

**Graduate Success Report**  
**Southwest Texas Junior College**  
October 2013

**Executive Summary**

This report is divided into two sections: (1) University Transfer and Success Findings on Academic Graduates, and (2) Employment-Related Findings on Technical Program Graduates. These sections and their subsections are summarized in the following.

**University Transfer and Success Findings on Academic Graduates**

*Performance of Former SWTJC Students at Upper-Level Institutions*

**Measure:** Students transferring from SWTJC to a university should achieve university GPA's of 2.5 or above at rates similar to those achieved by community college transfers statewide.

**Findings:** SWTJC graduates' transfer performance worsened somewhat between 2008-09 and 2010-11. The performance of SWTJC's former students is close to that of transfers statewide except at the extreme categories, where the statewide figures showed a lower percentage in the lowest GPA category and a higher percentage in the highest GPA category.

**Measure:** Students who entered SWTJC requiring developmental education should perform equally as well at universities as their college-ready cohorts.

**Findings:** The data do not show a clear trend of improvement for the DE students, although the 2010-11 students did better than the 2006-07 leavers. SWTJC's former DE students improved in their rates of achieving a 2.5 or better GPA, but the students arriving at SWTJC college-ready declined in their transfer performance. This rate declined slightly at the statewide level also.

**Measure:** SWTJC students who complete a degree or certificate before transferring to a university should achieve higher university GPA's than students who transfer without achieving a degree.

**Findings:** SWTJC students completing a credential before transferring tended to achieve higher GPA's post-transfer than those who left SWTJC without graduating. Fifty-nine percent of students completing a degree or certificate before transferring achieved a 2.5 GPA or higher at the university, while the corresponding figure for students not achieving an award was 46%.

### *SWTJC Transfers Relative to Enrollments and Degrees Awarded*

**Measure:** Transfers as a percentage of enrollments and graduates should remain constant or increase over time.

**Findings:** The number of transfers showed a marked drop in 2007, followed by an increase in the next two years. The number of academic graduates increased in 2010 and 2011, but the number of transfers declined.

### *Transfer Student Demographics Comparison of SWTJC Graduates to SWTJC Transfers by Ethnicity and Gender*

Hispanic graduates during 2011-12 transferred at higher rates than those of other ethnic groups; male graduates transferred at slightly higher rates than female graduates.

### *Baccalaureate Degree Completion Rate*

**Measure:** SWTJC's former students will complete baccalaureate degrees at a rate similar to that of students from other Texas community colleges.

**Findings:** Data on the performance of the ten most recent available starting cohorts (Figure 12) shows mixed results. The 1998-2003 starting cohorts from SWTJC have shown a downward trend. SWTJC's 2004 cohort had an upturn, which may be the beginning of an upward trend. Statewide rates have dropped slightly each year after 1999.

### **Employment-Related Findings on Technical Program Graduates**

#### *2009-11 SWTJC Technical Program Graduates Found Employed*

**Measure:** Graduates will achieve employment at rates of pay similar to the average rates for regional entry-level wages in related occupations.

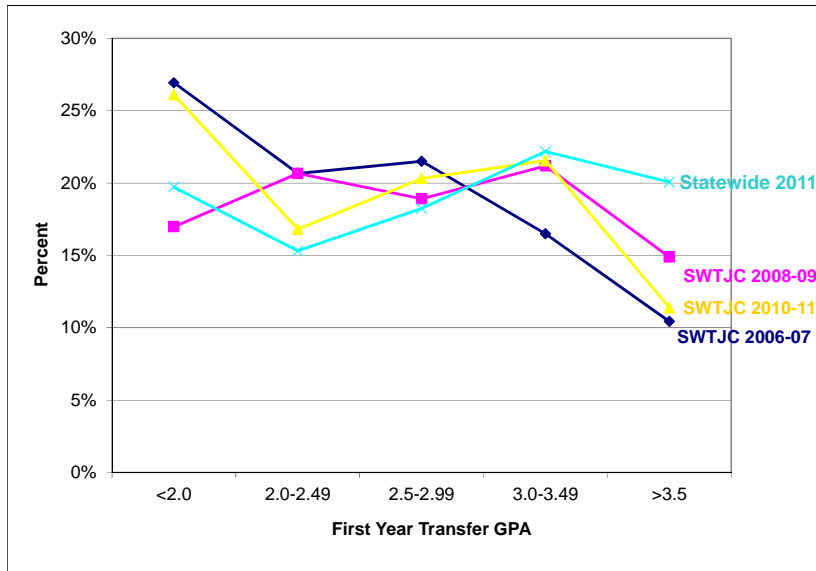
**Findings:** SWTJC graduates, on average, are receiving lower wages than graduates statewide in their fields of study. Allied health and criminal justice graduates appear to be achieving the best combinations of high employment rates and wages.

