

Transfer Summit

February 24, 2026



Shaun T. Schafer, Ph.D., MSU Denver Vice Provost
Tina Garcia, CCD Vice President of Student Services

Welcome

- Year in review
- Transfer Profiles:
 - Community College of Denver (CCD) to MSU Denver
 - MSU Denver to CCD
- 2026 and Beyond- Collective Action - STEP

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From Planning to Collective Action

CCD and MSU Denver should provide a seamless experience for students to earn associate degrees and certificates while moving toward bachelor's degrees and beyond.

Break down barriers to higher education and to empower students to transition seamlessly from CCD to MSU Denver, or vice versa.

Whether a CityHawk or a Roadrunner, the type of bird would not matter, just that the journey would be much smoother.

Our transfer summit is focused on making the details in this vision come to life.

We are bringing together experts from a multitude of departments throughout our two institutions to collaborate on removing barriers.

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Year in Review: 2025-2026

ASPEN-ASSCU Transfer Intensive



We are:

- 23 institutions
- 10 teams
- Located in 10 states, including 3 states new to the Transfer Intensive (Hawaii, Idaho, and Maine)
- 6 Hispanic-Serving Institutions
- 4 AANAPSI institutions
- 1 Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (ANNH) institution
- 4 rural institutions



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Year in Review: 2025-2026

ASPEN-ASSCU Transfer Intensive



ASPEN - AASCU TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS INTENSIVE

**All sessions to be delivered via Zoom and run from 2-4 pm ET unless otherwise noted*
Optional Transfer Lounges will be provided each month to connect with other teams, share information, & troubleshoot any challenges.

Date	Session Topic	Presidents Required
Dec. 9 or 16, 2024	Project Manager (PM) Onboarding	
Feb. 6, 2025	Kickoff: Setting a Bold Transfer Vision 2:00-4:30 PM ET Begin to align on a bold, data-informed vision for advancing economic mobility and meeting regional talent development needs through improved transfer student success	✓
Mar. 6	Understanding Transfer Student Experiences 2:00-4:30 PM ET <i>*Transfer student focus group participants recommended</i> Analyze transfer students' experiences between partner institutions to identify bright spots, challenges, and opportunities	✓
Apr. 10	Transfer Success Outcomes and Measurable Goals Aligned to Vision 2:00-4:30 PM ET <i>*Institutional research/assessment rep recommended</i> Examine data on current transfer outcomes and begin to draft ambitious measurable goals	✓
May TBD	Individual Team Check Ins: STEP Drafts Teams workshop their transfer vision statement and measurable goals	
June 12	Launch of Transfer Vision Statement and Measurable Goals; Transformational Transfer Models 2:00-4:30 PM ET Discuss the transfer vision statement and measurable goals; begin the exploration of innovative transfer models for improved transfer student success	✓

July 17	Transfer Think Tank Partnership Practices Community discussion and work session on sustainability of partnerships	
Aug. 14	Tailored Transfer Advising and Individualized Education Plans <i>*Advising directors from both institutions recommended</i> Learn effective transfer advising models and assess your current advising practices	
Sep. 11	Aligning Program Pathways to Timely Bachelor's Completion within a Major <i>*Faculty members/deans from corresponding disciplines from both institutions and/or faculty senate members recommended</i> Identify strategies to support faculty in creating seamless academic pathways	
Oct. 9	Rigorous Instruction with Advanced Pedagogy and Academic Support <i>*Faculty members/deans from corresponding disciplines from both institutions and/or faculty senate members recommended</i> Identify ways to enhance supports for transfer students in a major or program	
Nov. 13	Making the Financial Case for Sustainable Transfer Reform <i>*Institutional advancement and/or financial aid staff recommended</i> Identify funding sources, use the STEP to secure support, and set clear milestones and accountability measures for STEP implementation	
Jan. 29, 2026	Strategic Transfer Excellence Plan (STEP) Launch 2:00-4:30 PM ET <i>*Communication staff, IR reps, and institutional advancement and/or financial aid staff recommended</i>	✓
Feb. 12	Post-Series Self-Assessment with Teams Reflect on progress to date and identify next steps for STEP implementation	

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Transfer Profiles

Current State

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Our Students



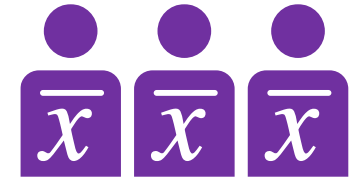
16,600
Undergraduate
Students



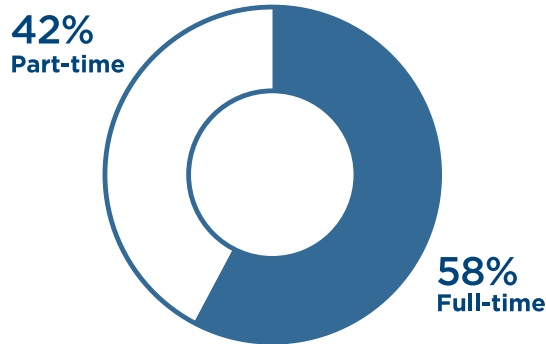
11,767
Undergraduate
Students



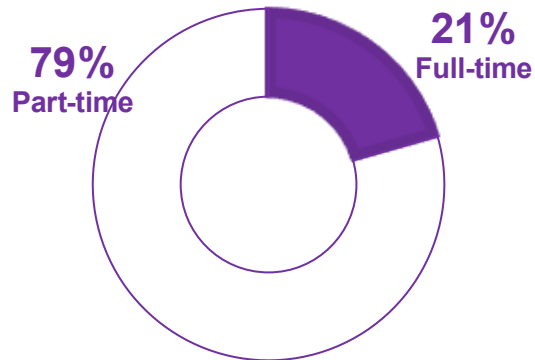
24
Average Age of
Undergraduate
Students



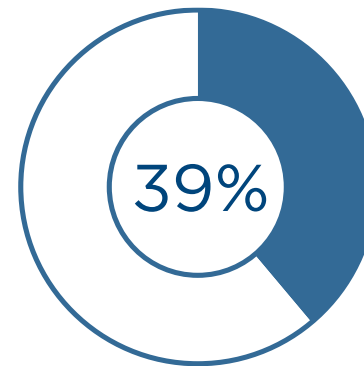
24
Average Age of
Undergraduate
Students



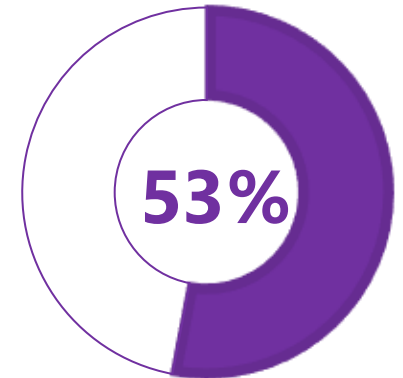
Undergraduate
Enrollment
Status



Undergraduate
Enrollment
Status



Students Eligible
for the Pell Grant



Students Eligible
for the Pell Grant

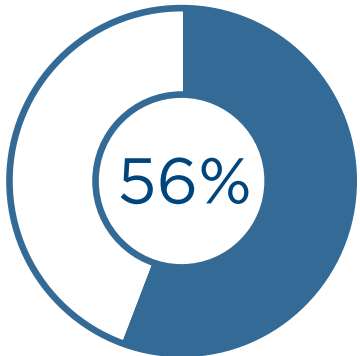
Our Students



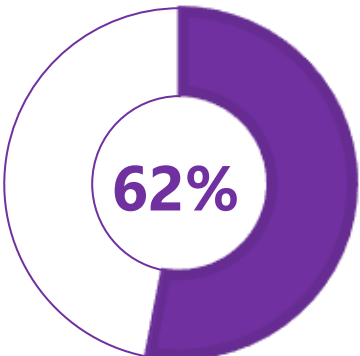
58%
First-Generation Undergraduate Students



