

Hope College Ten-Year Transfer Student Study April 2017

Executive Summary

1. There has been little change during the past ten years in the number of students entering Hope as transfer students. (Figure 1)
2. Over the past ten years, the breakdown of previous institution type for transfer students has been approximately 60% from two-year institutions, 20% from four-year institutions, and 20% previously attending both two- and four-year institutions. (Figure 2)
3. In the most recent four years, Hope has seen a rather steep decrease in the percent of transfers coming from four-year institutions. (31% in 2013 to 13% in 2016) (Figure 2)
4. More than half of Hope transfer students transfer in with credits placing them at the Sophomore class level. The remainder split about evenly between transferring in less and transferring more credits. (Figure 3)
5. Transfer applicants are admitted at a lower rate than First Time in College applicants (68% to 80%) but transfers admitted enroll at a higher rate than First Time in College admitted students (48% to 28%). The latter rate is called the yield rate. (Figure 4)
6. While the yield rate for First Time in College students has declined steadily over the past ten years, the yield rate for transfers students has remained the same. (Figure 4)
7. Students who transfer to Hope with not enough credits to be considered a Sophomore are less successful in remaining at Hope than First Time in College entering students and those transferring with credits that place them at the Sophomore level or higher. (Figure 7)
8. The long term retention at Hope for students transferring from two-year colleges is slightly better than that of four year college transfers and First Time in College entering students. (Figure 8)
9. Transfer students have a significantly lower tuition discount rate than First Time in College entering students (23% to 37%). Transfers from two-year colleges have a slightly lower discount rate than those from four-year colleges (22% to 37%). (Figure 10)

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The population for this study is all students who enrolled at Hope College after transferring from another institution of higher learning from Fall 2007 through Spring 2017. This is a population of 703 students.

Ten-Year Trends

The ten-year trend in enrollment of transfer students is in Figure 1. From this we observe that the average enrollment is 70.3, with a range from 60 to 83. There has been no upward or downward trend, nor has number changed significantly.

Figure 2 shows the breakdown of transfer students by two-year and four-year institution of origin. In some cases, students transfer credits from multiple institutions. In this case, it is not possible to discern from the data which institution was the most recently attended. Therefore, a third category is included in Figure 2 for those students who transferred credits from a two-year and a four-year institution. Over the 10 year time period, approximately 60% of transfer students were from two-year institutions, 20% from four-year, and 20% from both. The most recent three years (2014-2016) have shown a significant decrease in the percentage transferring from four-year institutions, from 31% to 13%.

Students who transfer to Hope are classified as to their year in school based on the number of credits they transfer in. The classification used by the Registrar's Office is employed for this purpose. The overall distribution over the ten-year period is that about 25% transfer in as Freshman, 55% as Sophomore, 20% as Junior, and only a handful as Senior. Figure 3 shows the distribution by year in school in the most recent ten years. There has been little change in these percentages over this time and no discernable trend.

This study also looked at the rate at which transfer applicants were admitted (admit rate) and the rate of enrollment of admitted transfer applicants (yield rate). These are shown in comparison with the same metrics for first-time-in-college applicants in Figure 4. While the admit rate for FTIC students has been 80% over the past ten years, the admit rate for transfer students is lower at 68%. This is the result of a few years, mostly early in the 10-year span, when the transfer admit rate was significantly lower. Discarding those outlying years, the admit rates of FTIC and transfers are very similar. The yield rate has shown a steady decline the past ten years for FTIC students. This has not been true for transfer students, as their yield rate has remained steady. Also, the transfer students have a significantly higher yield rate, averaging 48% compared to an average of 28% for FTIC students.

Success Rate

An interesting metric for transfer students is the n-year rate of retention. This is defined by the percent of entering students who are either still enrolled at Hope or have graduated from Hope n years after their first enrollment. In particular, we will be interested in the one-year retention rate and the four-

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year retention rate, with the four-year retention rate considered as approximating the graduation rate. These will be used as a short-term and a long-term success rate, respectively.

Figure 5 shows the average one and four year retention rates for the ten-year transfer student cohort. Overall, the one-year retention is 84% and the four-year is 78%. This compares to retention rates for FTIC students of approximately 89% and 78%. So graduation rate is the same for transfer students while one-year retention is slightly lower.

Figure 6 breaks down the one and four year retention rates by the age of the student at the time of transferring to Hope. This figure shows that 18-year-olds have a lower success rate than those transferring at other ages.

Figure 7 looks at success rates by number of credits transferred into Hope. In concert with Figure 6, this figure shows that those transferring in as Freshmen have a lower success rate, both than FTIC students and compared to those who transfer in with a greater number of credits. Those transferring enough credits to place them beyond their Freshman year have the same success rates as those entering as first-time in college Freshmen.