### **Questions? Comments?**

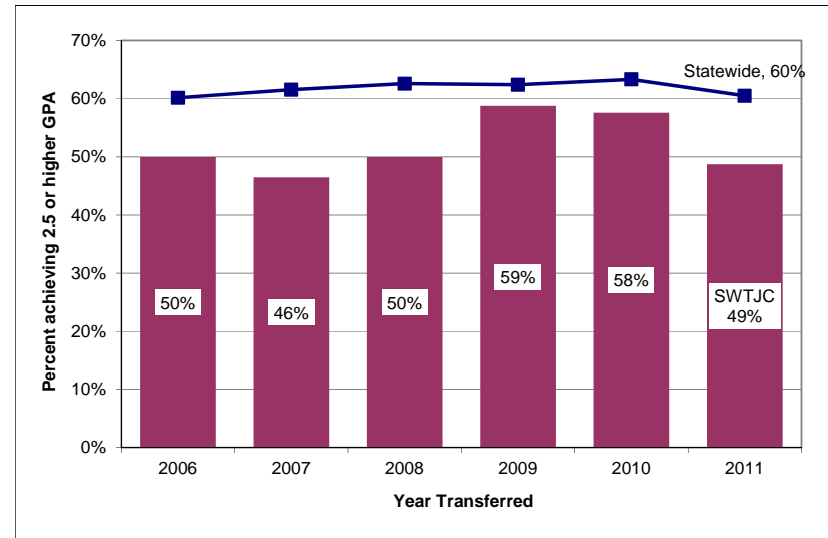
For clarification or additional information, please contact Julie Thomas in the Office of Institutional Planning & Research, ext 4180 or [jethomas@swtjc.edu](mailto:jethomas@swtjc.edu).

## University Transfer and Success Findings on Academic Graduates Performance of Former SWTJC Students at Upper-Level Institutions

**Measure:** Students transferring from SWTJC to a university should achieve university GPA's of 2.5 or above at rates similar to those achieved by community college transfers statewide.



**Figure 1.** SWTJC Transfer Student Performance at Senior-Level Institutions, Trend Data, 2006-2011



**Figure 2.** SWTJC Transfer Students Achieving 2.5 or Higher GPA at Senior-level Institutions, Trend Data, 2006-2011

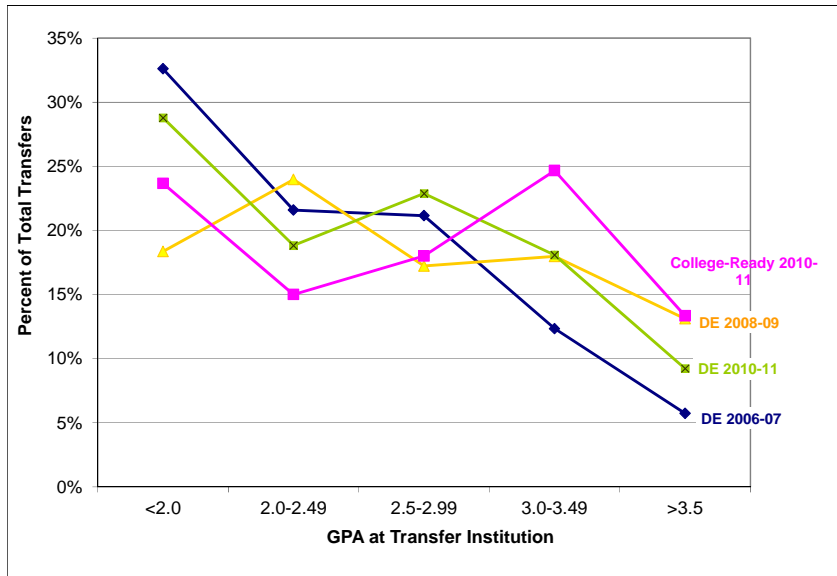
**Findings:** SWTJC graduates' transfer performance worsened somewhat between 2008-09 and 2010-11. The performance of SWTJC's former students is close to that of transfers statewide except at the extreme categories, where the statewide figures showed a lower percentage in the lowest GPA category and a higher percentage in the highest GPA category.

