

## What is Student Mobility?

Within the context of B.C.'s higher education system, student mobility includes the sequential or simultaneous enrollment of students in multiple B.C. public post-secondary institutions at any time during their academic studies. Within the global context, student mobility casts a much wider net to include attendance in multiple post-secondary settings anywhere in the world. This newsletter focuses exclusively on student mobility within the B.C. system, among academic credit registrants only.<sup>1</sup>

This mobility study was produced from thirteen years of student enrollment data, spanning Fall 2002 to Fall 2015. Data was collected in Fall 2015 by the STP and was subsequently assembled into 5.6 million mobile student records describing the numerous education pathways of each student who entered, continued, moved between and exited B.C. public post-secondary institutions each year.

This study was endorsed and reviewed by the Post-secondary Student Mobility (PSM) sub-committee of the Student Transitions Project (STP).

## Brief Summary of Student Mobility in B.C.

The STP continues to develop and enhance a variety of visual and numeric approaches for describing and quantifying student mobility within the B.C. public post-secondary system. An overview and summary of the system-level student mobility facts are provided here. More details are also available on the STP web site and specialized tools for institution-level data exploration are available on the secure STP Sharepoint site.

- The **incoming student pathways** of all 318,800 2014/2015 students enrolled in academic credits can be simplified into three main pathways: new students (24%), continuing students at the same institution (65%), and mobile students who switched institutions (17%)<sup>2</sup>. [\[Page 5\]](#)

- The number of **mobile students** in 2014/2015 was 54,071. This is simply the number of students who enrolled in an institution in 2014/2015 that is different from their previous institution of registration. The number of mobile students has declined 5% since its peak of 57,109 in 2011/2012. [\[Pages 5-6\]](#)
- The current **student mobility rate** (17%) is the proportion of all academic credit registrants in the year who followed a mobile pathway to their institution of registration in 2014/2015 ( $54,071 \div 318,800$ ). This rate has gradually declined from a high of 18.9% in 2008/2009 and this is likely due to post-secondary institution designation changes and the opportunities for students to earn a Bachelor's degree at any of B.C.'s 25 public post-secondary institutions. [\[Page 6\]](#)
- **Sector mobility rates** provide a measure of student mobility from each institution type or sector in B.C. This includes mobile students who switched institutions within the same or between different institution types. In 2014/2015, registrants last enrolled in B.C. colleges had higher mobility rates (33.6%) than students last enrolled in TIUs (27.7%), Institutes (25.4%) or RIUs (13.5%). Due to the flexibility and support of the B.C. College transfer system, it is not surprising that students from B.C. colleges are more mobile than students in other institution types. In the last few years, student mobility rates have been declining in each sector; and compared to a decade ago, student mobility rates have shown the greatest decline at TIU's. [\[Page 7\]](#)

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1. In the most recent academic year (2014/2015), there were roughly 318,800 students registered in academic credits, representing 75% of the 426,000 total unique headcount students enrolled in B.C.'s 25 public post-secondary institutions. International students enrolled in academic studies in B.C. public post-secondary institutions are included in B.C.'s student mobility studies. Students in B.C. private post-secondary institutions, such as Columbia College, Fraser International College, etc. are excluded.

2. Mobile students can also be continuing students at another institution, thus the sum of percentages across the three pathways exceeds 100%.

- **Regional mobility rates** provide a measure of student mobility for each region of B.C. and includes all students who switched institutions within the same region or to a different region of B.C. In 2014/2015, students from the Cariboo-North (33.0%) and Thompson-Okanagan-Kootenays (30.0%) had the highest mobility rates, as compared to Vancouver Island (22.5%) and Mainland/Southwest (21.3%). Student mobility rates for each region remain relatively flat compared to a decade ago, but the Thompson-Okanagan-Kootenays region has seen the greatest drop in student mobility, down from 35.7% in 2003/2004. [Page 7]
- While the student mobility rates by sector and region are useful indicators for comparing sectors and regions, the **Student Mobility Diagrams** (by sector and region) provide a more comprehensive visual overview of the number and direction of students flowing between each of the B.C. institution types and each of the B.C. regions. [Pages 8 and 9]

The **Sector Mobility Diagrams (Figure 1)** reveal that the most dominant pathways for students are:

- the traditional transfer pathway from B.C. colleges to research-intensive universities;
- the pathway from TIUs to all other institution types; and
- the pathway from B.C. colleges and RIUs to institutes.

The **Regional Mobility Diagrams (Figure 2)** show a remarkable balance of student flows between each of the four regions of B.C. with roughly equal numbers of students entering each region in 2014/2015 as those who left. The only significant exception is the net inflow of 1,000 students into the Mainland-Southwest region from Vancouver Island.

- Regional and sector mobility diagrams provide a useful visual of student mobility between and within regions and sectors, but **Network Diagrams of Student Mobility (Figure 3)** can help to expand our understanding of the student mobility that occurs between institutions within the same sector (20% of student mobility) or within the same region (60%). [Pages 10 to 13]

Figure 1: Sector Mobility Diagram (2014/2015)

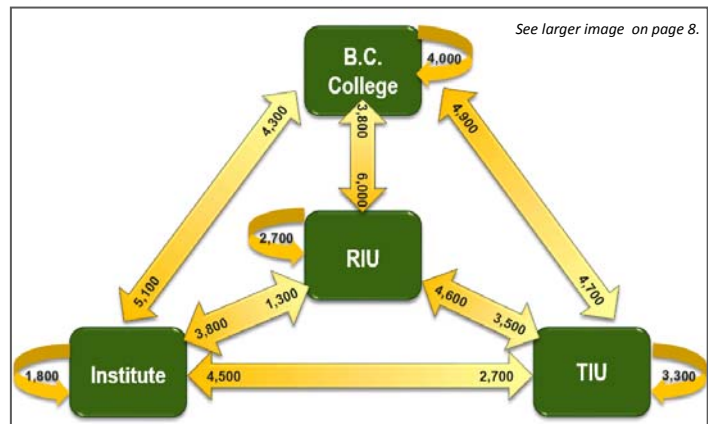


Figure 2: Regional Mobility Diagram (2014/2015)

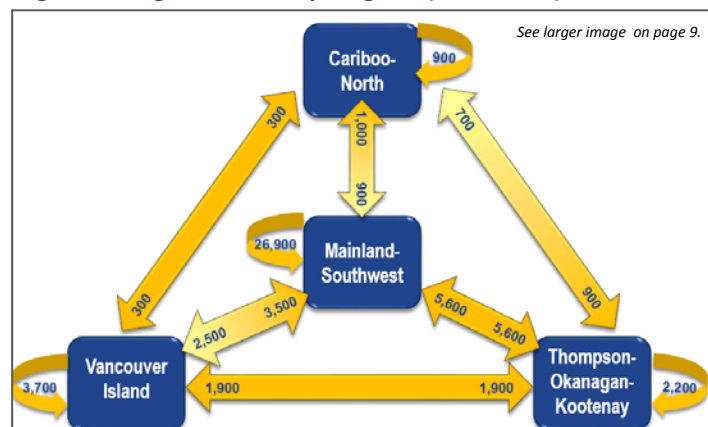
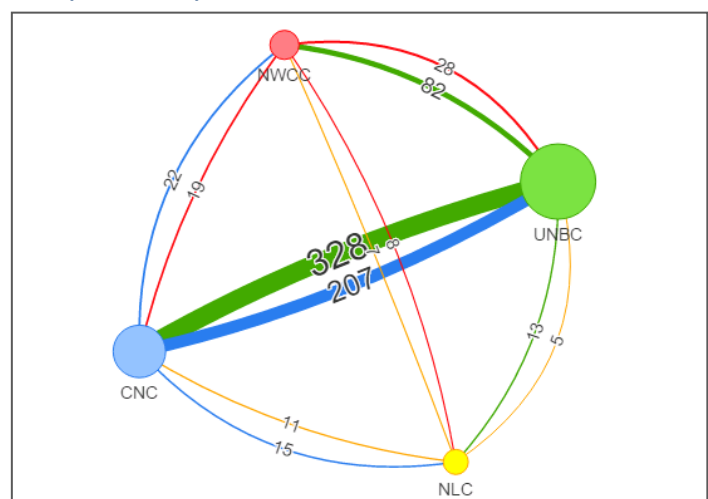