59%
First-Generation Undergraduate Students



Students of Color

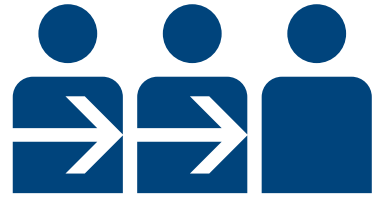


Students of Color

* as of fall 2024

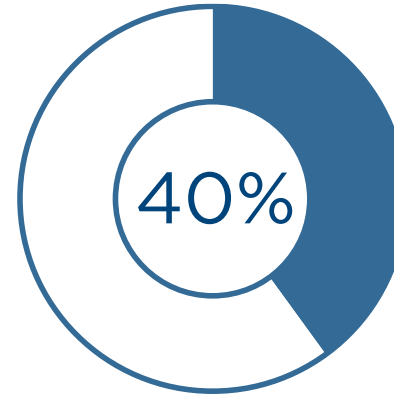
*2024-25

MSU Denver Transfer Demographics Overview



#1

Undergraduate
transfer destination
for Coloradans



Transfer Students

* as of fall 2024

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MSU Denver Transfer Demographics Overview

- Compared to the other Colorado community colleges and all other institutions of higher education, CCD is the single biggest source of ...
 - Total transfer students
 - First-generation students
 - Hispanic students
 - African-American students

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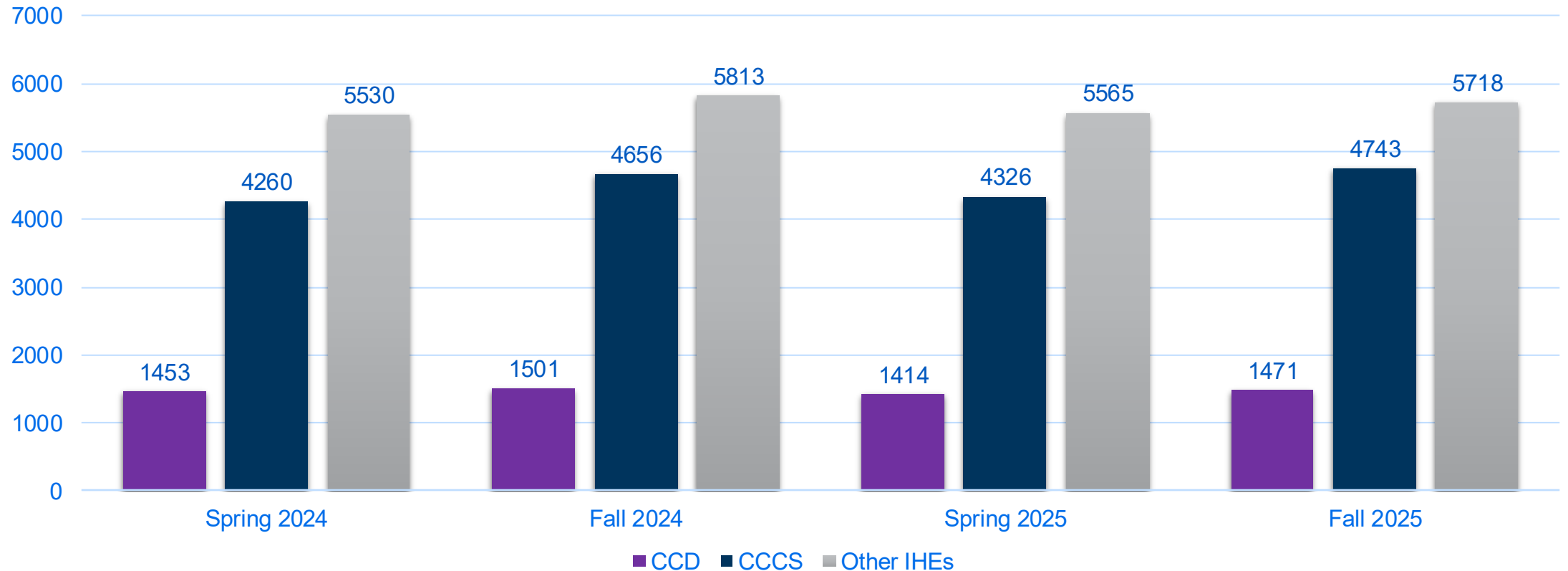


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Transfer Students by Source

-- About 1,500 CCD transfer students are enrolled at MSU Denver per semester

Transfer Students by Institution/Semester



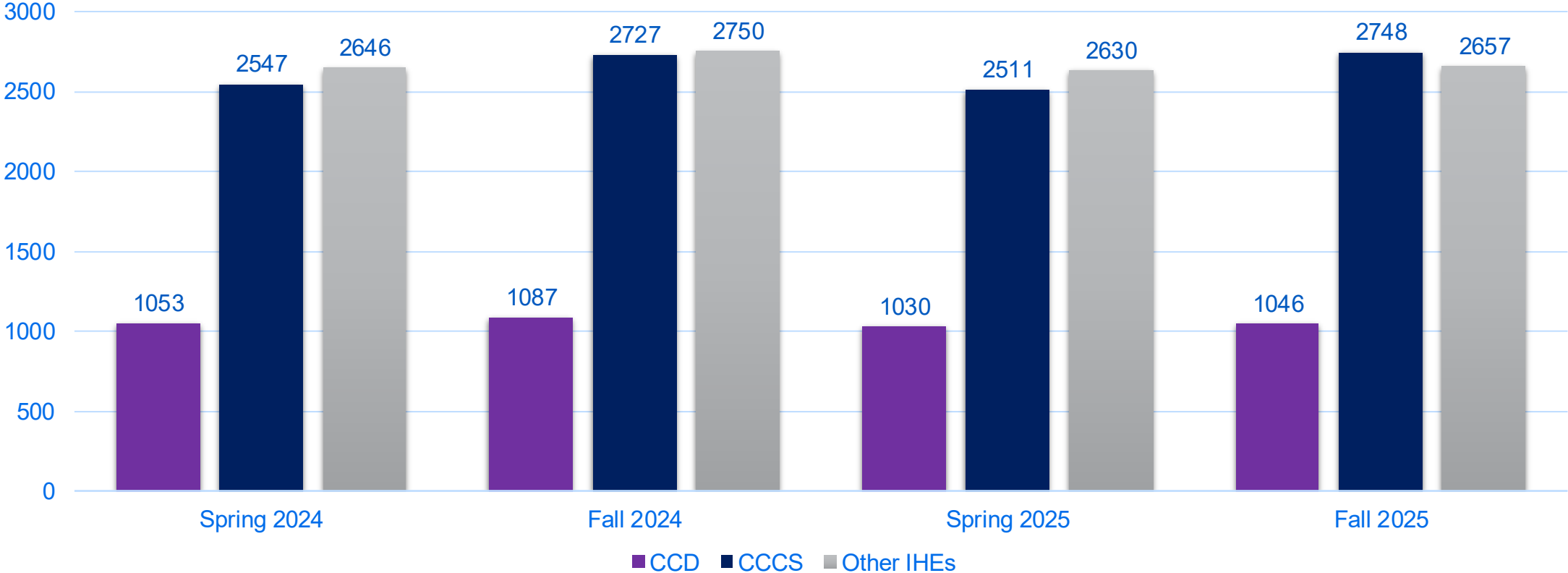
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First-Generation Leader