In Figure 1 it appears that the performance of SWTJC's students after transfer is fluctuating. While the 2008-09 group does appear to have performed better than the 2006-07 group, the 2010-11 group reverted to performance more like that of the 2006-07 cohorts. When compared to the Statewide 2011 figures, former SWTJC students were more likely to end up in the "<2.0" GPA category and less likely to fall in the ">3.5" category.

*Data Source: THECB Transfer Reports, 2006-2011*

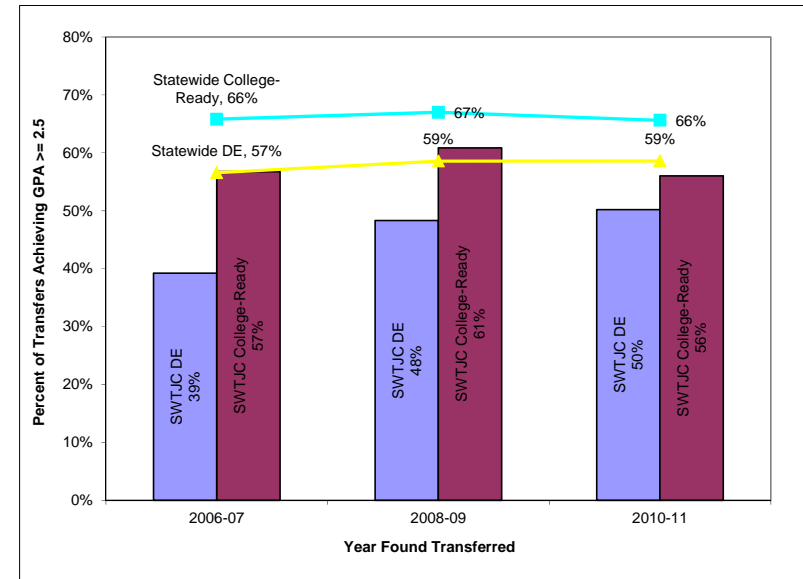
## University Transfer and Success Findings on Academic Graduates Performance of Former SWTJC Students at Upper-Level Institutions

**Measure:** Students who entered SWTJC requiring developmental education should perform equally as well at universities as their college-ready cohorts.



**Figure 3.** SWTJC Transfer Student Performance at Senior-Level Institutions, Trend Data, 2006-2011

**Findings:** The data do not show a clear trend of improvement for the DE students, although the 2010-11 students did better than the 2006-07 leavers (figure 3). SWTJC’s former DE students improved in their rates of achieving a 2.5 or better GPA, but the students arriving at SWTJC college-ready declined in their transfer performance. This rate declined slightly at the statewide level also (figure 4).



**Figure 4.** SWTJC Transfer Students Achieving 2.5 or Higher GPA at Senior-level Institutions, Trend Data, 2006-2011

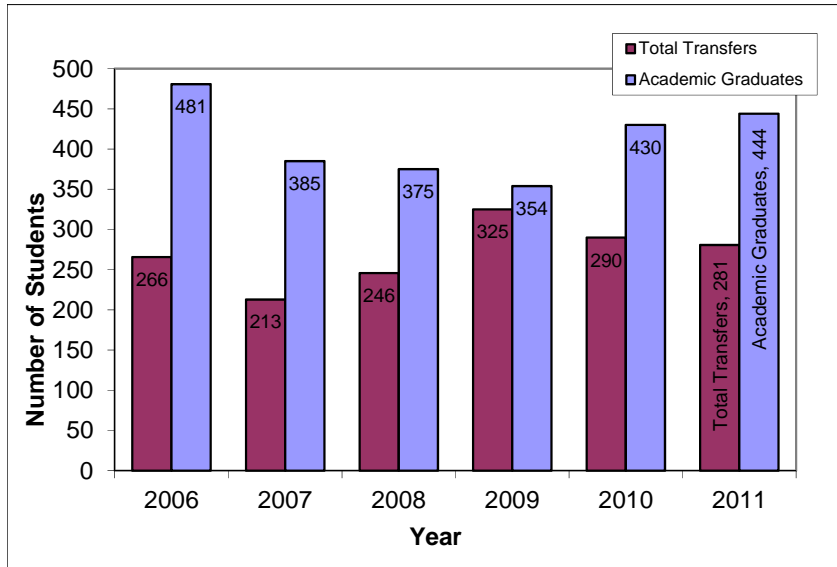
**Table 1.** University GPA by Entering Developmental Status