Figure 3: Network Diagram of Student Mobility in Northern B.C. (2014/2015)



- Compared to student mobility diagrams that are useful for showing the total volume of mobile students between sectors or regions, **Student Pathways Diagrams (Figure 4)** reveal the timing of the student mobility (either immediately or after a stop out period); and the type of student mobility (moving to a new institution for the first time or returning to an institution previously attended). These diagrams provide a visual and numeric description of the numerous pathways or routes into and out of a B.C. public post-secondary system, including new and departing students, plus direct pathways from the preceding time period (move, return, continue) and indirect pathways occurring after a stopout period (stopout move, stopout return, stopout continue). Each of the different pathways diagrams have an underlying summary table with the counts of students along each pathway at the institution level. These diagrams can also be provided for a specific institution, region or sector. [Page 14]
- The student mobility and student pathways diagrams provide very detailed student mobility information from one year to the next, whereas a **3-Year Registration State Sankey Diagram (Figure 5)** provides a simple visual display of the relative volume of students flowing between different registration states (new, registered, not registered, stopout, mobile) over a longer (three-year) period, from 2012/2013 to 2014/2015. The most dominant student flow is the continued registration from one year to the next, as depicted by its wide flow pattern throughout the Sankey diagram. [Page 15]
- A long-standing interest exists in B.C. to track and quantify the subset of mobile students who transfer from B.C. colleges to research-intensive universities (see inset box for a **Brief History** on page 5). This group of mobile students that we now call **Traditional Transfer Students**<sup>3</sup> currently totals roughly 4,200 students in 2014/2015, down from annual transfer volumes in excess of 5,000 students per year a decade ago<sup>4</sup>. A visual display of the system-wide and institution-level transfer student trends shows that SFU receives the largest share of traditional transfer students each year. A general downward trend in

transfer students is evident at each RIU, with the exception of SFU showing relatively little change.

[Page 16]

- Looking at the **Trends in Mobile Students from TIUs** allows us to evaluate the impact of recent changes to institution designations, specifically the creation of Teaching-Intensive Universities (TIU's). The number of mobile students leaving TIUs and entering RIU's has declined by about 1,000 students since 2005/2006, perhaps suggesting that students are staying at TIU's to complete their credential. [Page 17]

Figure 4: Student Pathways Diagram

See larger image on page 14.

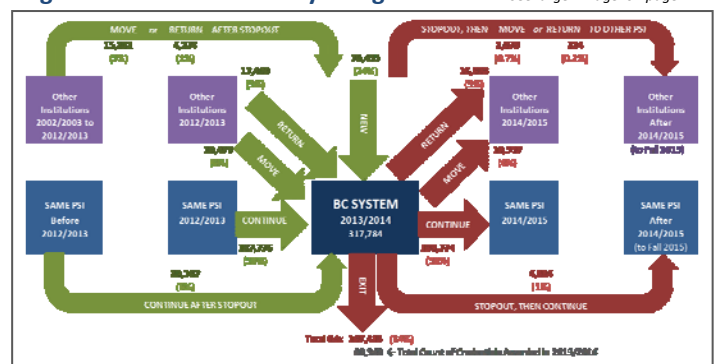
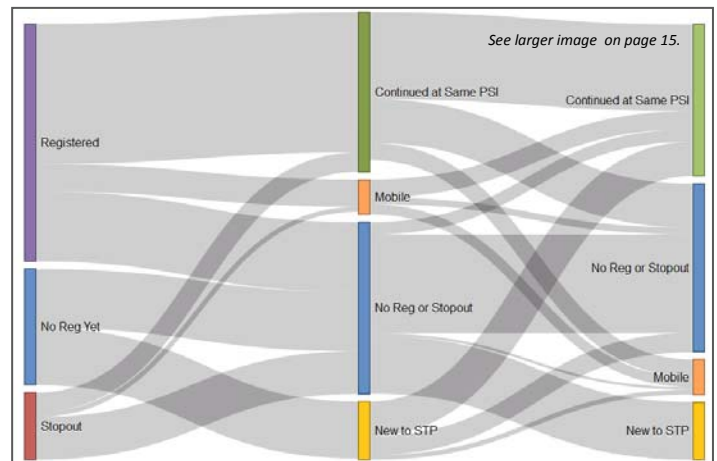


Figure 5: Three-Year Registration State Sankey Diagram

See larger image on page 15.



3. Traditional transfer students transferred from B.C. Colleges, Institutes and Teaching-Intensive Universities to Research-Intensive Universities with a minimum of 24 credits and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 with a basis of admission "B.C. College" or "B.C. Associate Degree".

4. The basis of admission (BOA) category is used to identify traditional college transfer students entering BC research-intensive universities. The STP2015 data used in this analysis includes submissions to the STP from UBCV and UBCO with a greater share of BOA="other" and smaller share of BOA="BC College" than previously submitted for the same time period – students entering UBCO/UBCV from TIU's from 2006/2007 onward were assigned BOA="university transfer" in UBC's student system (and submitted to STP with BOA="other") instead of BOA="BC College". Therefore, the total number of traditional transfer students reported in this newsletter is lower than previously reported for the same time period, up to and including 2012/2013.

## Conclusion

The STP's Post-Secondary Student Mobility studies are conducted annually or biennially, depending upon project priorities. While the STP's methodology for tracking student movement between institutions has evolved over time, the STP's goal is to provide meaningful and useful information to our stakeholders in order to support the management and planning of programs in B.C. post-secondary system and ultimately satisfy the education needs of our students.



### Post-Secondary Student Mobility (PSM) Sub-committee of STP:

This post-secondary student mobility research was conducted under the auspices of the Student Transitions Project (STP). The mobility analysis and this newsletter was prepared by Joanne Heslop with research directions provided by the Post-secondary Student Mobility Sub-committee of STP. The sub-committee membership includes representatives from across post-secondary sectors.

**Robert Adamoski**, Associate Director, Admissions and Research, BCCAT (Chair)

**Frank DiPuma**, Manager, Institutional Research, Capilano University

**Keith Ellis**, Director, Institutional Research & Planning, Douglas College

**Joanne Heslop**, Manager, Student Transitions Project

**Hugh Judd**, Central Data Warehouse Coordinator, Research and Analysis, Ministry of Advanced Education

**Zareen Naqvi**, Director, Institutional Research and Planning, Simon Fraser University

**Anna Tikina**, Research Officer, BCCAT.

The *Student Transitions Project* is British Columbia's collaborative research project that measures student success from the K-12 to post-secondary systems. This effective system-wide partnership, involving B.C.'s education and advanced education ministries and post-secondary institutions, is tracking student success by reporting on student transition rates to post-secondary education, student mobility among post-secondary institutions, and post-secondary completion and retention rates.

**Special Thanks:** The STP would like to thank the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Advanced Education and the B.C. public post-secondary institutions for collaborating in this research effort. Without their co-operation and data contributions, this research could not have been accomplished.

**Where to find more information:** Additional information is also available to post-secondary institutions seeking more detailed information on student transitions specific to their region or institution.

STP Highlights newsletters and reports are available on the public Student Transitions Project web site at:

[http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student\\_transitions](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions)

*Research Results Prepared by Joanne Heslop, Manager,  
Student Transitions Project*

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## Describing and Quantifying Student Mobility in British Columbia in More Detail

### Student Pathways into B.C. Public Post-Secondary Registration in 2014/2015

There were roughly 318,800 students registered in academic credits in B.C.'s 25 public post-secondary institutions in 2014/2015. Where did these students come from? (See [Figure 6](#))

- 66% were continuing students at the same institution where they last registered, including 59% who last registered in 2013/2014, and 6% who last registered in 2012/2013 or earlier (after stopping out in the previous year or longer).