-- Nearly 1,100 first-generation students per semester transferred from CCD

First Generation Transfer Students by Institution/Semester



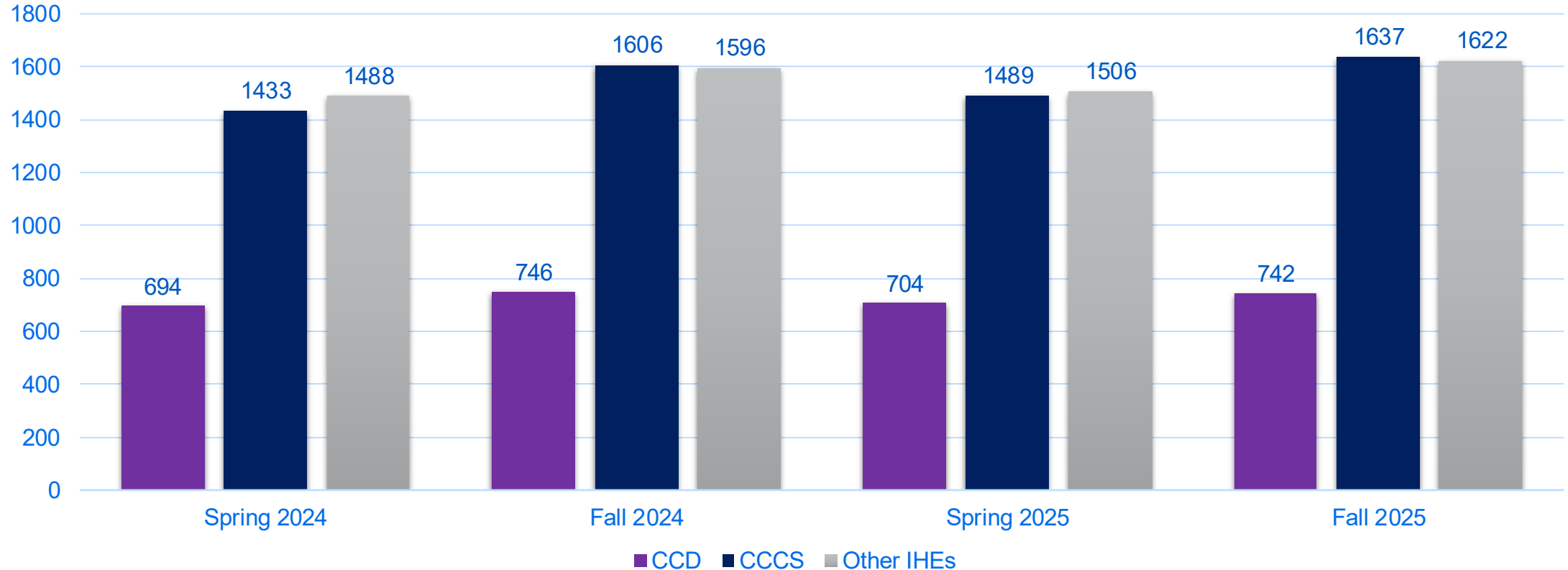
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Hispanic Student Leader

-- More than 700 Hispanic students per semester are transfers from CCD

Hispanic Transfer Students by Institution/Semester



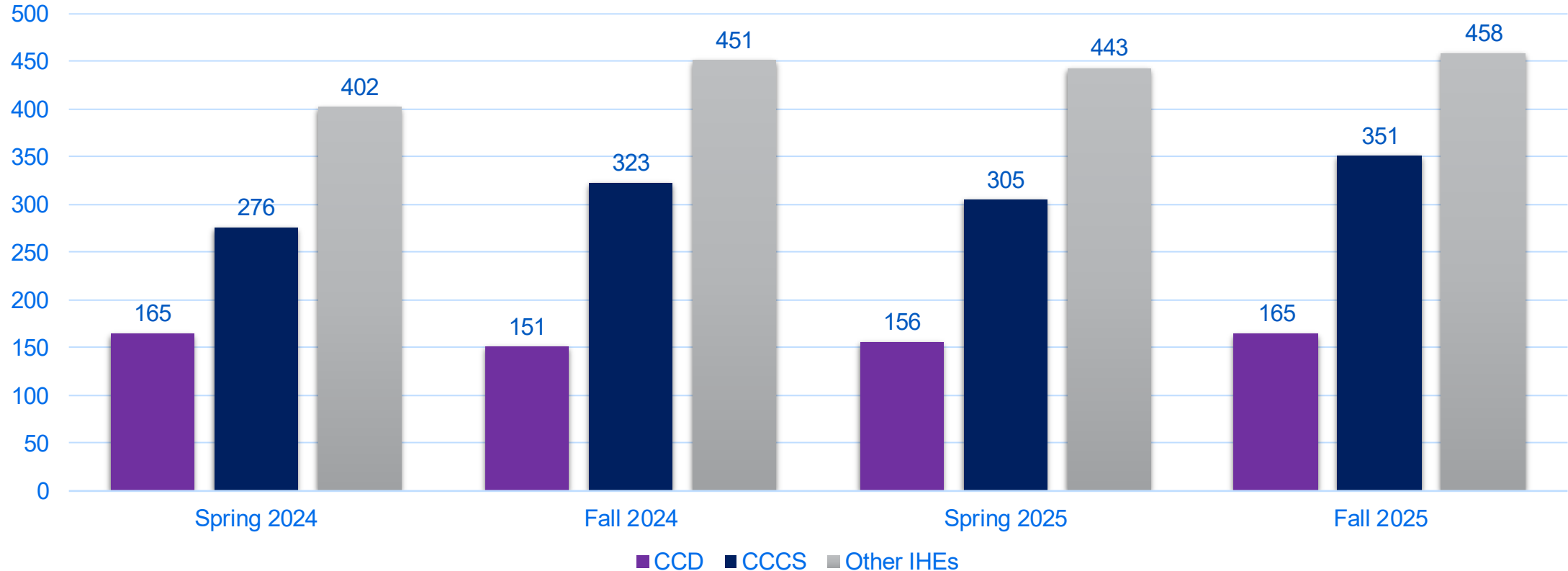
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African-American Student Leader

-- Roughly 160 from CCD

African-American Transfer Students by Institution/Semester



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The 'Who' and 'How Much' of Transfer

- The total student count transferring has been fairly steady per year post-pandemic.
- And the number of credits they are transferring has increased.

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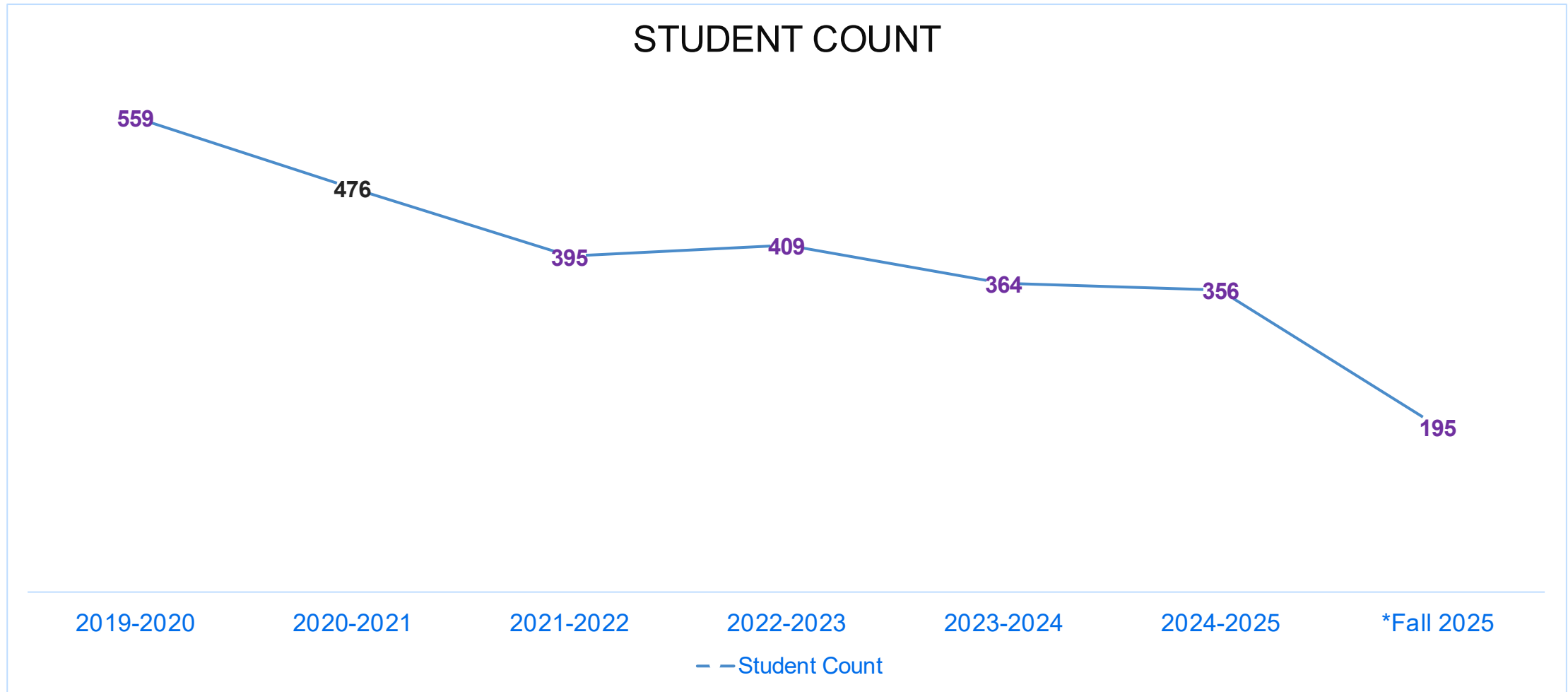