Another interesting comparison of success rates is by the type of institution from which students transfer. Figure 8 shows that students transferring from two-year institutions are slightly more successful than those transferring from four-year institutions. One-year retention for two-year college transfers is slightly lower than that of FTIC, but the two-year college transfers exceed the non-transfer students in their four year retention rate.

The variation of success rates by the time of the year of transfer entry is examined in Figure 9. This data indicates that transfers entering in January are more successful at Hope than those entering in August.

Discount Rate

This study also looked at the amount of Hope grant aid awarded to transfer students when they enrolled at Hope for the first time. This is examined in the form of the calculated discount rate, which is the total amount of Hope aid received, both need and non-need based, divided by the tuition for that academic year.

Figure 10 shows the discount rate for transfer students from Academic Year 2007 to 2016. This table shows that the discount rate for transfer students, while fluctuating from year to year, has not changed significantly over the most recent ten years. It is interesting to note that the discount rate for transfers has averaged 23%, a rate significantly below that for all Hope students which has ranged between 35 and 40 percent over that time. The same figure also shows that transfers from four-year institutions have a higher discount rate than those from two-year schools though this varies from year to year.

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When we combine the discount rate and the success rates in Figure 11, we find that successful students have a higher discount rate than unsuccessful students.

Majors of Transfer Students

This study included consideration of the majors declared by transfer students. Figure 12 shows the major by department for transfer students from the ten-year cohort group as a percent of all of the transfer students with majors. These percentages are compared with the percent majoring in each department for the entire Hope College student body over the same time period. Two departments are noteworthy from this figure for having both a high percentage of the majors of transfer students and a higher percentage of transfers than of the entire student body. These are the Department of Economics, Management and Accounting (19.7% of transfers compared to 13.1% of all graduates) and Kinesiology (9.2% of transfers compared to 6.2% of all graduates). Other departments with a high percentage of transfer majors, though not much different from overall major percentages, are Education Certified (13.0%), Communication (7.9%), Psychology (7.0%), and Sociology and Social Work (6.5%).

Figure 1.
Hope College Transfer Students

Cohort Year	Total Transfers
2007	65
2008	67
2009	80
2010	65
2011	83
2012	70
2013	65
2014	60
2015	73
2016	75
Grand Total	703

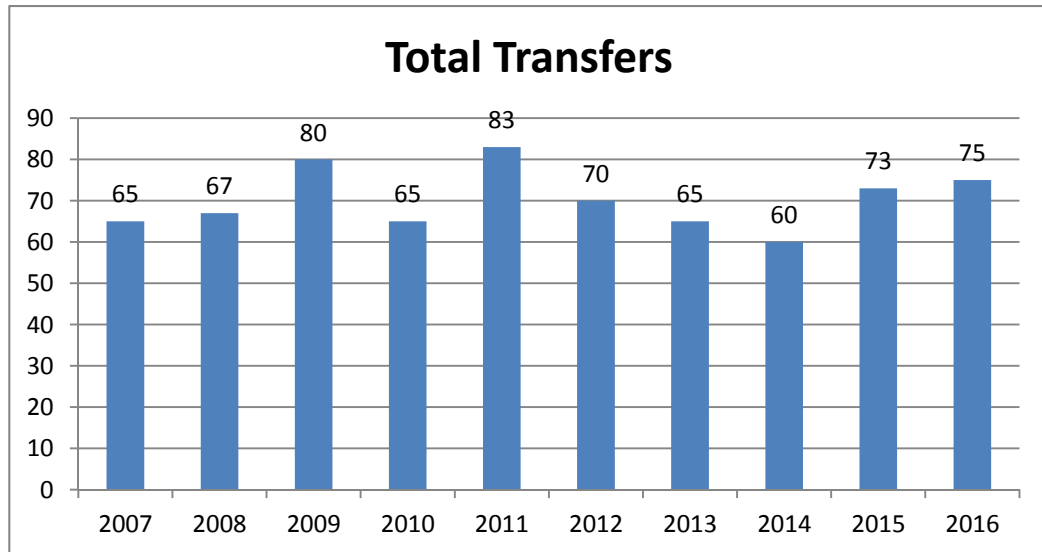


Figure 2.