#### Brief History of Student Mobility Studies

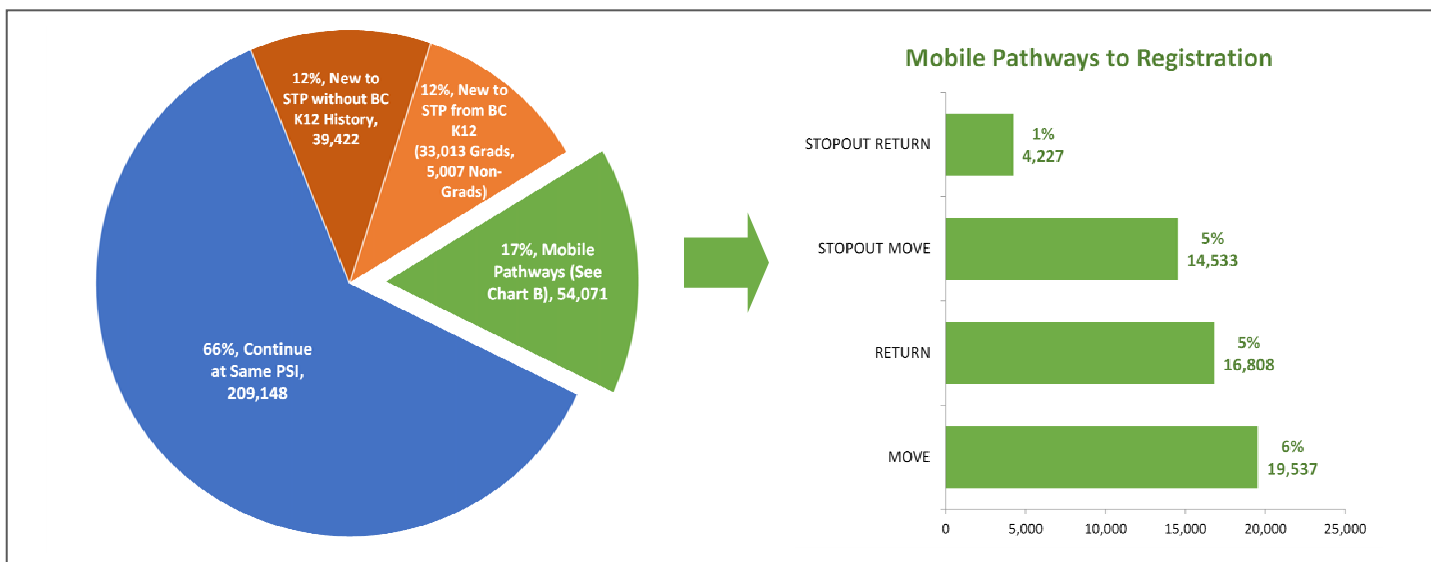
For many years, the B.C. Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) conducted collaborative research studies with the B.C. Colleges and B.C. universities to help quantify and predict the number of students transferring from B.C. colleges to B.C. universities.

In 2008, after the creation of the STP data sharing agreement and database, the STP was invited to prepare student mobility studies from the robust new STP data set. The study results and subsequent evolution and enhancements to these STP mobility studies have enlightened and broadened the provincial perspective on student mobility. We now have a better understanding that students frequently move in all directions between all types of post-secondary institutions in B.C.

- 24% were new to the B.C. system, of which roughly half (38,000 students) were former students from B.C.'s K-12 system, including 33,000 grade 12 graduates and 5,000 non-graduates; and the other half (39,000) had no previous history<sup>5</sup> in the B.C. K-12 system.
- 17% were mobile students, including 11% who were last registered in the previous year, and 6% who last registered prior to 2013/2014, after stopping out for at least one year. These students followed at least one of four possible mobile pathways:
  - 6% moved from one institution to a new institution they never attended previously;
  - 5% returned to an institution previously attended, after last registering elsewhere;
  - 4% moved from one institution to another, after a stop out period; and
  - 1% returned to a previously attended institution after a stop out period.

Note that students may attend multiple institutions in a year, either simultaneously or sequentially, thus creating multiple pathways in a single year.

Figure 6: Pathways to Post-Secondary Registration in 2014/2015



5. New students to the B.C. public post-secondary system without any previous B.C. K-12 enrollment history includes: (a) students without a Personal Education Number (PEN), (b) students who graduated from the BC K-12 system before 1991, and (c) students who graduated outside of B.C., such as students from other Canadian provinces and international students who graduated in another country.

## Declining Trend in Mobile Students & Student Mobility Rate

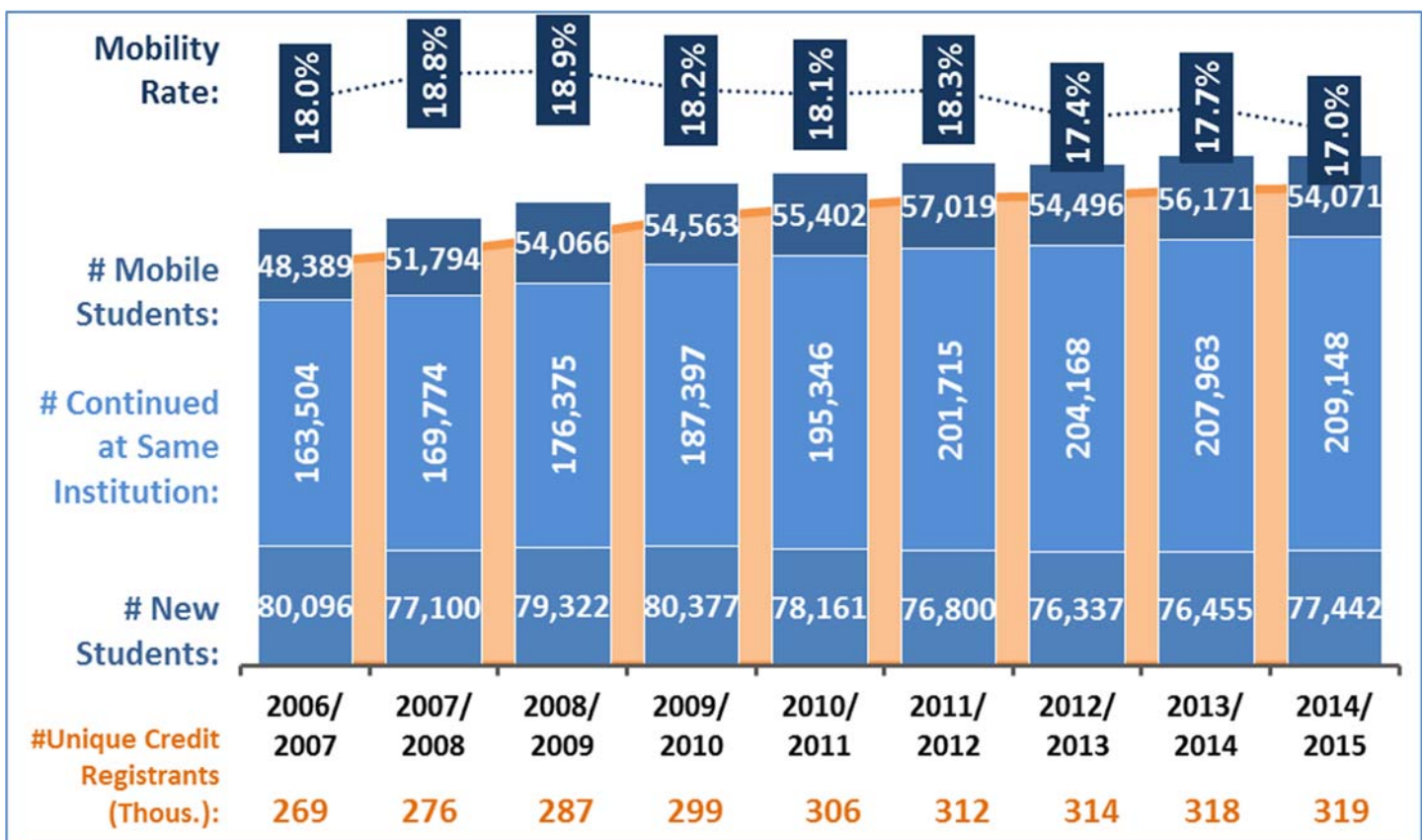
The B.C. public post-secondary system has seen an 18% growth rate in unique academic credit registrants over the last eight years, increasing from 269,000 in 2006/2007 to 319,000 in 2014/2015. Over the same time period the number of mobile students, or those who switched institutions from one year to the next, increased to reach a peak of 57,019 in 2011/2012, but then declined 5% over the last three years to 54,071 in 2014/2015.<sup>6</sup>

The student mobility rate is the proportion of the total unique headcount credit registrants who moved from one institution to another, or returned to a previously attended institution, after last enrolling elsewhere. In the most recent year for which data is available (2014/2015), the student mobility rate was 17.0% or

(54,071 mobile students ÷ 318,800 unique academic credit registrants).