Cohort	Transfer GPA $\geq$ 2.5		Total Transfers	
	DE	College-Ready	DE	College-Ready
2006-07	39%	57%	227	252
2008-09	48%	61%	267	304
2010-11	50%	56%	271	300

Data Source: THECB Transfer Reports, 2004-2009

## University Transfer and Success Findings on Academic Graduates SWTJC Transfers Relative to Enrollments and Degrees Awarded

**Measure:** Transfers as a percentage of enrollments and graduates should remain constant or increase over time.



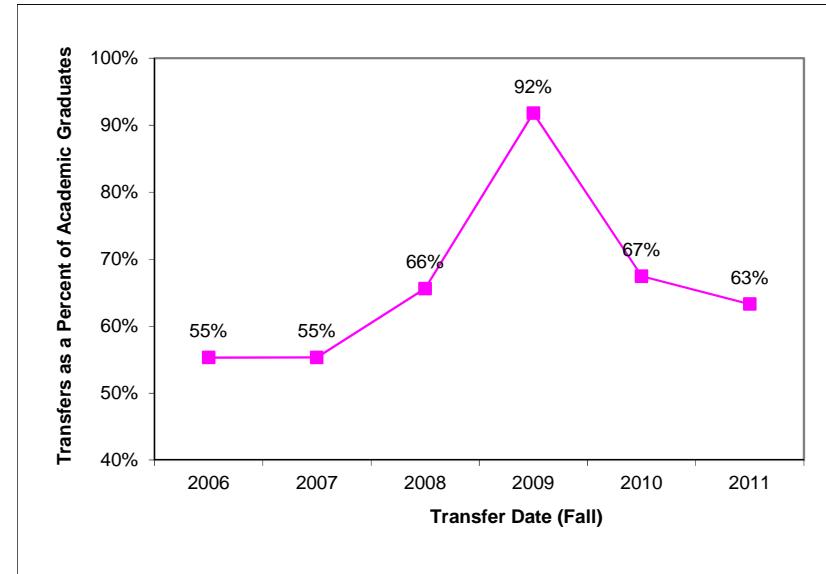
**Figure 5.** Number of Transfers from SWTJC and Academic Credentials (AA and AS degrees) Awarded

**Findings:** The number of transfers showed a marked drop in 2007, followed by an increase in the next two years, as seen in Figure 5. The number of academic graduates increased in 2010 and 2011, but the number of transfers declined.

*Transfer data: THECB Transfer Reports, 2006-2011*

*Enrollment Data: CBM001*

*Completion Data: CBM009*



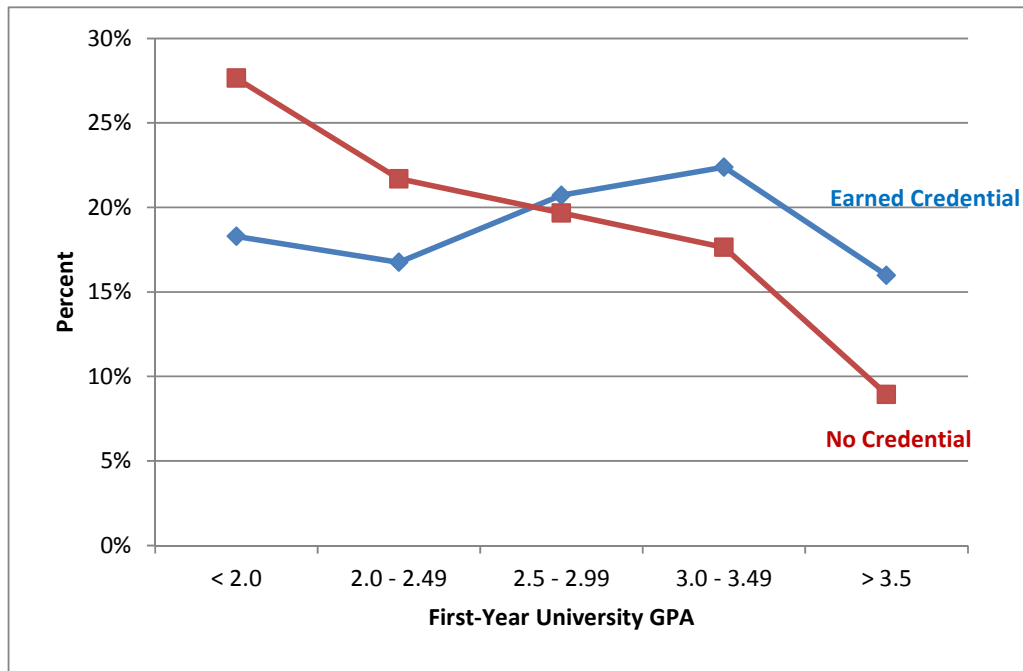
**Figure 6.** Transfers as a Percent of Academic (AA & AS) Graduates