Hope College Transfer by Originating Institution Type

Cohort Year	Percent 2 Yr	Percent Both	Percent 4 Yr
2007	65%	15%	20%
2008	58%	22%	19%
2009	60%	19%	21%
2010	49%	17%	34%
2011	60%	17%	23%
2012	53%	16%	31%
2013	48%	22%	31%
2014	57%	22%	22%
2015	64%	25%	11%
2016	71%	16%	13%
Grand Total	59%	19%	22%

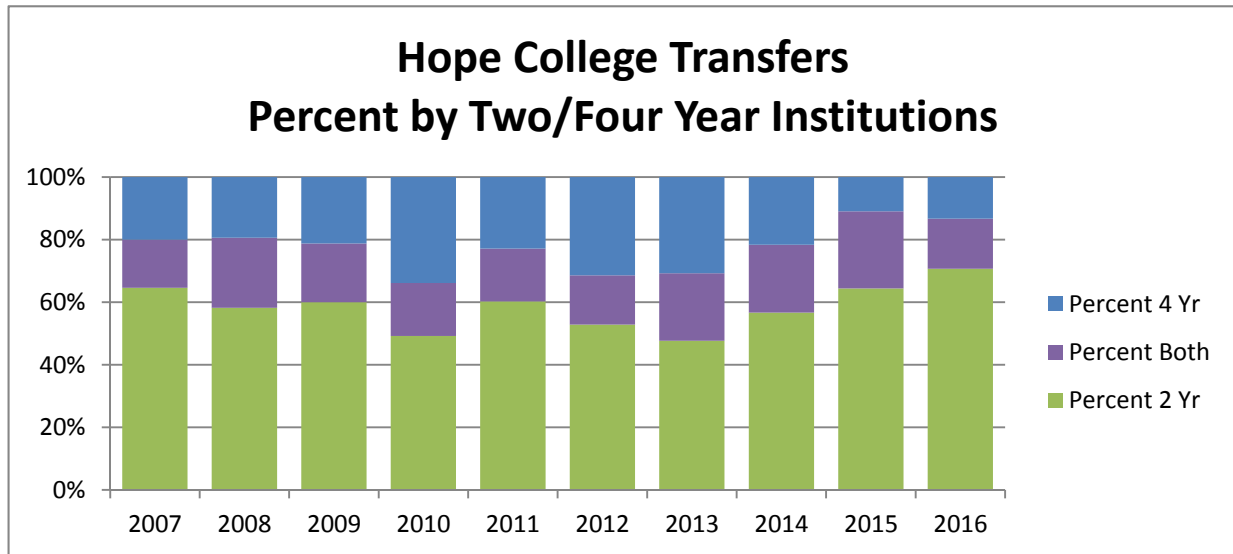


Figure 3.
Hope College Transfer Students

Enter Year	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
2007	29%	52%	17%	2%
2008	16%	60%	22%	1%
2009	16%	59%	21%	4%
2010	26%	52%	18%	3%
2011	29%	55%	14%	1%
2012	31%	50%	17%	1%
2013	22%	52%	20%	6%
2014	25%	53%	18%	3%
2015	27%	52%	21%	0%
2016	23%	59%	17%	1%
Grand Total	24%	55%	19%	2%