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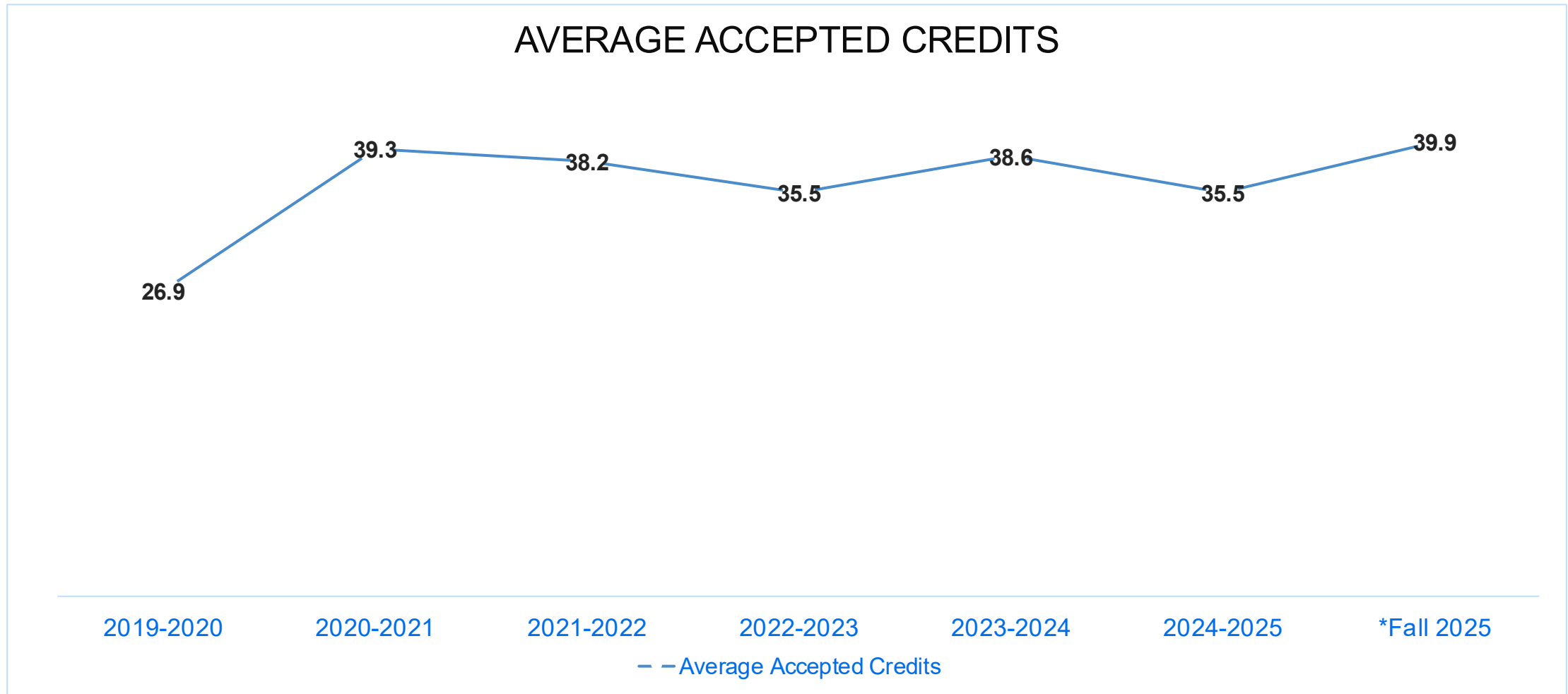
Students Transferring To MSU Denver



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Credits Transferring to MSU Denver



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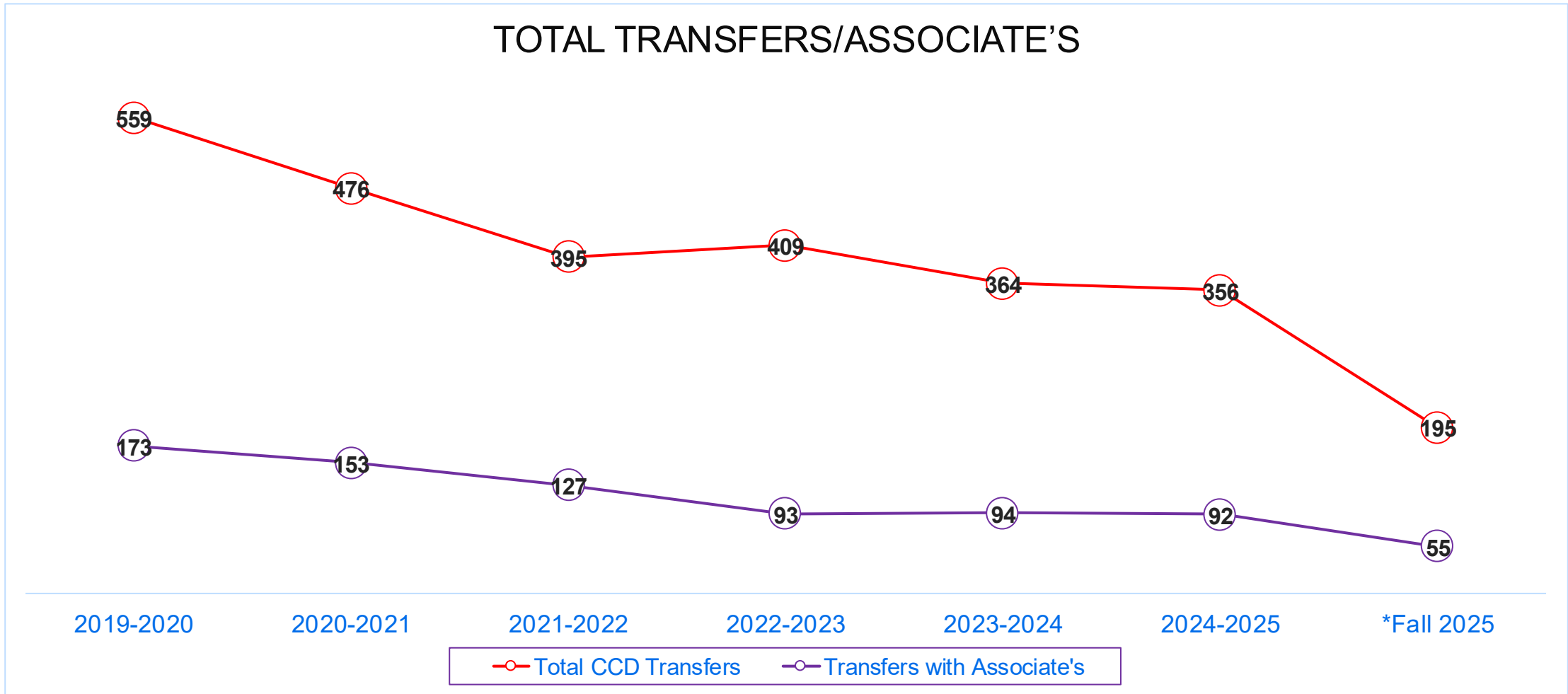
What They are Transferring to MSU Denver

- Between 25-30 percent of CCD students transfer to MSU Denver with an Associate's degree.
- The most common transfer courses are in Composition.
- Communications, Psychology, Mathematics, social sciences, and business courses are in the mix.

