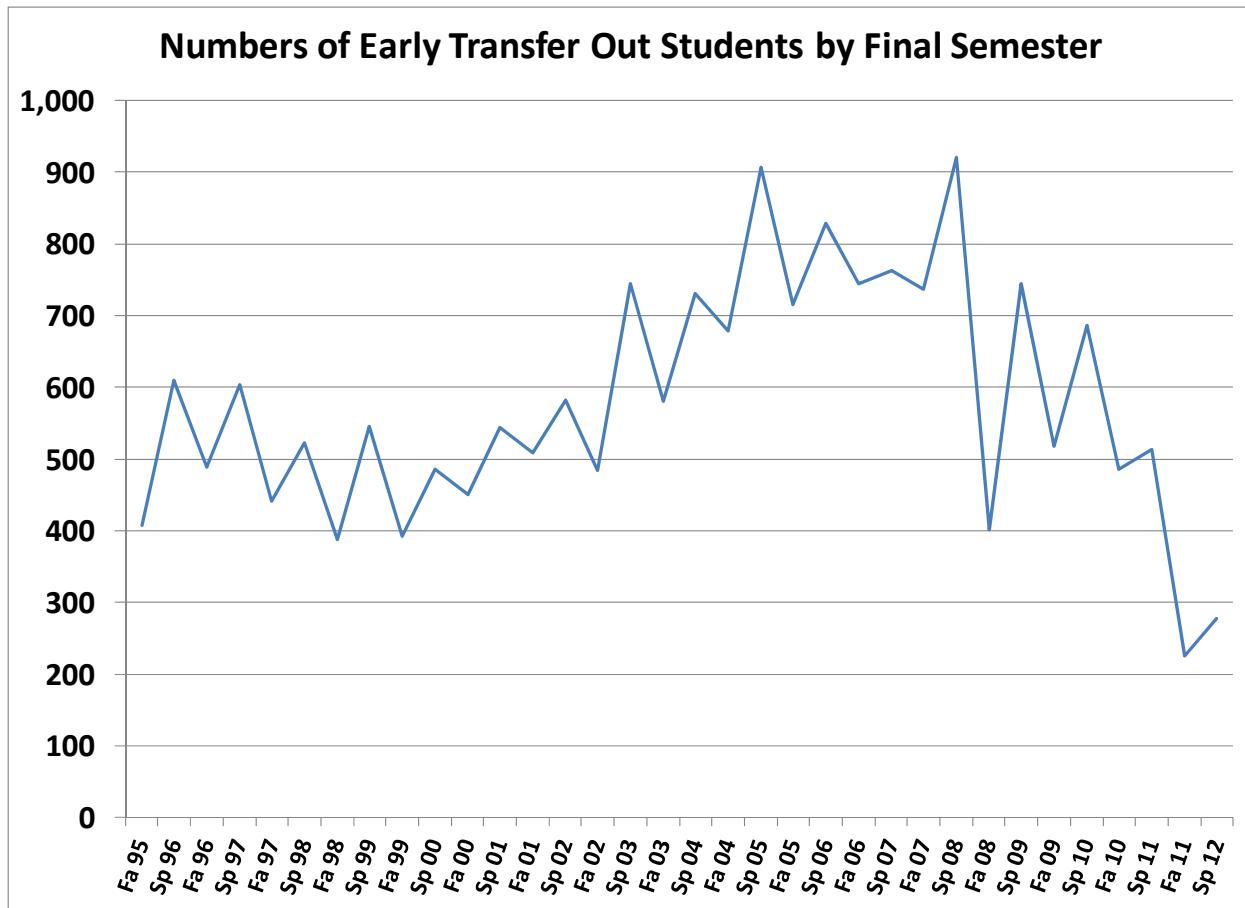


Figure 5

(The apparent decline in recent semesters is an artifact of the time it takes for some students to find and enter a new college. As time goes by, more students whose last semester here was from Fall 2009 to Spring 2012 will show up in the Clearinghouse data after having found another institution.)

(Total number of early transfers found in this 34-semester look, 19,659.)

Is the proportion of students who transfer early now larger than before?