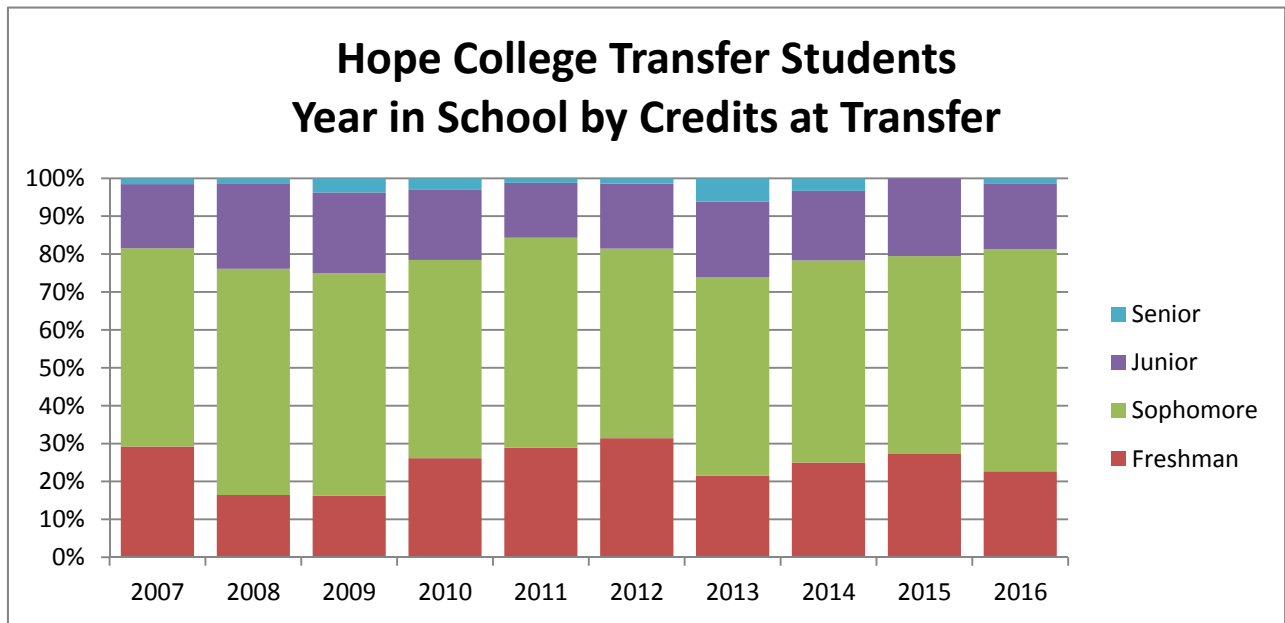


Figure 4.

Hope College Incoming Students Admit Rate and Yield Rate

Incoming Cohort Year	First Time in College		Transfer Students	
	Admit Rate	Yield Rate	Admit Rate	Yield Rate
2007	83%	35%	72%	48%
2008	82%	35%	62%	66%
2009	84%	32%	48%	52%
2010	80%	29%	77%	38%
2011	82%	28%	66%	49%
2012	85%	30%	87%	42%
2013	70%	28%	70%	49%
2014	82%	25%	77%	38%
2015	72%	25%	67%	52%
2016	84%	22%	73%	50%
Overall	80%	28%	68%	48%
10 Year Annual Rate of Change	-0.8%	-4.6%	1.8%	-1.4%

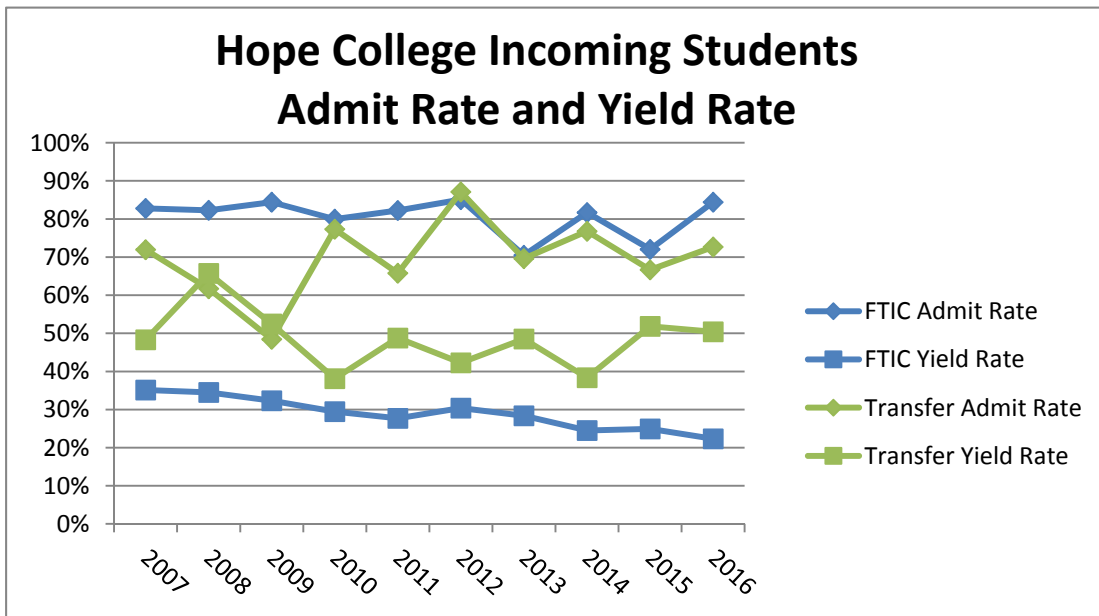


Figure 5.

Hope College Transfer Students Retention/Graduation Rate

Retention/Graduation Rate				
Cohort Year	One Year	Two Year	Three Year	Four Year
2007	85%	82%	82%	80%
2008	87%	85%	84%	82%
2009	83%	80%	80%	80%
2010	92%	88%	86%	86%
2011	81%	77%	75%	71%
2012	83%	73%	71%	70%
2013	80%	75%	74%	
2014	83%	77%		
2015	85%			
2016				
Overall	84%	79%	79%	78%

