2008 Transfer Analysis

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Overview

This report of University of South Carolina Upstate transfer students examines the success of students who transfer to the University with varying credits from other post-secondary institutions.

Executive Summary

- In Fall 2008, there were 2,112 transfer students at USC Upstate—42% of the student population.
- USC Upstate continues to receive one of the highest numbers of transfer students from SC research universities.
- Among SC comprehensive institutions, USC Upstate continues to serve the highest number of transfer students from SC universities.
- Over 43% of transfer students in each cohort are from Greenville Technical College or Spartanburg Community College.
- 51% of the students who transferred to USC Upstate in Fall 2004 had graduated by Spring 2008—four years later.
- Of students who transferred in as sophomores in 2004 (30-59 hours), almost 45% had graduated by Spring 2008, four years later, and 5-6 years after starting. This is higher than USC Upstate's current 6-year graduation rate of approximately 40%.
- In general, students who transfer in less than 30 hours experience a first-year retention rate of less than 60%—lower than the first-year retention rate of first-time freshmen (about 65-65%).
- Across all transfer students between 2004 and 2007, the average first-year retention rate has been about 65%, which approximates the rate for first-time freshmen.
- In general, the more hours a student has earned when she or he transfers to USC Upstate, the more likely she or he is to return the following year.
- Students who transfer to USC Upstate perform about as well on standardized assessments as students who began Upstate as first-time freshmen.
- In general, students who transfer to USC Upstate from Greenville Technical College (GTC) performed better than students transferring from other two-year schools, including Spartanburg Community College (SCC) and Spartanburg Methodist College (SMC).