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Associate's Degree Transfers

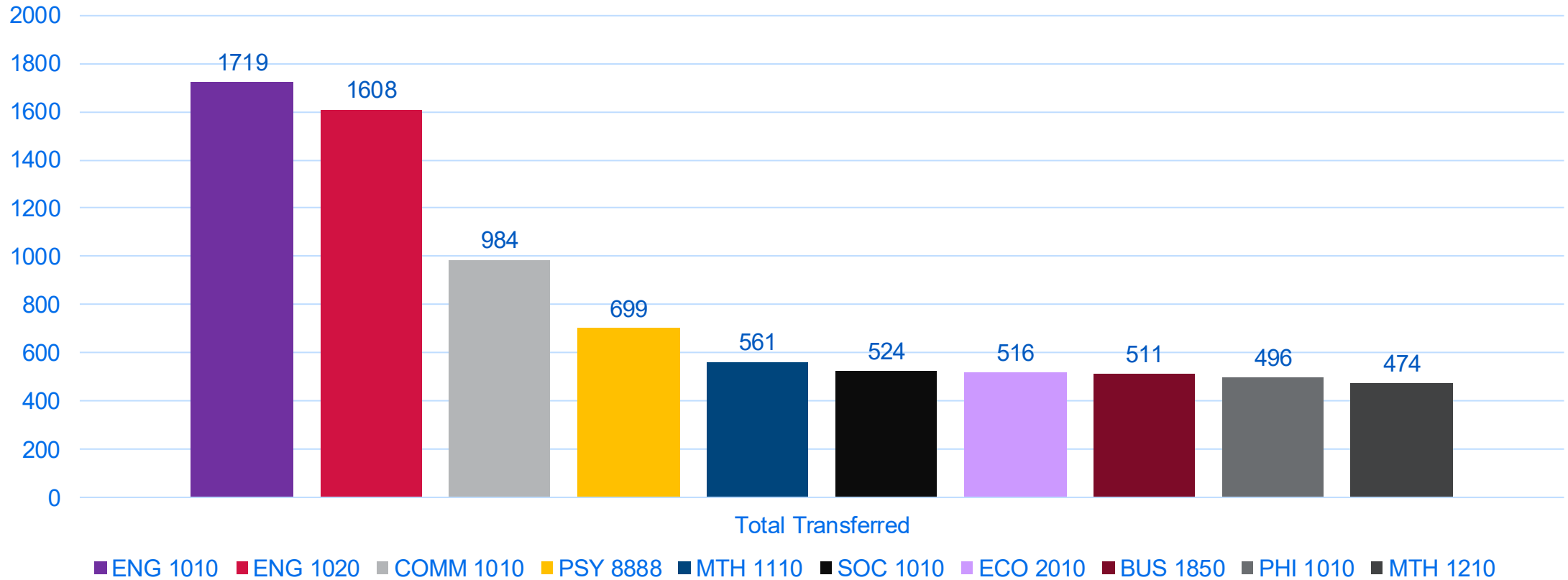


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Popular Transfer Courses

Top 10 Courses Transferring



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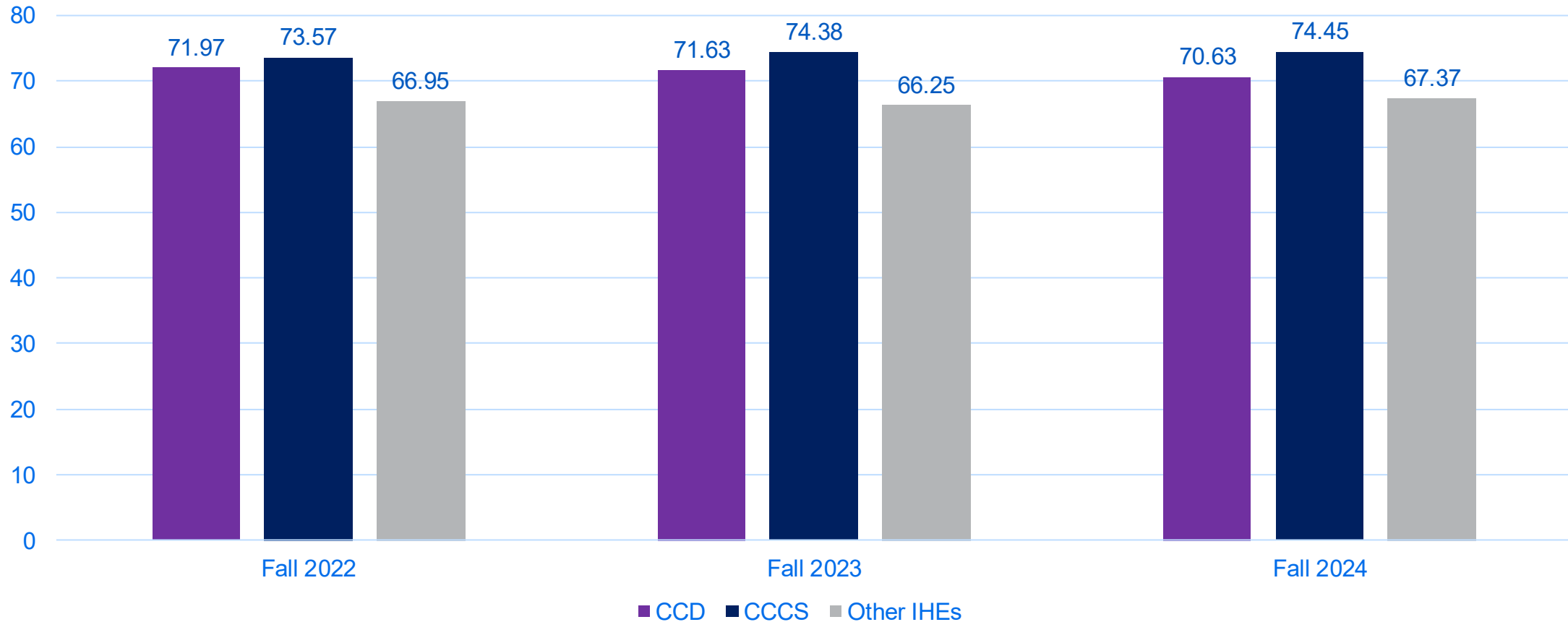


Performance Once Students Transfer

- Retention slightly below CCCS; above other IHEs
- Hispanic retention slightly higher than overall
- African-American retention lagging
- First-Generation retention comparable to overall

