

# Board of Visitors Provost's Report

## Transfer Students at W&M

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WILLIAM & MARY

CHARTERED 1693

# Transfer Students at W&M

- What percentage of entering UGs are transfers?
- More than you think.
  - Last year 246 (of total 1,753) = 14%
  - But smaller portion of total UG population

## Personal Characteristics

- Tend to be a little bit older than first-year students
  - but this past fall 84% were 21 or younger
- The female/male distribution was identical this past fall (58:42)
- Race/ethnicity looks very much like that of our first-year students

## Who Applies, Who Enrolls, When?

- Over 1,000 students apply each year
- Acceptance rate averages in the low 40% range
- Yield averages in the upper 40% range
- Transfers enroll both in the fall and in the spring semesters, more in the spring (2:1 to 3:1 ratios)
- Almost all of transfers enroll with sophomore or junior status (~96%)

## Comparison to First-Time Enrollees

- First-time enrollees:
  - Acceptance rate average low- to mid-30%
  - Yield averages low- to mid-30%
- In other words, transfer students (unsurprisingly) are more focused on where they apply and more decided on where they want to attend college.

## Academic Characteristics

- SAT scores *on average* somewhat different from first-time enrollees
  - Transfer mean SAT scores average about 1260
  - First-time students' mean SAT average about 1340
- Since transfer students are admitted after completing some college-level coursework, we have richer data in evaluating their ability to succeed here

## Where Do Transfers Come From?

- The IS/OOS mix differs slightly from the entering first-year students
  - 67% IS, while first-year students typically run about 62%
- Roughly half of transfers come from 2-year schools, half from 4-year institutions
- On average about 1/3 of our transfers come with AA/AS degrees
- The lion's share of CC transfers come from TNCC, NVCC, TCC and RBC

# Articulation Agreements

- To increase and promote access to a four-year college education, W&M has established guaranteed articulation agreements with Virginia's 23 community colleges and RBC
- Guaranteed Articulation Agreements
  - Virginia Community College System (VCCS) students must meet the following criteria:
    - Receive the Associate of Arts or Science degree from a VCCS institution with 45 credit hours being completed post-high school graduation and completed in residence at a VCCS institution
    - Earn a 3.6 cumulative GPA from a VCCS institution
  - RBC students have very similar requirements



# Academic Requirements and Majors

- Same fundamental W&M graduation requirements
  - COLL requirements modified appropriately
  - COLL 150, 300 and 400 required
  - Major requirements identical
- Statistically the most popular majors

## *Native*

BBA  
Economic  
Biology  
Government  
Neuroscience  
International Relations

## *Transfer*

BBA  
Government  
English  
Biology  
Economics  
Psychology

# Cost of Education

- Cost of education affects both freshmen and transfers, but with differences
  - No merit aid available for transfers
  - But same policy as for native students for need-based aid:
    - Meet 100% of demonstrated unmet need for IS students
    - Same packaging of aid for OOS students
- Many transfer students, especially those who previously attended a community college, are already more conscious of and concerned about the cost of education.
- Some transfer students are accustomed to working either full-time or near full-time jobs (25-35 hours per week) while enrolled full-time.
- We encourage them to cut down on the amount of hours that they work in order to adjust to the academic rigor of W&M.

# Housing

- On-campus housing is not guaranteed for transfer students
- The Office of Residence Life works with all transfer students who want on-campus housing and provide resources for off-campus housing if there is no space available for transfers
- More options in the spring than in the fall semester
- Common frustration (no housing when first admitted) and requires greater patience
- Impact of residence hall renovations reducing available housing

# First-Year Experience

- All “new students” (new and transfers) receive orientation
- Same content (modified slightly and compacted) from Friday through Tuesday
- Greater emphasis with transfer students on academic transition
- The requirement taking a COLL 150 course is positive
- Transfer students report to FYE desire for additional opportunities
- Greatest attendance at social events that provide a unique experience
  - behind-the-scenes at the Muscarelle
  - tour of the new Athletics stadium

# Academic Performance

- GPAs very similar to those of native students
  - Common pattern is that the first-semester GPA is typically slightly lower for transfers
  - But this gap closes, if not totally, over the following semesters
  - Over the past four years, by term 6, the gap has ranged from .02 to .21

# Graduation Rates

- This is an apples:oranges comparison
- They start later in academic career
- 4-year graduation rates for native cohort and 3-year graduation rates for transfers they are almost identical (low 80s%)
- The most recent transfer cohort had a 4-year grad rate of 91.4%
  - Highest in the state!