**Table 2.** Transfers, Academic Enrollments, and Academic Graduates by Year

Transfer Date (Fall)	Total Transfers	Academic Graduates	Previous Fall Academic Enrollments	Transfers as Percent of:	
				Academic Graduates	Prev Fall Enroll
2006	266	481	3716	55%	7.2%
2007	213	385	3656	55%	5.8%
2008	246	375	3542	66%	6.9%
2009	325	354	3853	92%	8.4%
2010	290	430	4366	67%	6.6%
2011	281	444	4934	63%	5.7%

## University Transfer and Success Findings on Academic Graduates Performance of Former SWTJC Students at Upper-Level Institutions

**Measure:** SWTJC students who complete a degree or certificate before transferring to a university should achieve higher university GPA's than students who transfer without completing a credential.



**Figure 7.** Performance of Transfers by Credential Attained (students found enrolled 2006-2011)

**Findings:** Figure 7 shows that students completing a credential before transferring tended to achieve higher GPA's post-transfer than those who left SWTJC without graduating. Fifty-nine percent of students completing a degree or certificate before transferring achieved a 2.5 GPA or higher at the university, while the corresponding figure for students not achieving an award was 46%.

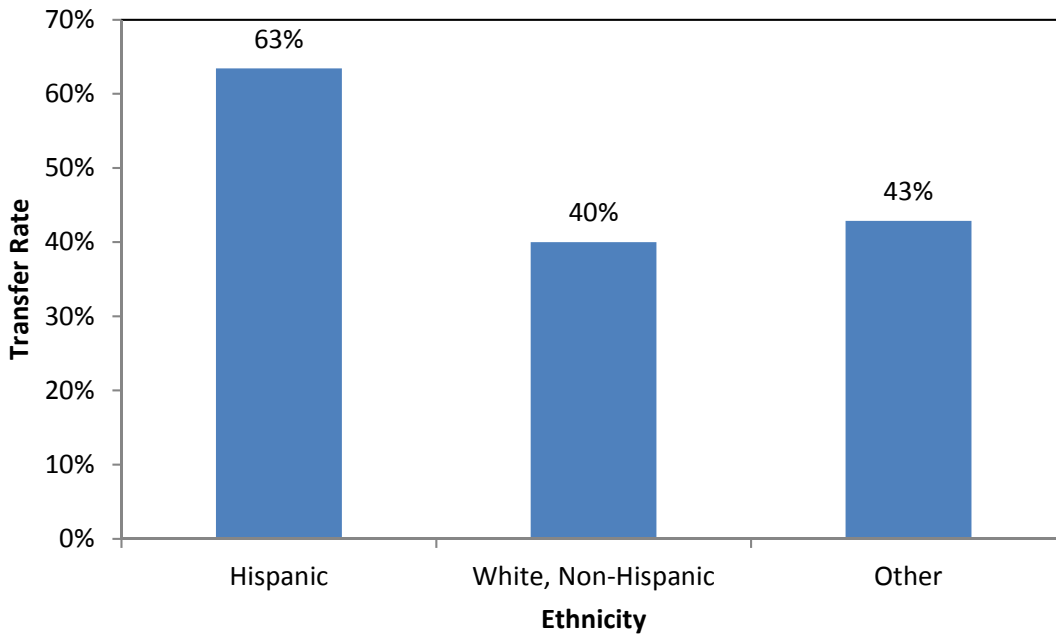
**Table 3.** Transfers from SWTJC by University: Includes students attending public universities in Texas. Private and out-of-state enrollments are not included in this report.