Overall CCD Student Retention

Fall-to-fall Retention

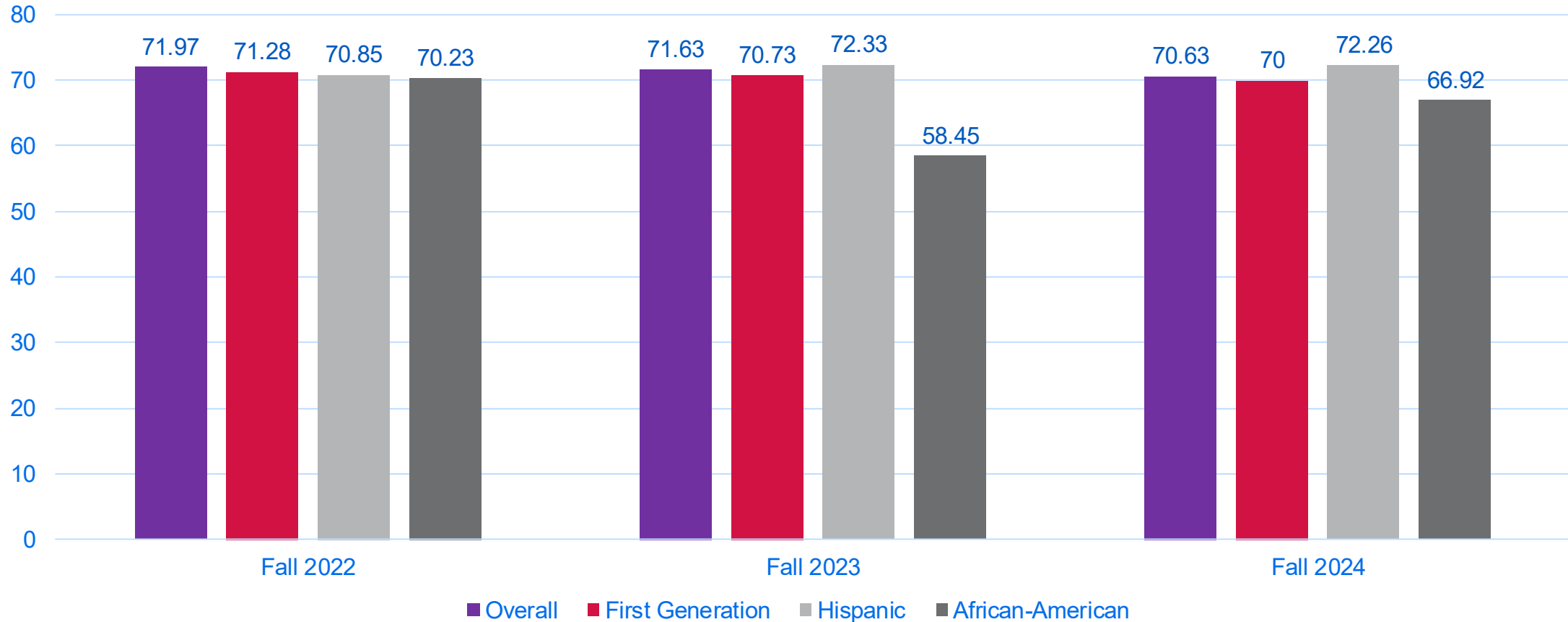


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CCD Student Retention Demographics

Fall-to-fall Retention

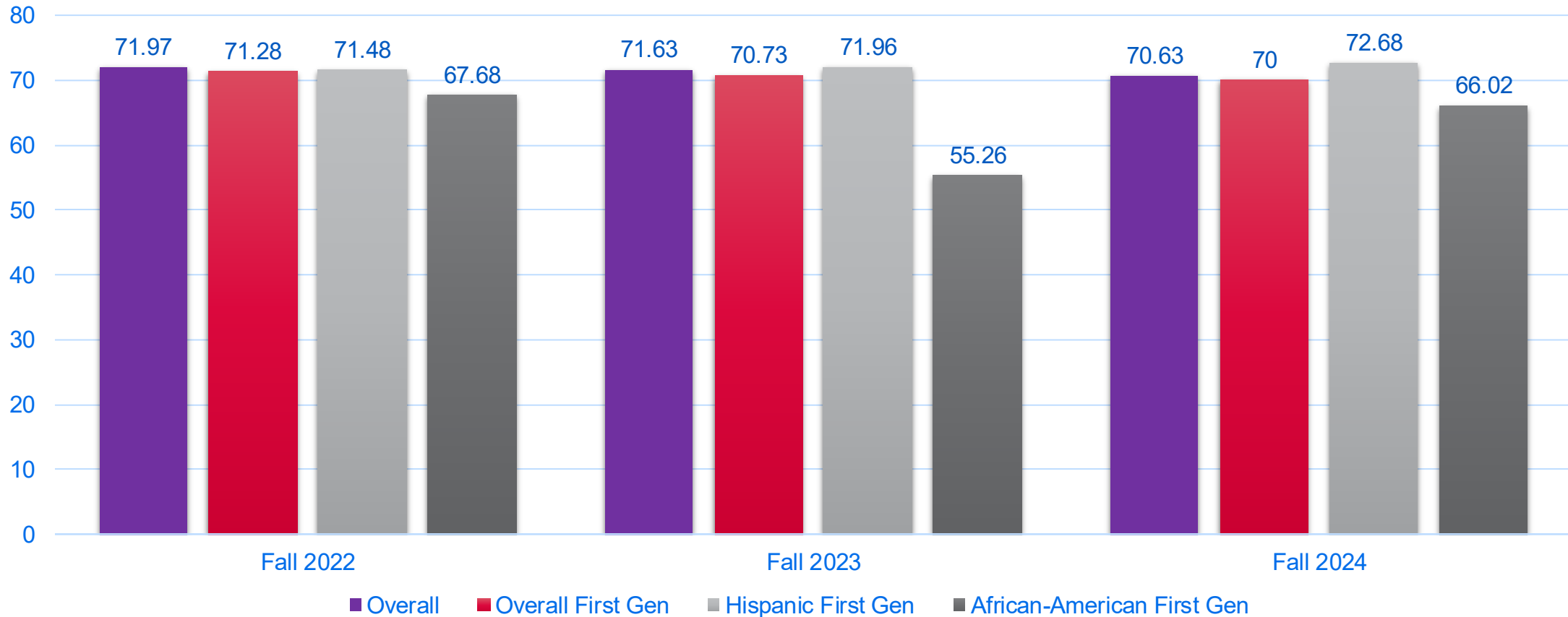


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CCD Student Retention by First-Gen

Fall-to-fall Retention



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Key Observations

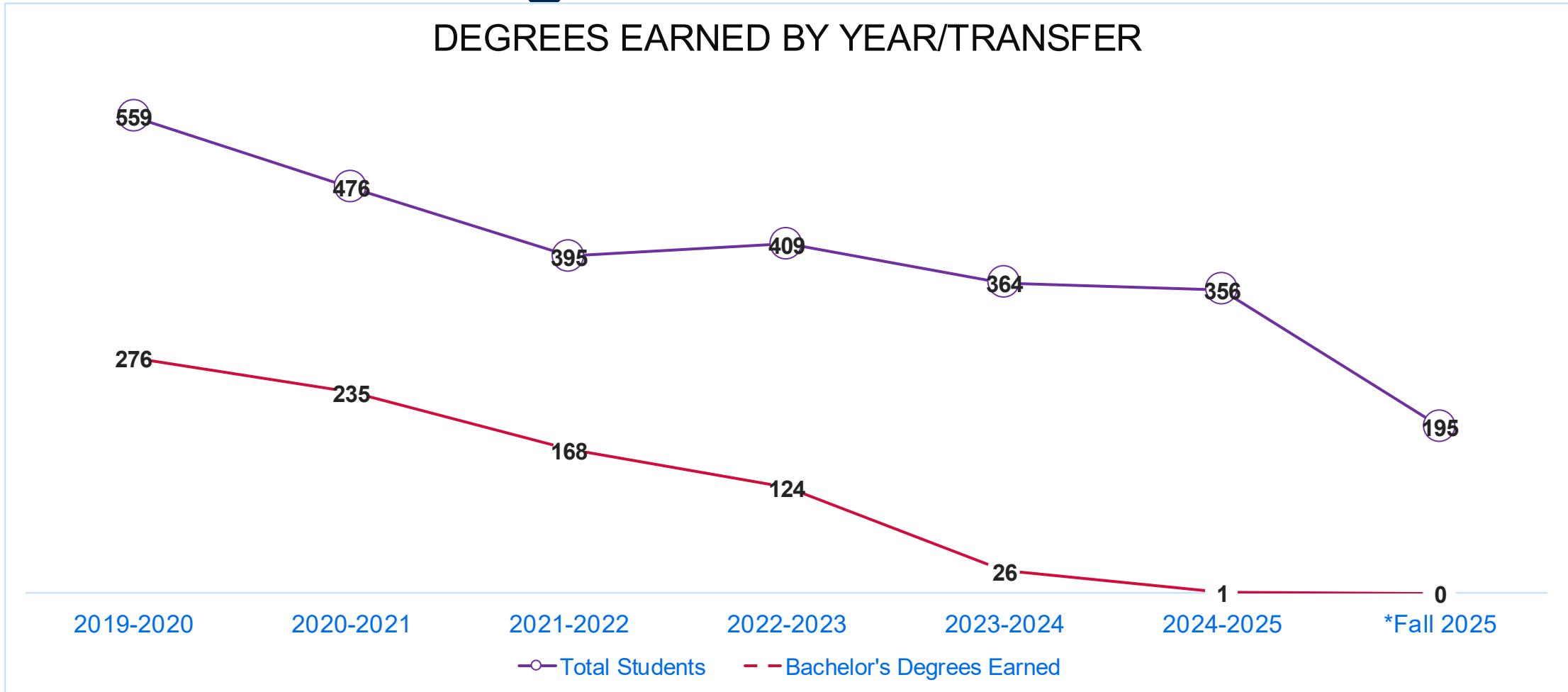
- Overall retention is good but has room to improve.
- Hispanic retention is running above average.
- African-American retention lags.
- First-generation students are doing well, but again have room for growth