- *The proportion of early transfers of total degree enrollment by semester also appears to have increased beginning in 2003.*
- *In Fall 2002 more than half of all degree students were in AAS programs. In Fall 2011 only 40% of degree students were in AAS programs. This trend toward more transfer-oriented programs may explain some of the increase in the proportion of students transferring early.*

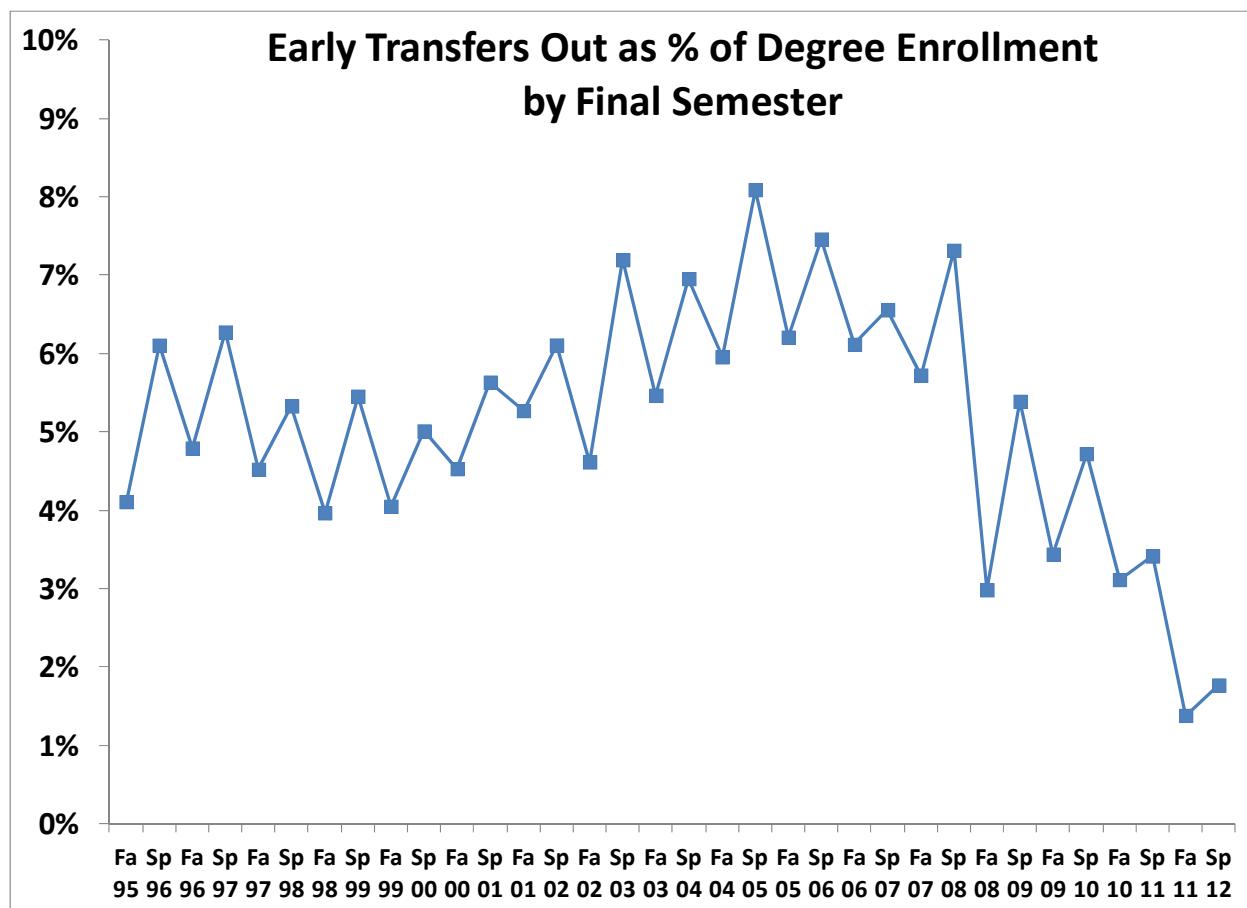


Figure 6

(This chart tested whether the increase in numbers starting in Fall 2003 was simply a result of increasing enrollments. Here we see that the percentage of enrollment also increased.)