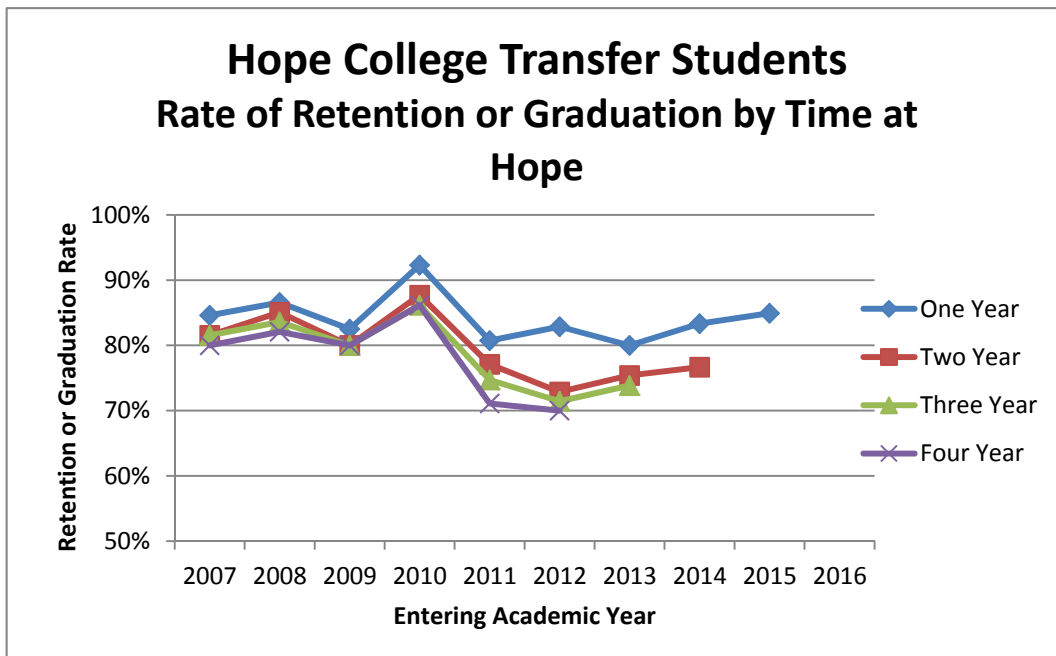


Figure 6.
Hope College Transfer Students Retention by Age at Transfer

Age at Transfer	1 Year Retention	4 Year Retention
18	76%	64%
19	88%	82%
20	84%	80%
21	81%	76%
22	78%	76%
23+	81%	77%
Overall	84%	78%

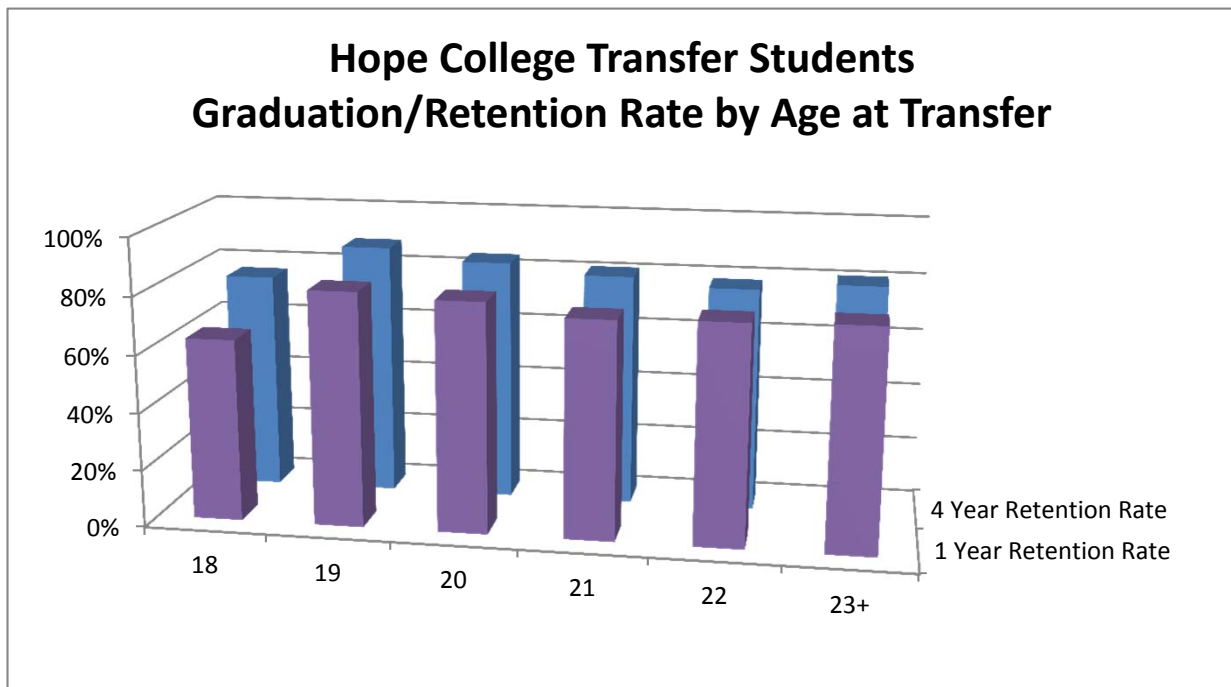


Figure 7.
Hope College Transfer Students Retention Rate by Credits Transferred In

