

Northwest Technical 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 Northwest Technical College (NTC).

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 Northwest Technical College students who started at the college in the fall of 2007. The study includes all first-time students who enrolled full-time that fall and were seeking to earn a degree, diploma or certificate at the college. The **graduation rate** is the percentage of these students who graduated from NTC within three years. The **transfer-out rate** is the percentage of these students who did not graduate from NTC, 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 Northwest Technical College. The 167 first-time, full-time students in the study were about 14 percent of all students enrolled in fall of 2007.

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

- The **graduation rate** for NTC was 32 percent.
- The **transfer-out rate** for NTC was 29 percent.
- The combination of the graduation rate and the transfer-out rate for NTC was 61 percent. The national average combined rate for similar colleges was 40 percent.

Why don't more Northwest Technical College students graduate or transfer in three years?

- Some students take jobs before they graduate;
- 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;
- Other students delay their education for personal, family or financial reasons.