University of Enrollment	First-Time Transfer	Returned	First-Time Transfer	Returned
	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2011	Fall 2012
SUL ROSS RIO GRANDE COLLEGE	136	76%	127	72%
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	46	80%	40	60%
TEXAS STATE UNIV - SAN MARCOS	19	63%	21	90%
ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY	13	77%	7	100%
TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIV	13	69%	14	71%
TEXAS A&M UNIV-SAN ANTONIO	13	62%	9	56%
TEXAS A&M UNIV-CORPUS CHRISTI	10	70%	7	57%
TEXAS A&M UNIV-KINGSVILLE	9	89%	16	69%
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY	--	--	8	63%
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS	6	50%	--	--
OTHER PUBLIC 4YR INSTITUTION	25	72%	32	69%
<b>INSTITUTION TOTAL</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>71%</b>

Note: Numbers reflect first-time university enrollment of students who have completed 30 or more semester credit hours at SWTJC in the six years prior to enrolling at the university.

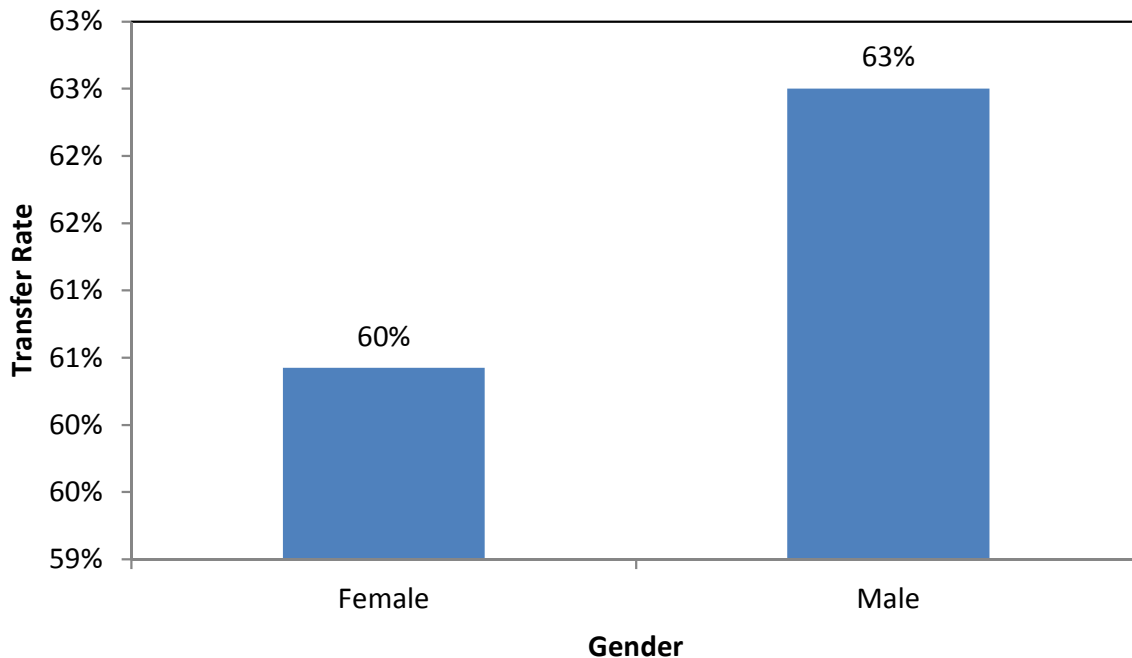
Data Source: THECB Transfer Reports, 2006-2011

## University Transfer and Success Findings on Academic Graduates Transfer Student Demographics



**Figure 8.** 2011-12 Graduates: Transfer Rate by Ethnicity

Hispanic graduates transferred at higher rates than those of other ethnic groups.



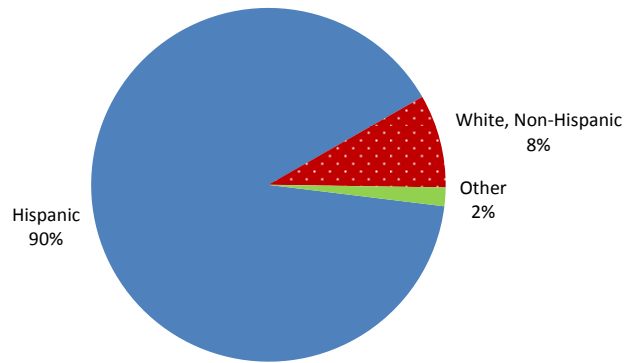
**Figure 9.** 2011-12 Graduates: Transfer Rate by Gender

Male graduates transferred at slightly higher rates than female graduates.