Credits Transferred	1 Year Retention Rate	4 Year Retention Rate
Freshman	76%	63%
Sophomore	86%	80%
Junior	90%	89%
Overall	84%	78%

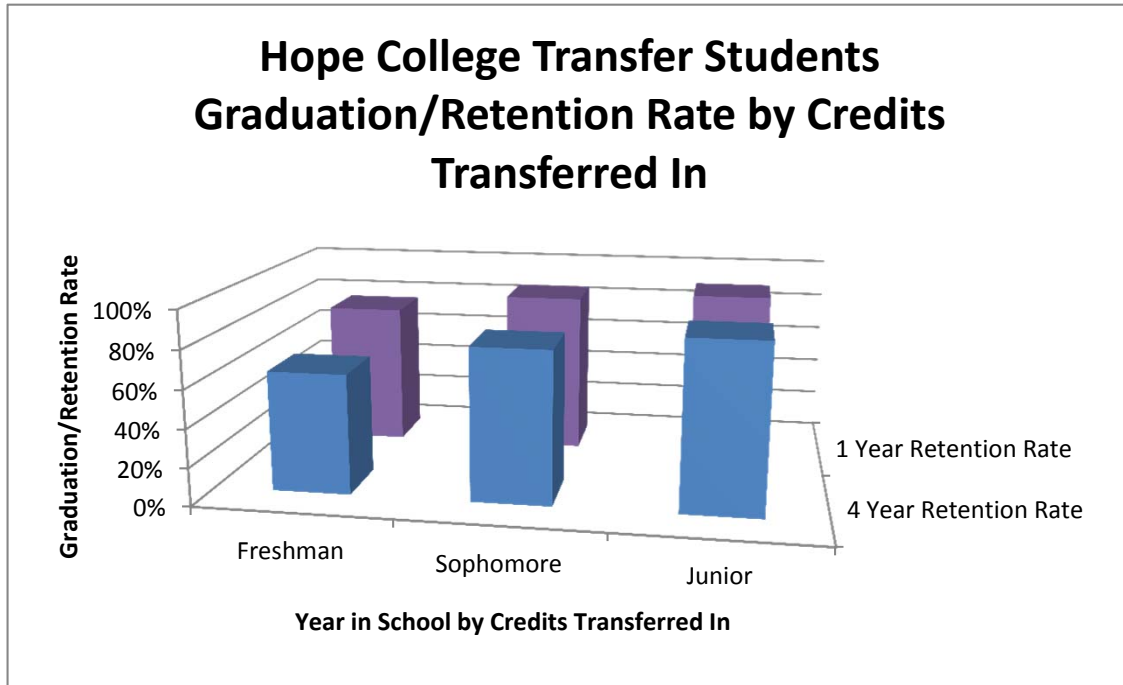


Figure 8.
Hope College Transfer Students Retention Rate by Credits Transferred In

Type of School Transferred from	1 Year Retention Rate	4 Year Retention Rate
Two Year	86%	81%
Both	84%	83%
Four Year	80%	68%
Total	84%	78%