CCD Student Completion at MSU Denver

- Are they getting bachelor's degrees?
- CCD transfer students' completion at MSU Denver as of the end of Fall 2025 ...
 - 2019-2020 cohort = 49 percent
 - 2020-2021 cohort = 49 percent
 - 2021-2022 cohort = 43 percent

Bachelor's Degrees Earned

DEGREES EARNED BY YEAR/TRANSFER



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CCD Transfers- In

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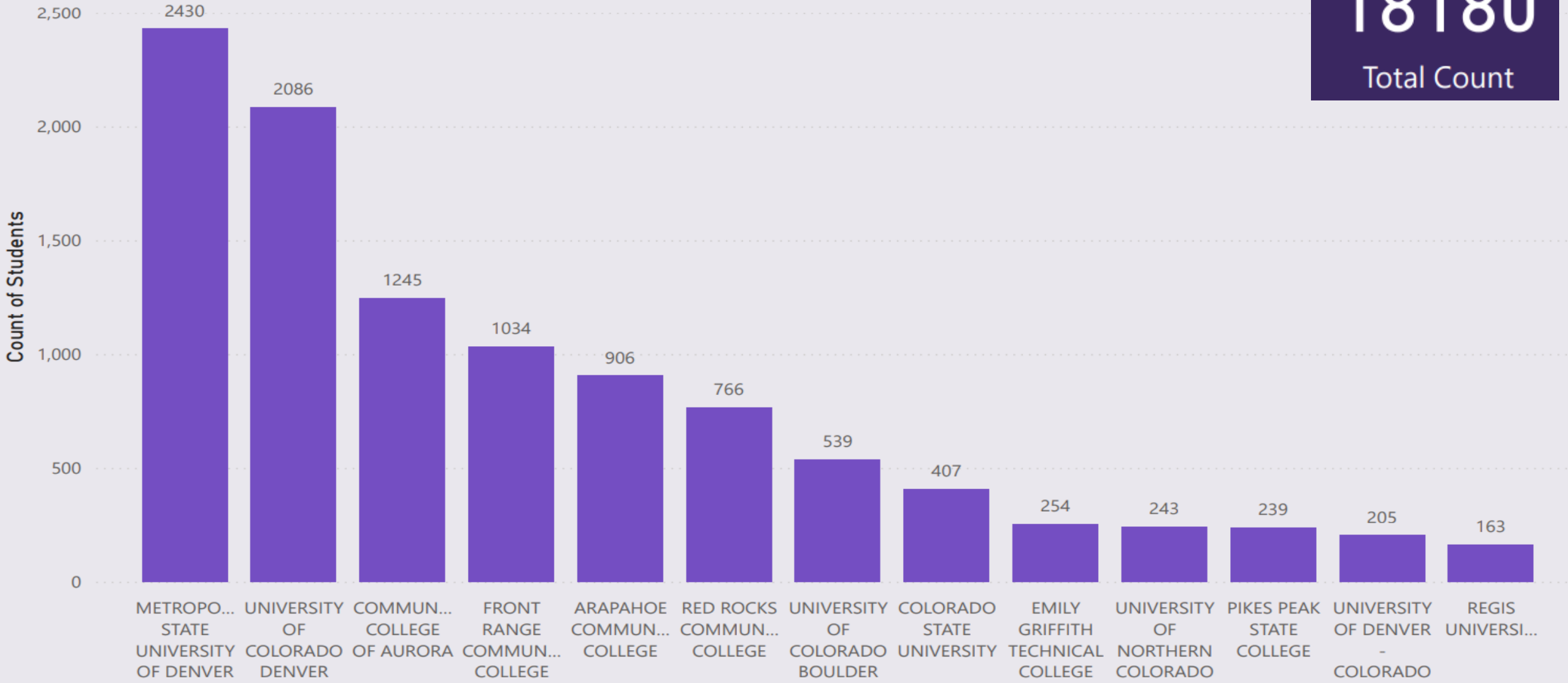
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Count of Students Transferring to CCD (Last 5 Years)

