Cross-Enrolled and Transfer Students
El Camino College Swirl Study, 2009-2010

This brief provides a summary of cross-enrolled El Camino College (ECC) students and students who transferred to ECC. Cross-enrolled students are disaggregated according to whether they attended another college during the same term or during a different term. These enrollment patterns, particularly among community college students, are often referred to as “swirling.” In 2009-2010, 2,146 swirling students comprised 6% of the ECC student population.

Cross Enrollment during Same Terms

The number of students who enrolled at another campus during the same term is 975, which is 45% of all swirling students in 2009-2010. Most of these students (71%) enrolled at another California community college (CCC), which is likely part of students’ strategy to complete all necessary coursework in order to graduate and/or transfer. CSUs accounted for 186 students (19%) of same-term cross enrollment while other 4-year institutions comprised 10%.

Cross Enrollment during Different Terms

Students cross-enrolled during different terms comprised 811 students and accounted for 38% of all swirling students. Compared to same-term cross enrollment, a smaller percentage of different-term swirling students (54%) was enrolled at a CCC. Nearly 50% of 4-year institutions accounted for the remaining different-term cross enrollments. CSU was the most cross-enrolled sector among the 4-year institutions at 26%.

Transfers to ECC

At 17%, transfers to ECC comprised the smallest percentage of swirling students. Compared to cross enrollment where more students simultaneously enroll at another community college, students who transfer to ECC are more likely from a CSU. Transfers from a CSU comprised 140 students (39%). Community colleges, on the other hand, were the second leading transfer feeder at 30%, followed by In-State Private (13%), UC (12%), and Out-of-State (6%).

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