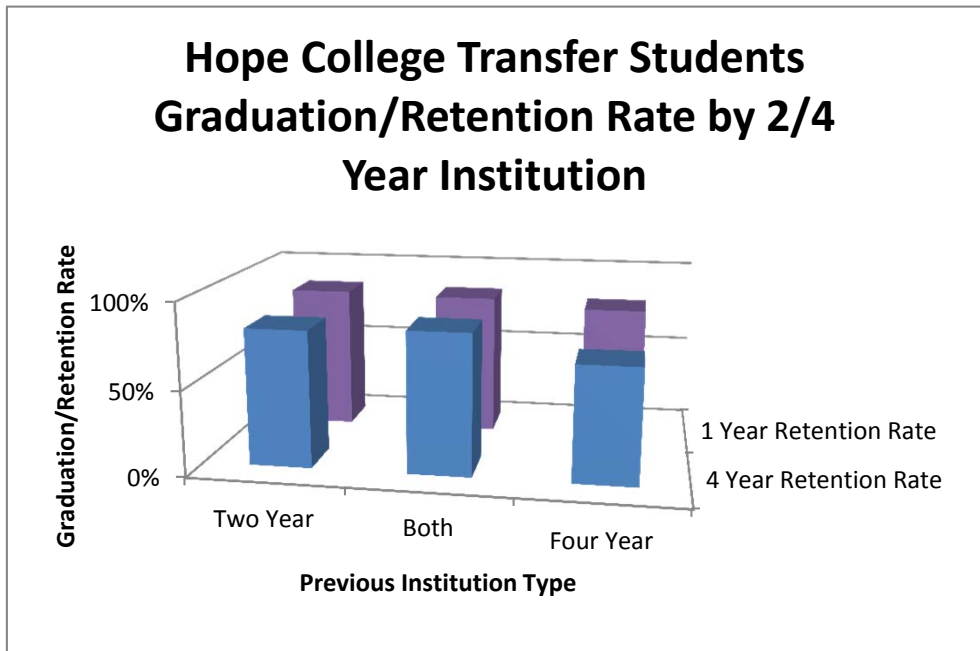


Figure 9.
Hope College Transfer Students Retention Rate by Credits

Term first enrolled at Hope	1 Year Retention Rate	4 Year Retention Rate
January	86%	81%
August	80%	70%
Total	84%	78%

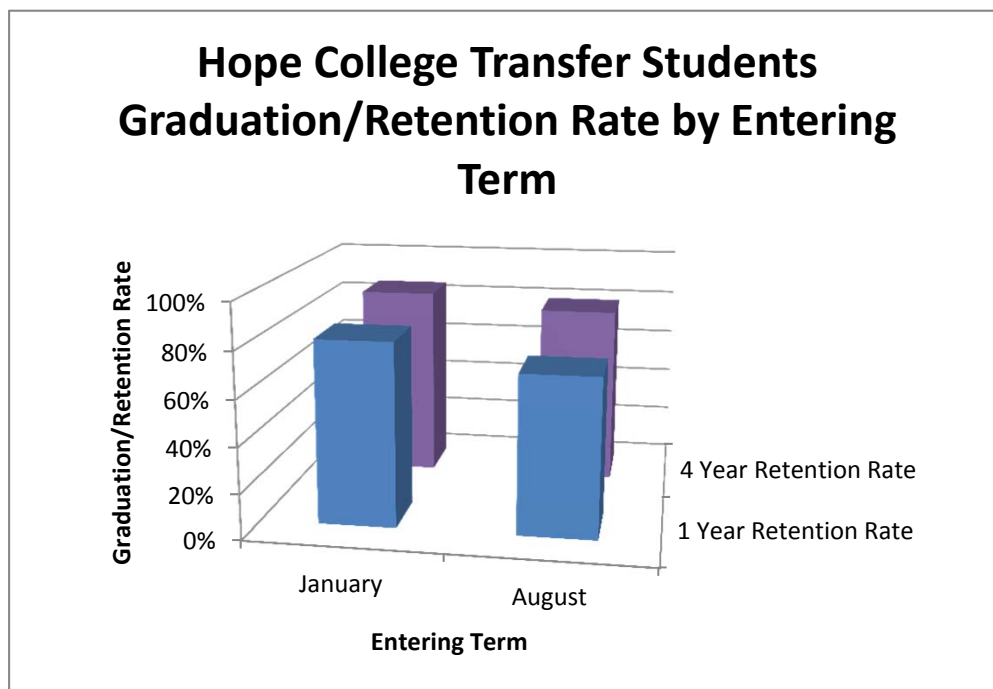


Figure 10.
Hope College Transfer Students Average Discount Rate

Cohort Year	Average Discount Rate			
	All Transfers	Two-Year College Transfers	Both	Four-Year College Transfers
2007	20.7%	18.6%	22.6%	26.1%
2008	18.3%	17.2%	23.6%	15.7%
2009	26.6%	24.9%	31.6%	27.1%
2010	28.3%	29.4%	26.8%	27.4%
2011	21.3%	16.3%	22.9%	33.3%
2012	24.2%	24.9%	21.4%	24.5%
2013	20.9%	21.5%	18.6%	21.6%
2014	26.3%	29.5%	18.2%	26.0%
2015	22.5%	21.8%	16.6%	39.6%
2016	22.0%	21.0%	19.9%	29.5%
Overall	23.1%	22.1%	22.1%	26.5%