As shown in **Figure 7**, the relatively stable student mobility rate has remained around 17% to 18% each year, with roughly 50,000 to 55,000 students moving among B.C. public post-secondary institutions annually. The student mobility rate provides a simple gauge of student movement in the B.C. public post-secondary system each year and minor annual fluctuations in this rate are expected. The gradual decline in the student mobility rate is likely due to the numerous new opportunities available to students to complete a bachelor's degree or other credentials at a single institution, without the need to transfer elsewhere for completion.

Figure 7: Student Mobility Trend (2006/2007 to 2014/2015)

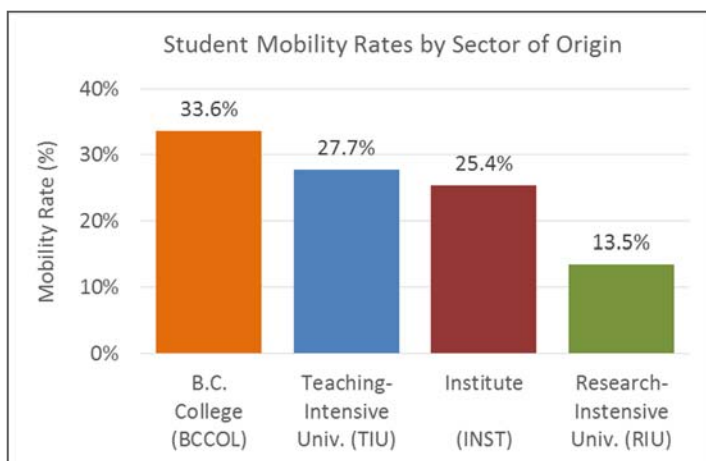


6. Each year, student enrollments are re-stated and student mobility rates are recalculated from the latest enrollment submissions to the STP, thus ensuring consistency with any updates or operational changes to student enrollment records. The final year reported here (2014/2015) excludes registrants with a later start date such that their mobility information is not captured yet. Any missing students will be included in next year's reporting cycle.

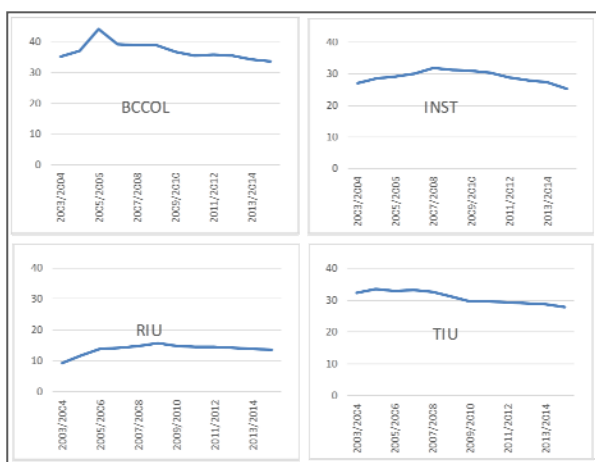
## Mobility Rates by Sector of Origin

As shown in **Figure 8** for recent 2014/2015 registrants, those who previously enrolled in a B.C. College had a higher mobility rate (33.6%) than those last enrolled in a TIU (27.7%), institute (25.4%) or RIU (13.5%). The B.C. College transfer system encourages and facilitates transfer from colleges, thus it is expected that B.C. Colleges would have the highest mobility rate. The mobility rate is declining in each of the sectors, although not as sharply among students originating in research-intensive universities (see **Figure 9**).

**Figure 8: Mobility Rates by Sector of Origin, 2014/2015**



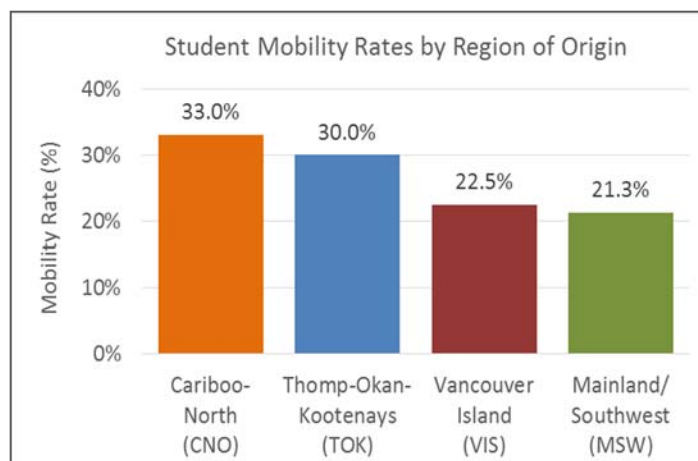
**Figure 9: Mobility Rate Trends by Sector of Origin**



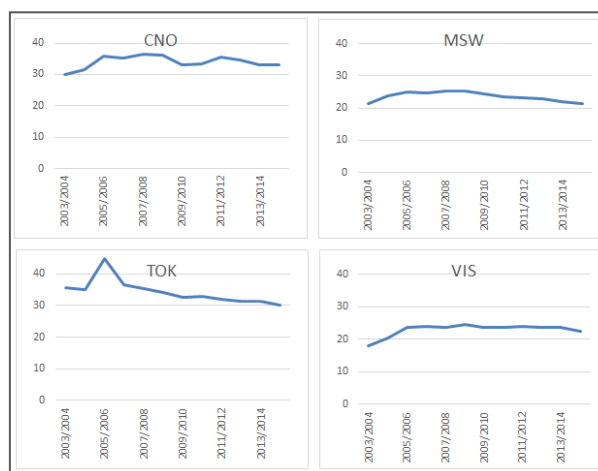
## Mobility Rates by Region of Origin

Students last enrolled in the Cariboo-North (33.0%) and Thompson-Okanagan-Kootenays (30.0%) had the highest mobility rates in 2014/2015, as compared to students from Vancouver Island (22.5%) and Mainland/Southwest (21.3%) (see **Figure 10**)<sup>8</sup>. In terms of regional trends, student mobility rates are declining in the Thompson-Okanagan-Kootenays, but remain relatively unchanged in the Cariboo-North and Vancouver Island regions. Mainland/Southwest mobility has declined slightly over the last seven years, but remains relatively unchanged from 2003/2004 (see **Figure 11**).