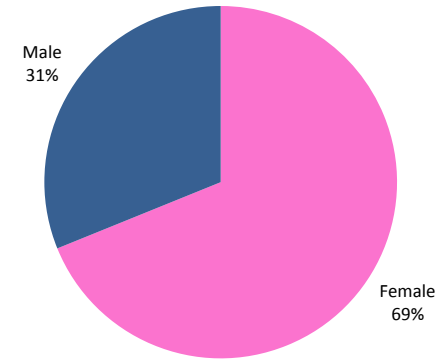
*Note: Transfer rates reported here include only graduates of SWTJC. Students who transferred without attaining a credential are not included in Figures 8 and 9.*

*Data Source: National Student Clearinghouse and Estudios*

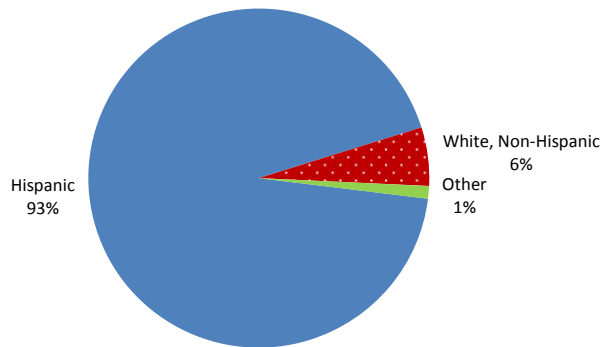
## University Transfer and Success Findings on Academic Graduates Comparison of SWTJC Graduates to SWTJC Transfers by Ethnicity and Gender



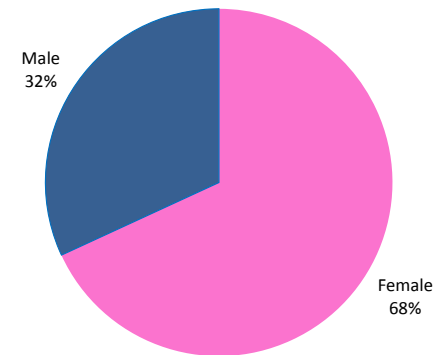
**Figure 10A.** Ethnic Composition of 2011-12 Graduating Class (AA, AS, AAT only)



**Figure 11A.** Gender Composition of 2011-12 Graduating Class (AA, AS, AAT only)



**Figure 10B.** Ethnic Composition of Group Found Transferred (from 2011-12 graduating class)



**Figure 11B.** Gender Composition of Students Found Transferred (from 2011-12 graduating class)

*Note:* Students who transferred without attaining a credential from SWTJC are not included in Figures 10 and 11.

*Data Source:* National Student Clearinghouse and Estudios



## University Transfer and Success Findings on Academic Graduates Baccalaureate Degree Completion Rate

**Measure:** SWTJC's former students will complete baccalaureate degrees at a rate similar to that of students from other Texas community colleges.

