

Itasca Community College Student Right-To-Know Graduation and Transfer-Out Rates

What is Student Right-To-Know?

Student Right-To-Know is a federal law that requires all colleges and universities to disclose certain information to students. This handout provides the information that a college must provide to students on graduation rates and transfer-out rates for full-time students seeking degrees at Itasca Community College.

What is a graduation rate and what is a transfer-out rate?

Federal regulations specify how to calculate the graduation and transfer rates. The rates come from a study of Itasca students who started at the college in the fall of 2005. The study includes all first-time students who enrolled full-time that fall and were seeking to earn a degree at the college. The **graduation rate** is the percentage of these students who graduated from Itasca within three years. The **transfer-out rate** is the percentage of these students who did not graduate from Itasca, but instead transferred to another college or university within three years.

What do I need to know about these rates?

These rates do not report on all students at Itasca. The 271 first-time, full-time students in the study were 23 percent of all students enrolled at Itasca in fall of 2005.

What are the graduation and transfer-out rates for Itasca students and how do they compare to rates for other colleges?

- The **graduation rate** for Itasca was 34 percent.
- The **transfer-out rate** for Itasca was 21 percent.
- The combination of the graduation rate and the transfer-out rate for Itasca was 55 percent. The national average combined rate for similar colleges was 41 percent.

Why don't more Itasca students graduate or transfer in three years?

- Since Itasca has an "open door" mission, many new students need to take "developmental" courses to improve their reading, writing or math skills before taking other college courses;
- Students who switch from full-time to part-time enrollment or "stop out" for one or more semesters are more likely to take more than three years to graduate;
- Some students take jobs before they graduate;
- Other students delay their education for personal, family or financial reasons.