This study looks at those who began as first-time-in-college students at FAU and transferred to a Florida community college. It includes 494 FTIC students from the cohorts entering from 1993 to 1996 who completed at least one term at a community college and who have not re-enrolled at FAU or any other SUS school as of summer, 1998.

Who are the reverse-transfer students?

Four hundred and ninety-four FTIC students entering from 1993 to 1996 (about 11%) enrolled for at least one term at a Florida community college after leaving FAU. Over one-third of the students who are counted as dropouts in our retention studies are actually reverse transfers. More students transfer to community colleges than to other SUS schools.

Female students are slightly less likely to transfer out, whether to another SUS or to the community college, than to persist and graduate from FAU. Reverse-transfers are more likely to be white (non-Hispanic) than other racial/ethnic groups. International students are not likely to transfer to the community college.

Reverse-transfers are the least prepared of any outcome group. The average high school GPA’s and admission test scores for reverse-transfers are lower than for other outcome groups. As shown in Table 2, they are more likely to have entered FAU through alternate admissions.

Where did they go?

A total of 22 Florida community colleges received transfer students from FAU. The majority went either to Palm Beach or Broward Community Colleges. About 10% of the reverse transfers attended more than one community college.
How long were they at FAU before transferring to the community college?

The majority of reverse-transfers spent only one year at FAU before transferring to the community college; between 20 and 30 percent were here for only one term. Although it appears that the earlier cohorts spent longer at FAU before transferring, this is because the later cohorts have a shorter follow-up time. Students who returned to FAU or went on to another SUS school after their community college enrollment were omitted from the cohort.

About 70% of all reverse-transfers had FAU GPA’s below 2.0 at the time they transferred to the community college. Of all students who left FAU with failing GPAs, about half transferred to the community college (not shown in Tables).

How long did they stay at the community college?

About 35% of the 1993 and 1994 cohorts enrolled for only one term at the community college. Between 20 and 30 percent enrolled for two terms, and an additional one-quarter have enrolled for three terms. Later cohorts have shorter follow-up times, and less is known about their eventual enrollment at the community college. This study did not collect data on whether an associate degree was earned at the community college.