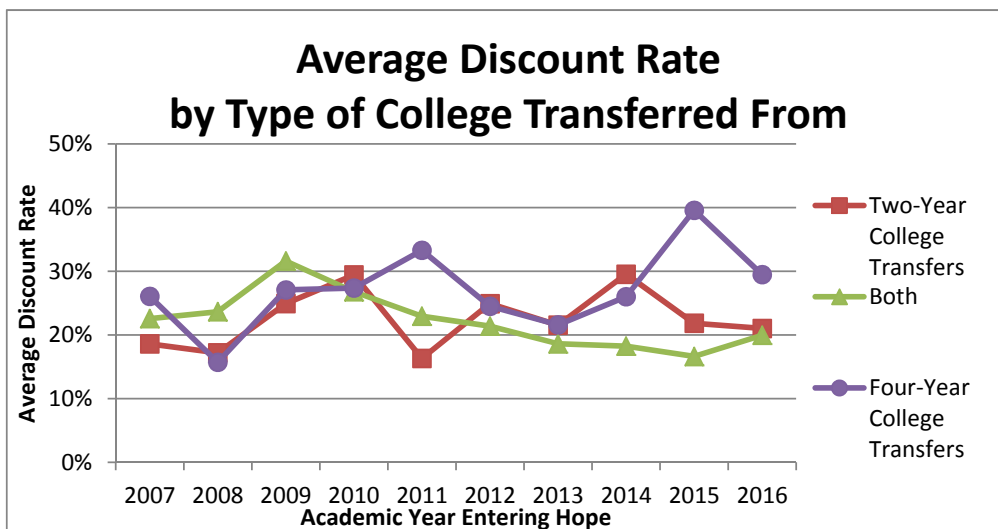
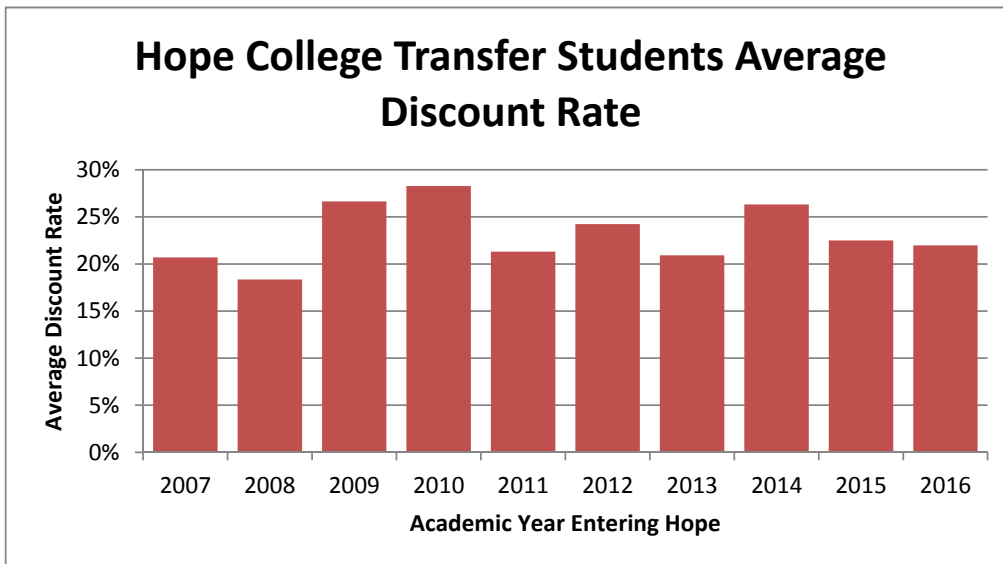


Figure 11.
Hope College Transfer Students Average Discount
Rate by Retention/Graduation Status

Cohort Year	One Year Retention		Four Year Retention	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
2007	24.3%	20.0%	24.7%	19.7%
2008	13.3%	19.1%	15.2%	19.0%
2009	27.0%	26.6%	26.2%	26.7%
2010	12.5%	29.6%	14.7%	30.5%
2011	19.8%	21.7%	20.6%	21.6%
2012	12.7%	26.6%	18.1%	26.9%
2013	10.6%	23.5%	NA	NA
2014	34.9%	24.6%	NA	NA
2015	7.9%	25.1%	NA	NA
2016	NA	NA	NA	NA
Overall	18.5%	24.1%	20.3%	24.1%

Figure 12.
Hope College Transfer Students Majors Declared
2007-2016 Cohorts

Department of First Major	Transfer Students	All Graduates
Art	2.5%	1.9%
Biology	4.8%	6.4%
Chemistry	5.5%	5.1%
Communication	7.9%	5.7%
Computer Science	0.4%	1.3%
Dance	2.8%	1.3%
Economics and Business	19.7%	13.1%
Modern & Classical Languages	3.0%	6.1%
Education (Certified Majors)	13.0%	13.5%
English	6.3%	5.4%
Engineering	1.9%	4.0%
Geology & Environmental Science	0.7%	0.9%
History	1.4%	1.6%
Kinesiology	9.2%	6.2%
Mathematics	0.9%	1.9%
Music	1.9%	1.8%
Nursing	4.9%	5.1%
Philosophy	1.2%	1.2%
Physics	0.7%	0.6%
Political Science	4.2%	2.4%
Psychology	7.0%	9.6%
Religion	1.9%	1.4%
Sociology & Social Work	6.5%	6.3%
Theatre	0.7%	1.1%