**Figure 10: Mobility Rates by Region of Origin, 2014/2015**



**Figure 11: Mobility Rate Trends by Region of Origin**

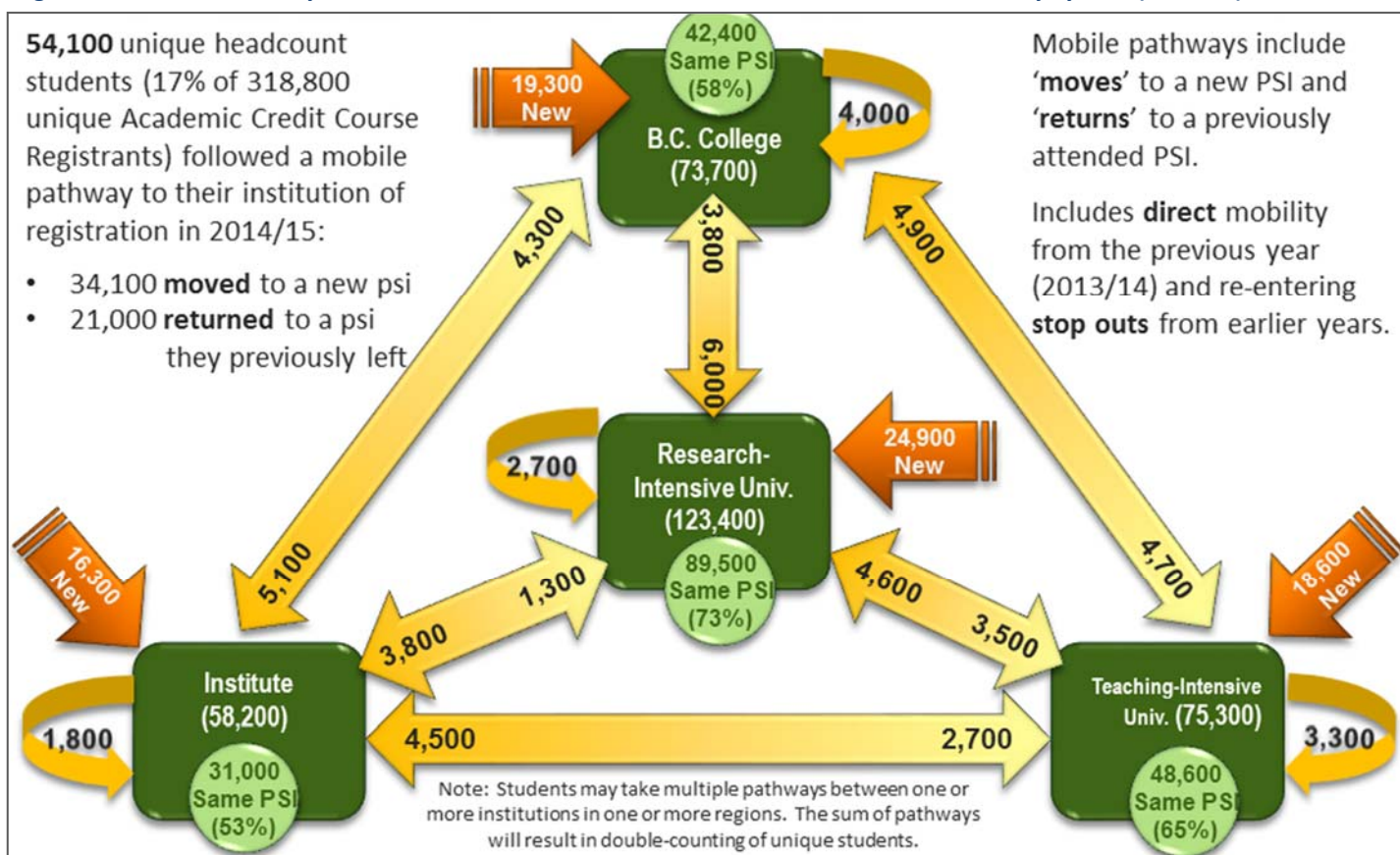


- Mobility rates by sector of origin are a ratio of mobile students in the sector of origin to all continuing academic credit registrants (excluding new students in the destination sector). Comparable mobility rates by sector of destination (including new students) are 24.9% at institutes, 21.8% at colleges, 18.0% at TIU's and 11.2% at RIUs. The 2014/2015 overall mobility rate of 17.0% is a ratio of all mobile students to all academic credit registrants in 2014/2015 (including new students).
- Mobility rates by region of origin are a ratio of mobile students in the region of origin to all continuing academic credit registrants (thus excluding new students). Comparable mobility rates by region of destination (including new students) are 24.4% in Cariboo-North, 22.9% in Thompson-Okanagan-Kootenays, 16.5% in Mainland/Southwest and 15.4% in the Vancouver Island region. The 2014/2015 overall mobility rate of 17.0% is a ratio of all mobile students to all academic credit registrants in 2014/2015 (including new students).



## Student Mobility Between Institution Types

Figure 12: Student Mobility Between Institutions and Sectors in the B.C. Public Post-Secondary System (2014/15)<sup>9</sup>



Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Merritt



Vancouver Community College

### Post-Secondary Institutions by Institution Type

B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions belong to one of four institution types or sectors, as defined by the Ministry of Advanced Education. Institution designations have changed over time and these are the current groupings by institution type. Any historical mobility information in this study assigns each institution to its current institution type, as defined below.

**Institutes** – British Columbia Institute of Technology, Justice Institute of B.C., Nicola Valley Institute of Technology.

**Community Colleges** – Camosun College, College of New Caledonia, College of the Rockies, Douglas College, Langara College, North Island College, Northern Lights College, Northwest Community College, Okanagan College, Selkirk College, Vancouver Community College.

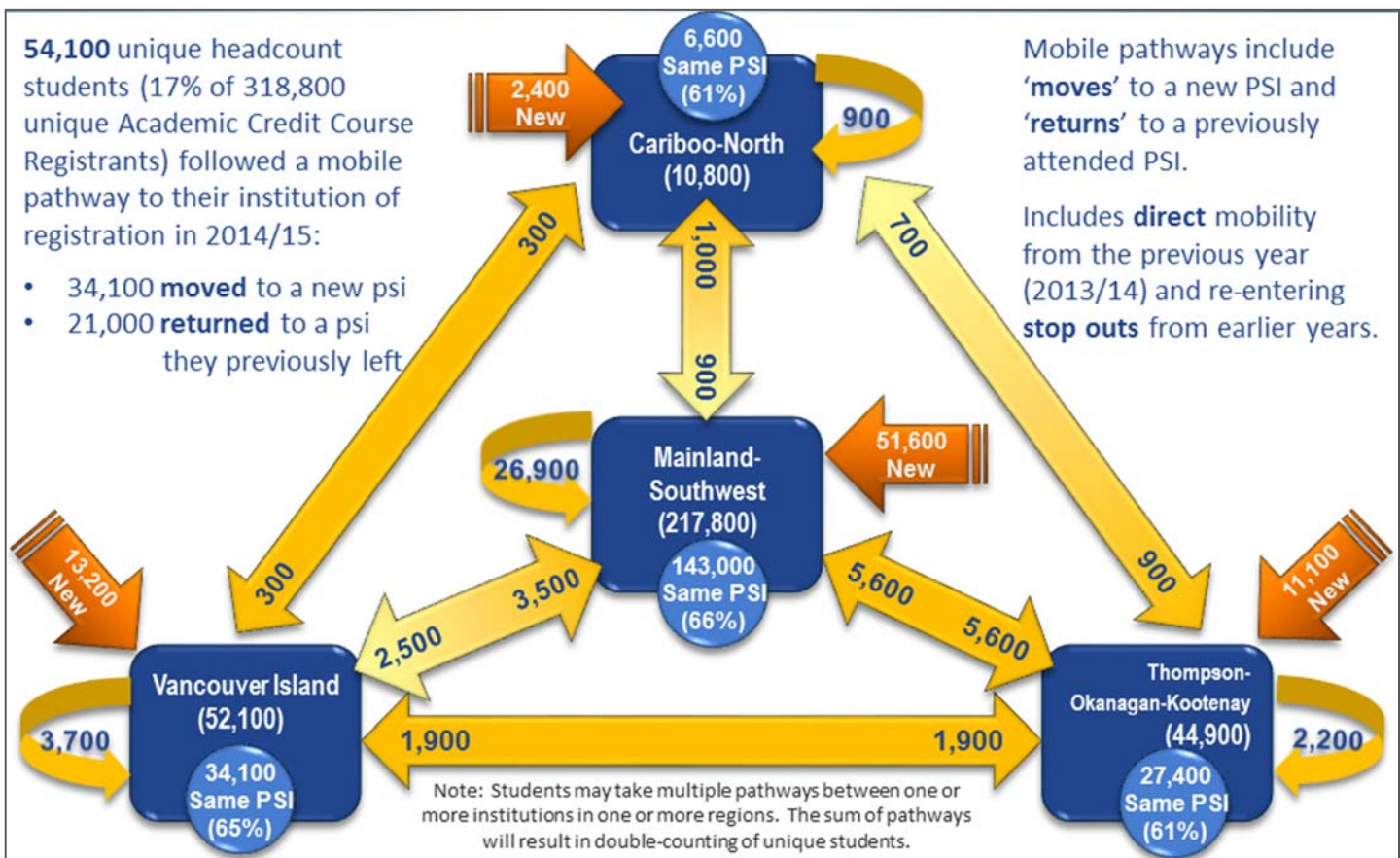
**Research-Intensive Universities** – Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, University of British Columbia Okanagan, University of Northern British Columbia, University of Victoria.

**Teaching-Intensive Universities** – Capilano University, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Royal Roads University, Thompson Rivers University, University of the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island University.