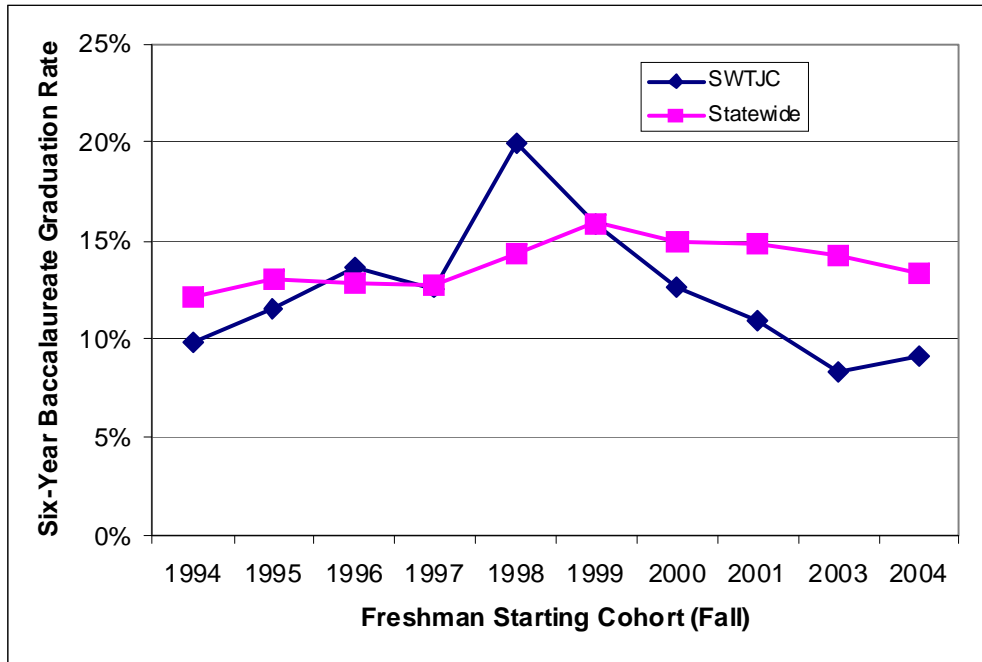


Figure 12. Six-Year Baccalaureate Graduation Rate for Students Beginning Postsecondary Education in Two-Year Colleges (State of Texas and SWTJC)

**Findings:** Data on the performance of the ten most recent available starting cohorts (Figure 12) shows mixed results. The 1998-2003 starting cohorts from SWTJC have shown a downward trend. SWTJC's 2004 cohort had an upturn, which may be the beginning of an upward trend. Statewide rates have dropped slightly each year after 1999.

*Note:* No updates have been made to these data since the previous edition of this report.

*Source:* THECB Higher Education Data (Baccalaureate Graduation Rates - Two Year Colleges)

## Employment-Related Findings on Technical Program Graduates

### 2007-09 SWTJC Technical Program Graduates Found Employed

**Measure:** Graduates will achieve employment at rates of pay similar to the average rates achieved by graduates of related programs statewide.

**Table 4.** Employment Rates and Average Wages of SWTJC Technical Program Graduates, by Program

Major	2010-11 SWTJC Graduates					2011-12 SWTJC Graduates				
	Total Graduates	Percent Employed	Avg Hourly Wage (Est)	Comparison Hourly Wage	Percent Above/Below Comparison	Total Graduates	Percent Employed	Avg Hourly Wage (Est)	Comparison Hourly Wage	Percent Above/Below Comparison
Autobody Repair Technology	19	68%	\$6.03	\$10.92	-45%	16	38%	\$7.68	\$10.35	-26%
Automotive Technology	23	74%	\$8.49	\$12.38	-31%	26	69%	\$14.77	\$12.84	15%
Management	10	67%	\$12.57	\$13.89	-10%	15	72%	\$12.11	\$14.34	-16%
Administrative Information Technology	7	71%	\$6.13	\$10.83	-43%	9	50%	\$4.21	\$10.44	-60%
Child Development	21	68%	\$7.16	\$9.39	-24%	25	64%	\$6.87	\$9.22	-25%
Computer Information Systems	16	75%	\$11.61	\$15.05	-23%	10	60%	\$11.79	\$11.15	6%
Cosmetology/Cosmetologist (including instructor)	13	38%	\$3.05	\$7.00	-56%	21	38%	\$7.59	\$5.94	28%
Criminal Justice/Police Science	3	80%	\$14.64	\$16.00	-9%	42	83%	\$14.60	\$15.47	-6%
Diesel Technology	21	44%	\$10.36	\$18.26	-43%	20	59%	\$8.16	\$15.54	-47%
Air-conditioning/Refrigeration Technology	26	50%	\$7.36	\$16.24	-55%	26	75%	\$10.51	\$13.78	-24%
Vocational Nursing	28	73%	\$14.38	\$15.68	-8%	67	74%	\$15.65	\$13.90	13%
Radiologic Technology	18	83%	\$19.68	\$17.56	12%					
Registered Nurse	26	94%	\$26.19	\$25.75	2%	25	88%	\$27.99	\$23.93	17%
Welding	30	60%	\$19.77	\$15.39	28%	33	67%	\$10.78	\$14.72	-27%
Wildlife Management	15	43%	\$8.40	\$10.95	-23%	17	40%	\$11.60	\$8.18	42%
TOTAL/Overall	276	66%	\$13.53	\$15.55	-13%	352	67%	\$13.65	\$14.18	-4%

**Findings:** SWTJC graduates, on average, are receiving lower wages than graduates statewide in their fields of study. Allied health and criminal justice graduates appear to be achieving the best combinations of high employment rates and wages.

*Data Source:* Gainful Employment Reports, available on the THECB website. Estimated average hourly wage consists of the average quarterly income divided by 520 or the average annual income divided by 2080 (520 full-time hours in a quarter or 2080 in a year). Some wage estimates may seem very low; this is likely due to part-time employment for some graduates. The report used does not include data on individuals, so a correction to the wage estimate cannot be applied.