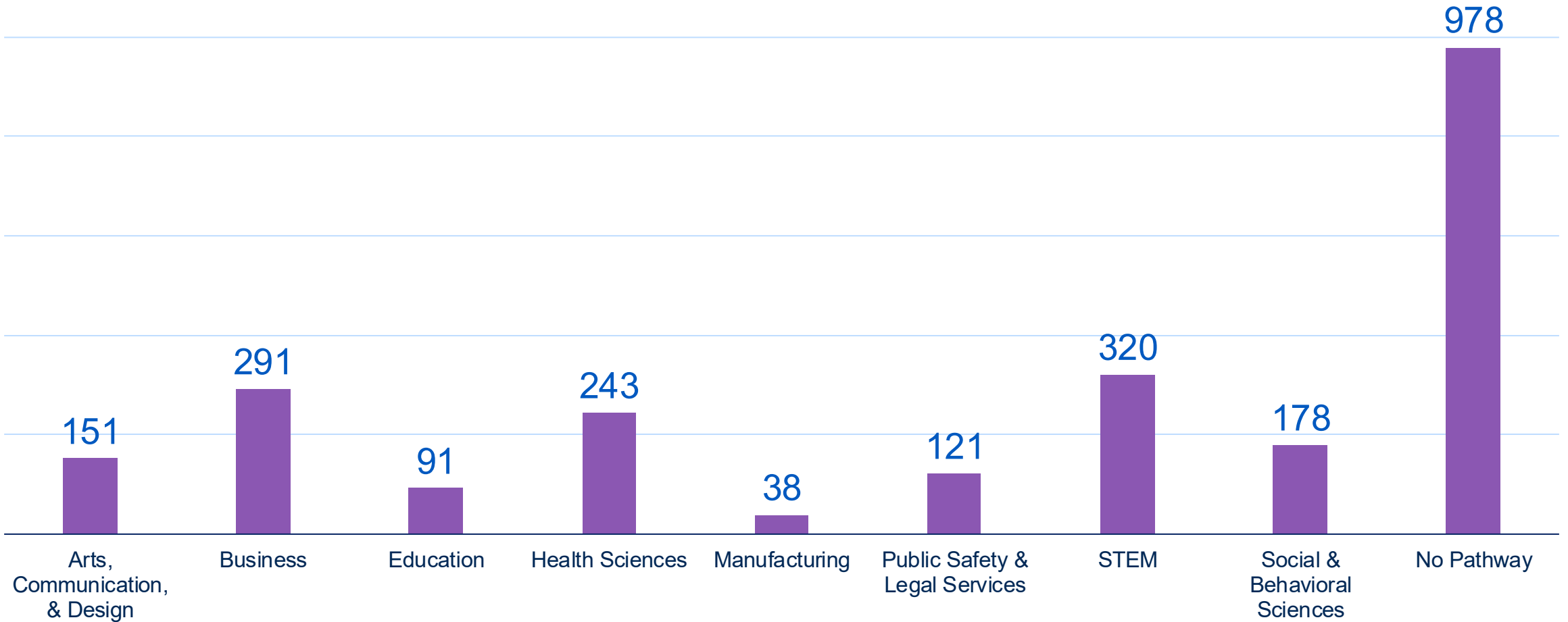
18180
Total Count



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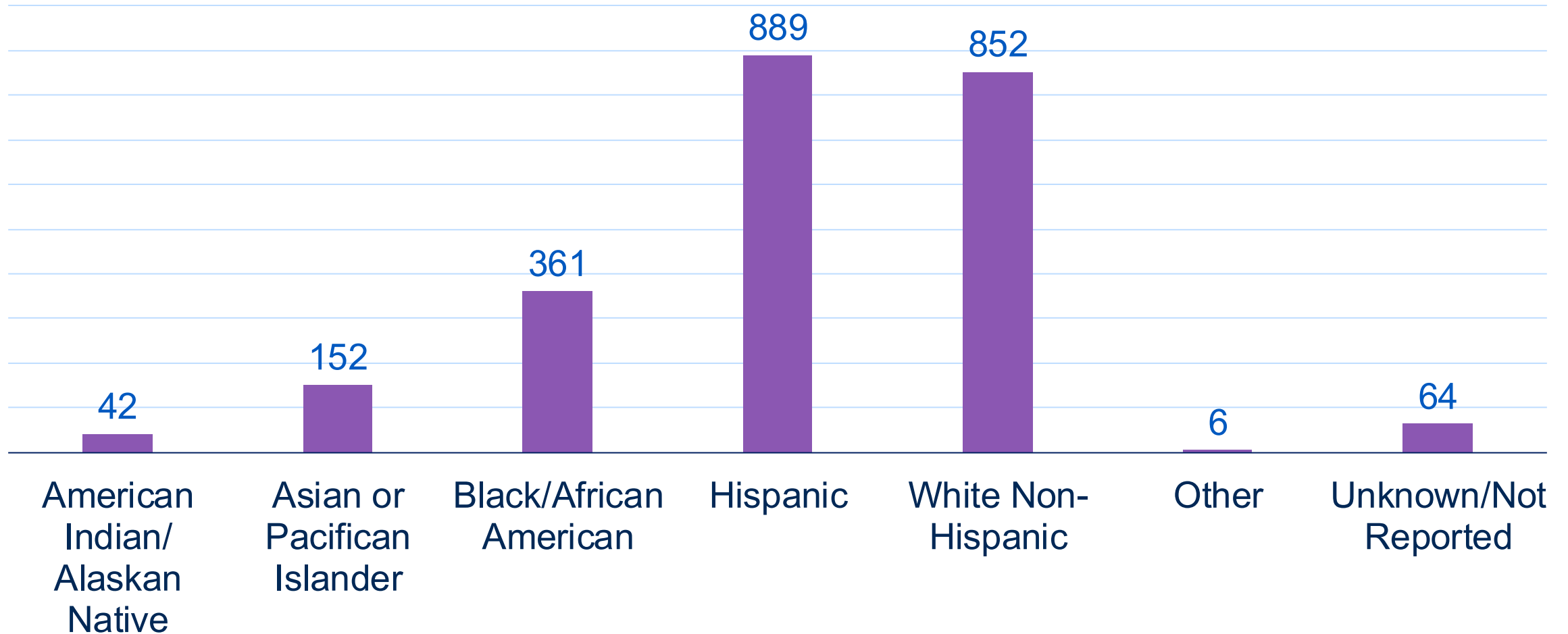
MSU Denver to CCD (last 5 years)



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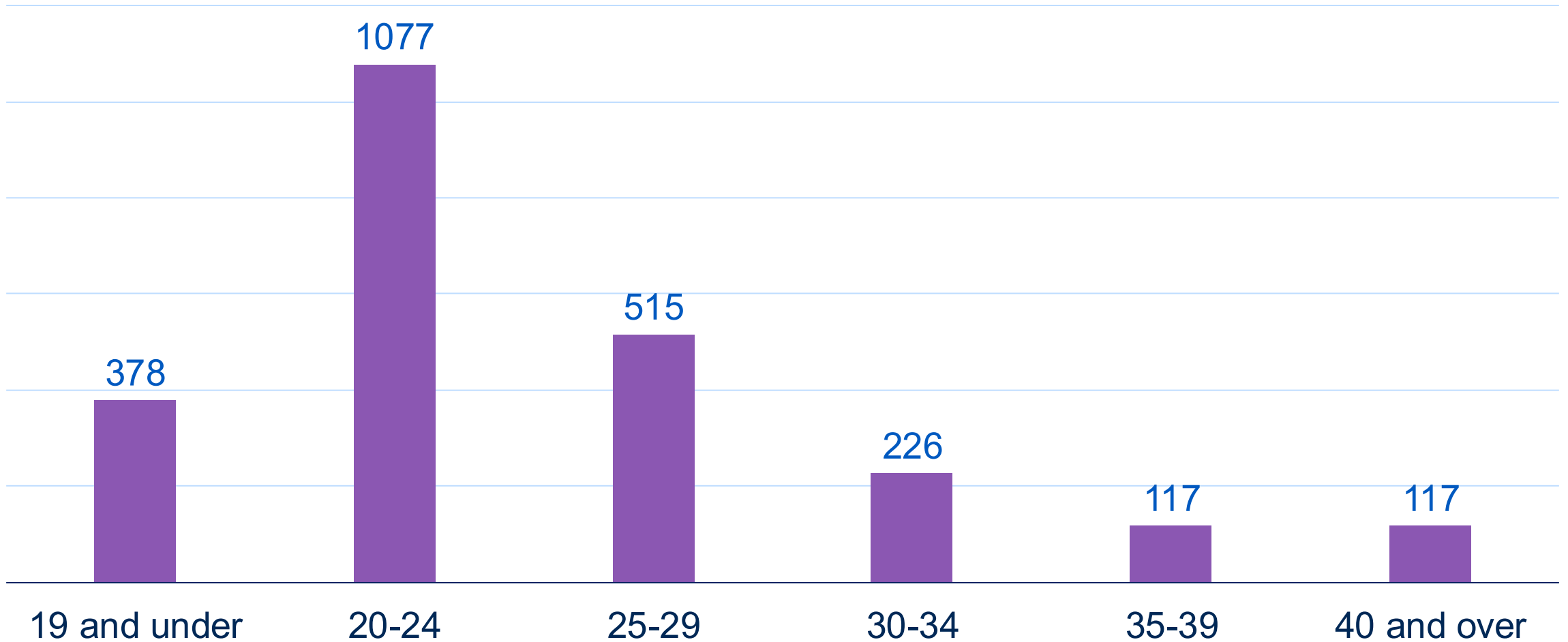
MSU Denver to CCD (last 5 years)



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MSU Denver to CCD (last 5 years)



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Finally, 2026 and Beyond

**STEP
Strategic
Transfer
Excellence
Plan**

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STEP Strategic Transfer Excellence Plan

Goals for Each Group

- **Clarify the Challenge**
 - Discuss the **topic** area.
 - Define the specific problems we are trying to solve.
 - Identify root causes, not just surface symptoms.
- **Define Measures of Success**
 - Identify **lead measures** (predictive, actionable indicators we can influence in the short-term).
 - Identify **lag measures** (outcome indicators that reflect longer-term success).
 - Establish a clear **timeline** for implementation and assessment.
- **Prepare to Share Out**
 - At **12:45 PM**, each group will report:
 - Problem statement & purpose
 - Proposed lead and lag measures
 - Key milestones and timeline
 - Immediate next steps

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Working Groups

Academic Transfer Mapping

Stay in Turnhalle (Led by Kaylah and Matt)

1. Biology
2. Industrial Design
3. Nutrition
4. Psychology
5. Public Health

Dual Admission Student Experience

Tiv 440 Adirondacks (Led by Tiffani Baldwin and Sydney Pedregon)

Interinstitutional Enrollment

Tiv 329 Senate Chambers (Led by Connie Sanders and Angelic Rueda)

Lunch w/Presidential
Remarks
11:45-12:45

Summit Continues
12:45-2

From Planning to Collective Action

Break down barriers

Empower students

Seamless transition

Shaun T. Schafer, Ph.D.

sschafe5@msudenver.edu

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Tina Garcia

Tina.Garcia@ccd.edu