9. [Sector mobility diagrams](#) also available on the public [STP web site](#).



## Student Mobility Between Regions of B.C.

Figure 13: Student Mobility Between Institutions and Regions in the B.C. Public Post-Secondary System (2014/15)<sup>10</sup>

## B.C. Public Post-Secondary Institutions by Region

B.C. public post-secondary institutions are located in urban and rural regions of the province. For the purpose of tracking the mobility of students around the province, the STP has assigned each of the post-secondary institutions to one of the following four geographic regions.

**Cariboo-North Region** – College of New Caledonia, Northern Lights College, Northwest Community College, University of Northern British Columbia.

**Mainland-Southwest Region** – British Columbia Institute of Technology, Capilano University, Douglas College, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Justice Institute of B.C., Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Langara College, Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, University of the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Community College.

**Thompson-Okanagan-Kootenay Region**– College of the Rockies, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Okanagan College, Thompson Rivers University, Selkirk College, University of British Columbia (Okanagan).

**Vancouver Island Region** – Camosun College, North Island College, Royal Roads University, University of Victoria, Vancouver Island University.



Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo



University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George

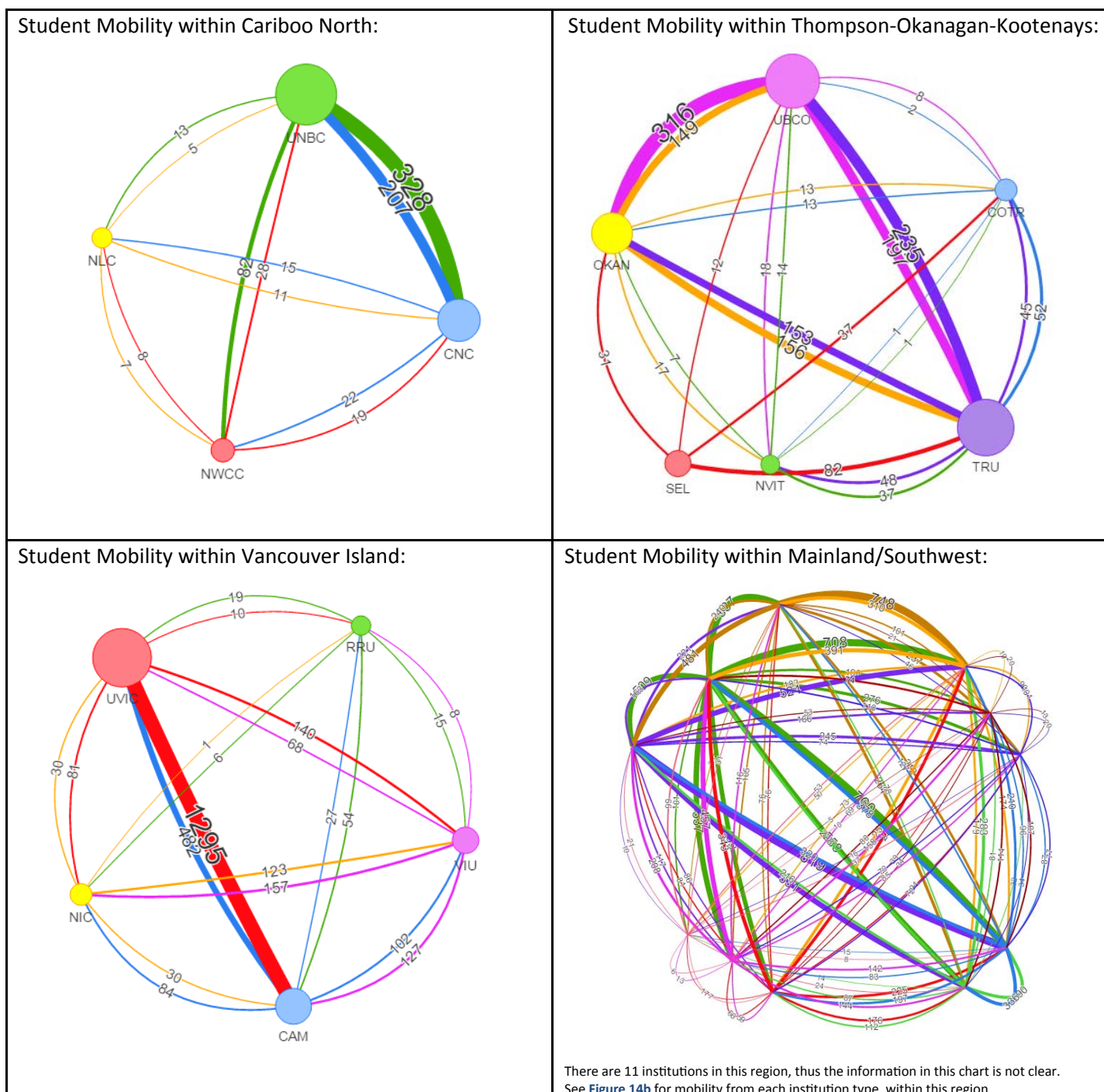
10. [Regional mobility diagrams](#) are also available on the public [STP web site](#).

## Mobile Students Within the Same Region

A fair proportion, approximately 60% of student mobility occurs within the same region. The student flows of mobile students between institutions within the same region is provided in **Figure 14a** for 900 students who remained in the Cariboo North region, 26,900 within the Mainland/Southwest region, 2,200 from the Thompson-

Okanagan-Kootenays and 3,700 within the Vancouver Island Region. These are best viewed with special software. The width of the lines connecting institutions indicates a greater flow of students is occurring between those institutions. Line colors also vary depending upon the type of destination institution.

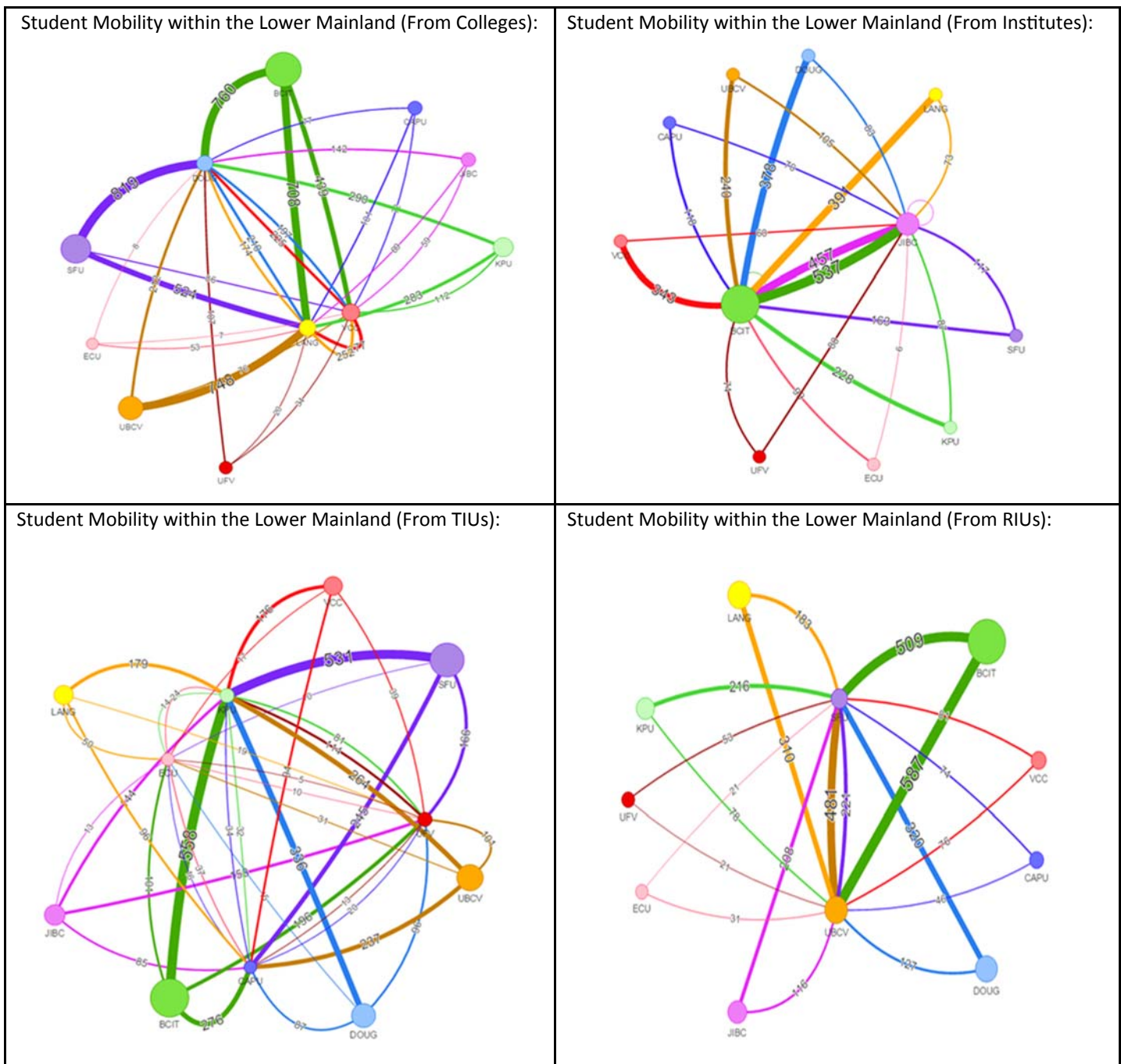
**Figure 14a: Relative Volume of Mobile Students Switching Institutions within the Same Region, 2013/2014 to 2014/2015<sup>11</sup>**



