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**Part Two – Student Success**

## Transfer Rates for First-Time, Degree Seeking Cohorts of Students

Under federal guidelines, the College has begun tracking “Student Right to Know” data that follow patterns of transfer enrollment and course completion rates for students who declare themselves to be first-time, degree-seeking students. Each year, since the enrollment of students in fall of 1995, the College has tracked this cohort of full-time students. While it represents a small percentage of the overall student population at the College, it does provide a standardized benchmark to assess the outcomes of students who are seeking AA/AS degrees or hope to complete four-year degrees and transfer to other institutions. While there are some limitations to the data – for example, students could transfer to more than one institution and get counted twice, or students could transfer to an institution that does not report data to the National Student Loan Clearinghouse – the data do provide a ready indicator of transfer activity for the College’s degree seeking students.

Figure 22 tracks information on the number of first-time, degree seeking students who complete a two-year degree or attend other colleges after leaving Delta College. The four years of data suggest an upward trend in the number of students who enter the College seeking a degree, and comparable increases in the number of students in the cohort who complete degrees

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or enroll at transfer institutions. For the most recent cohort of students (those who entered the College in fall 1998), nearly 300 had completed a two-year degree by the summer of 2001, and another 200 had transferred to a different institution. Combined, these figures add up to more than half of the 956 students in the first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students entering the College that year.

Figure 23 analyzes the same data, but reports the figures as a proportion of the cohort of entering students who complete a degree or transfer. The data in Figure 23 indicate that there have been slight improvements in the overall percentage of students in the degree-seeking cohort of freshmen who complete degrees or transfer. More than 51 percent of the 1998 cohort had reached the completion phase (or transferred) as of June 2001, whereas only 46 percent of the 1995 cohort had reached the same status within three years. The data also suggest that substantial percentages of students were still struggling to complete a degree or transfer to the next level three years after entering the College.

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