11. (a) Student flow direction is indicated by matching color of flow line to color of destination node. (b) Thickness of lines between sectors indicate number of mobile students between sectors. (c) Size of node indicates volume of students moving to the institution from within the region.



**Figure 14b: Relative Volume of Mobile Students Switching Institutions within the Lower Mainland Region, 2013/2014 to 2014/2015<sup>12</sup>**



12. (a) Student flow direction is indicated by matching color of flow line to color of destination node. (b) Thickness of lines between sectors indicate number of mobile students between sectors. (c) Size of node indicates volume of students moving to the institution from within the region.



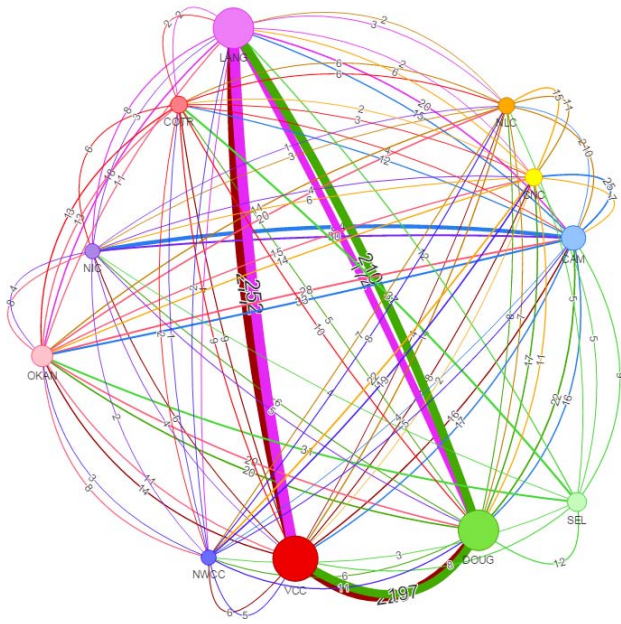
## Mobile Students Within the Same Institution Type

Approximately 20% of student mobility occurs within the same sector, such as college to college or RIU to RIU, etc. The student flows of mobile students who remained within the same sector or institution type is provided in **Figure 15a**, including 4,000 students within the B.C.

college sector, 1,800 within institutes, 2,700 between RIUs, and 3,300 who switched between TIUs. These are best viewed with special software. The width of the lines connecting institutions indicates a greater flow of students is occurring between those institutions.

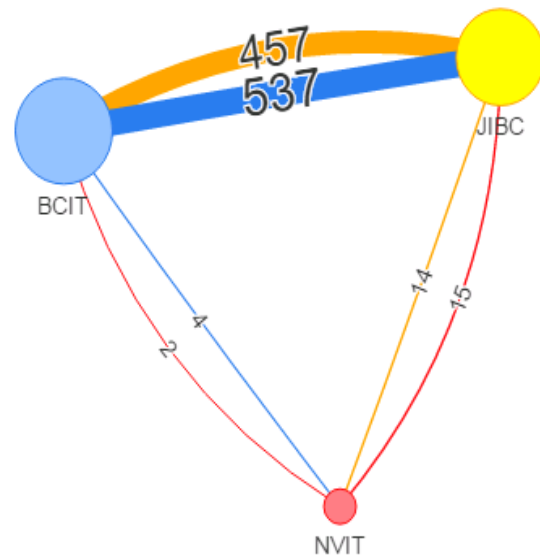
**Figure 15a: Relative Volume of Mobile Students Switching Institutions within the Same Sector, 2013/2014 to 2014/2015**

### College to College Mobility:

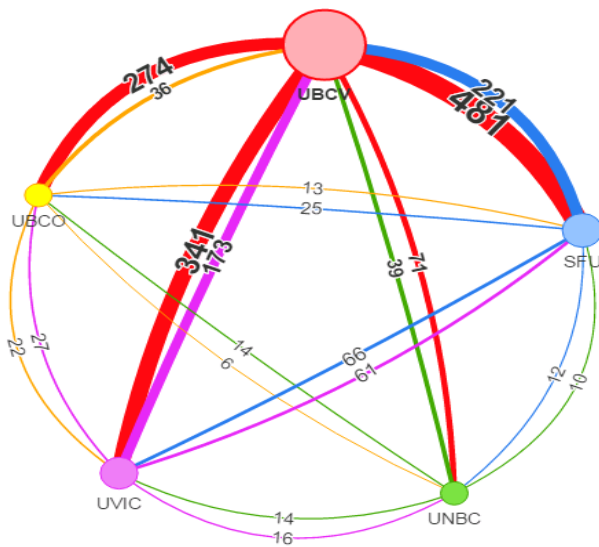


There are 11 colleges in the province, thus the information in this chart is not clear. See **Figure 15b** for mobility between colleges within each of the four regions.

### Institute to Institute Mobility:



### RIU to RIU Mobility:



### TIU to TIU Mobility:

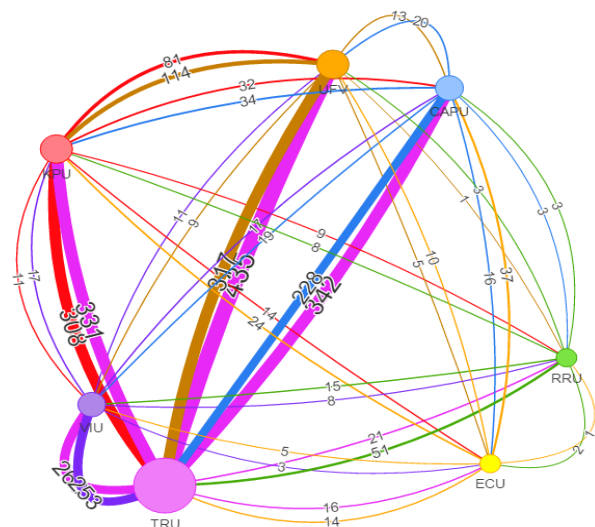
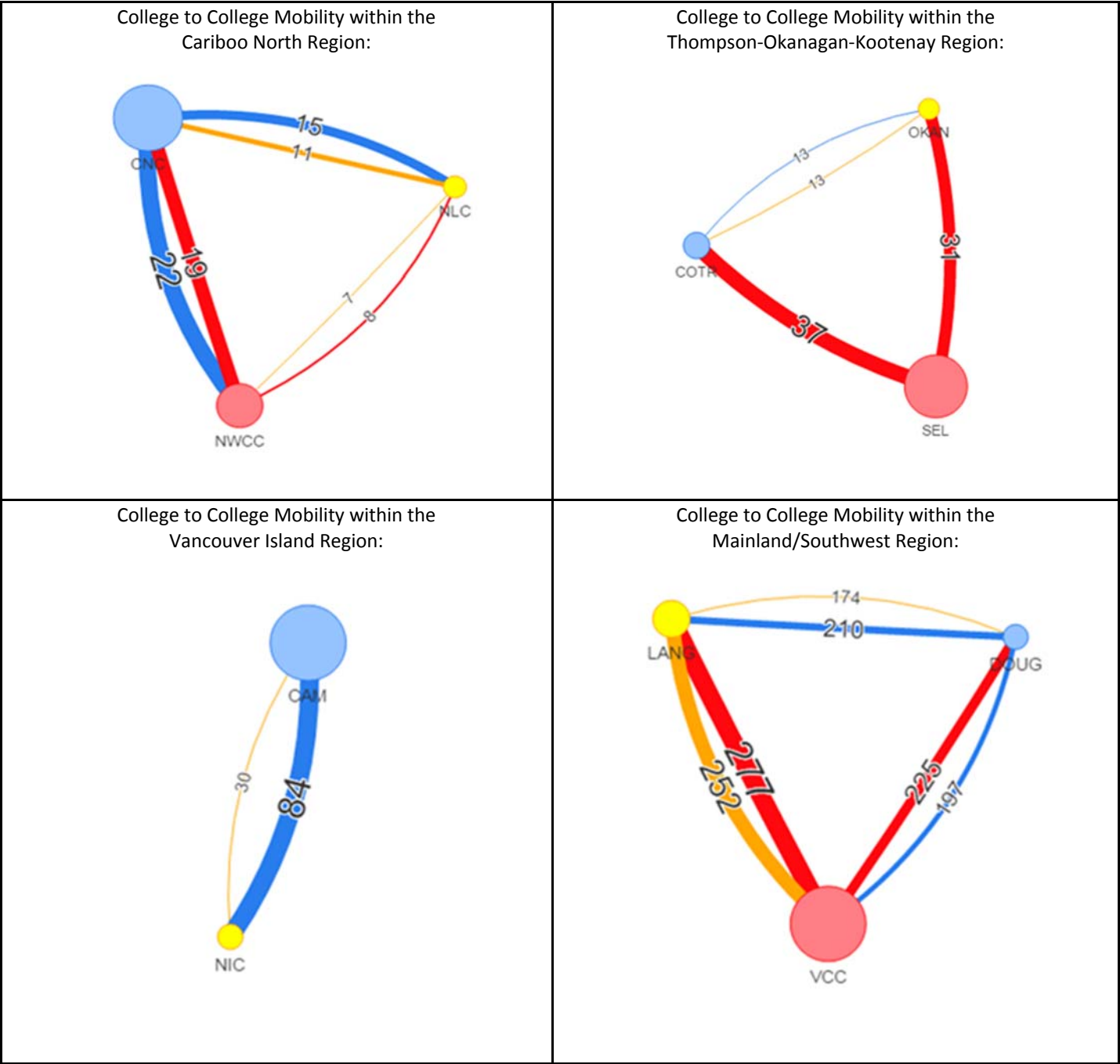


Figure 15b: Relative Volume of Mobile Students Switching Institutions within the College Sector, 2013/2014 to 2014/2015<sup>12</sup>



12. (a) Student flow direction is indicated by matching color of flow line to color of destination node. (b) Thickness of lines between sectors indicate number of mobile students between sectors. (c) Size of node indicates volume of students moving to the institution from within the region.

## Student Pathways Diagrams

The Student Transitions Project depicts the routes students take over a multi-year period in a series of Pathways Diagrams provided on the [Student Transitions Project](#) web site. These diagrams are available for each of B.C.'s 25 post-secondary institutions, each of the four regions and four sectors of B.C., and for the B.C. System overall (see [Figure 16](#)). For more information and interpretation of these pathways diagrams, please refer to the [Definitions](#) on this page.



### Definitions:

**Student mobility** is the movement of students (specifically registrants in post-secondary credit courses) from one B.C. public post-secondary institution to another.

Students take a variety of routes or **pathways** between institutions over time. When a student switches institutions, the student takes a **mobile student pathway**, otherwise the student takes a **non-mobile student pathway**.

The **student mobility rate** is the proportion of students who took a mobile pathway to their registration in a given year, expressed as a percentage of all students registered in that year.

**Mobile Student Pathways:** Depending on the timing and type of mobility, four different mobile pathways are possible.

- a) **Move** – Switch institutions by moving to an institution never attended before
- b) **Stopout Move** – Switch institutions by moving to an institution never attended before, but after a stop out period of non-registration.

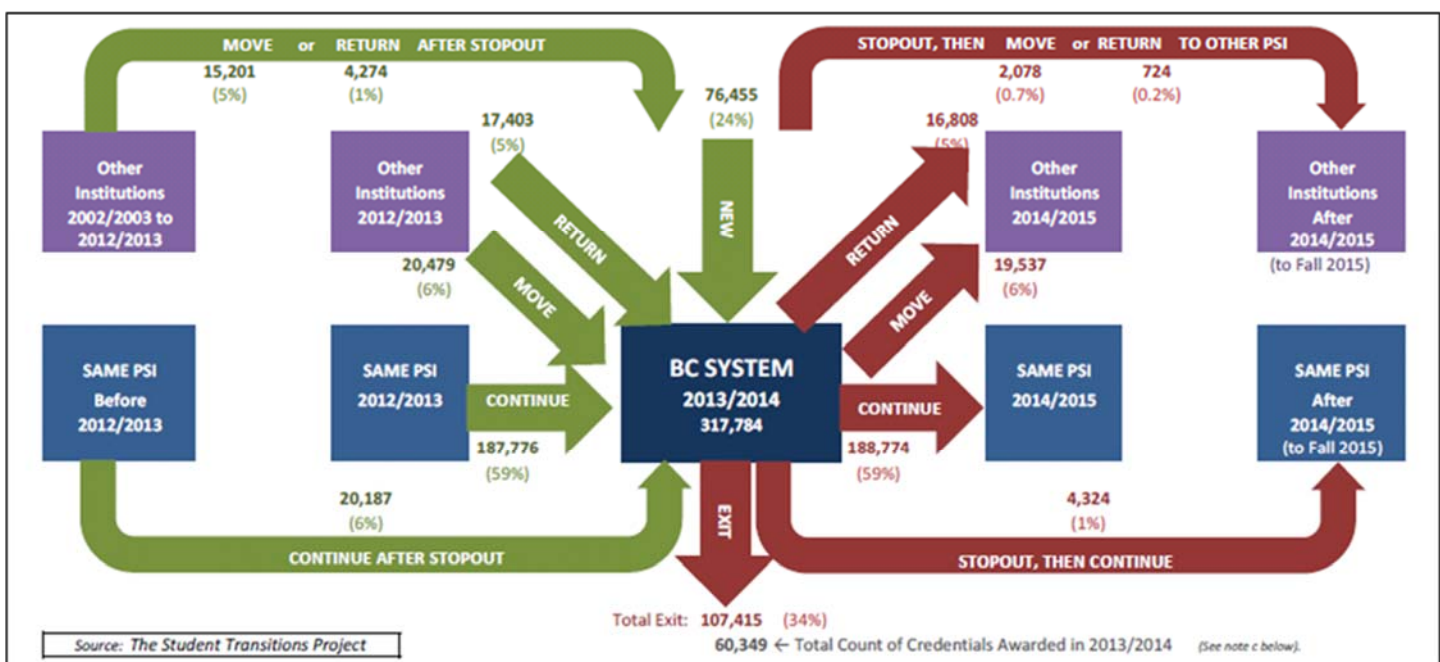
c) **Return** – Switch institutions by returning to an institution previously attended

d) **Stopout Return** – Switch institutions by returning to an institution previously attended, but after a stop out period of non-registration.

**Non-Mobile Student Pathways:** When students do not switch institutions, there are four other pathways they might have taken (or will take in the future).

- a) **New to STP** – New student to the STP with no previous record of registration (back to 2002/03) in any institution in the B.C. public post-secondary system.
- b) **Exit STP** – Left the B.C. public post-secondary system. There are no further record(s) of registration in the B.C. public post-secondary education system beyond this point in time (up to Fall 2011).
- c) **Continue** – Continue registration at the institution last attended in the previous time period.
- d) **Stopout Continue** – Continue at the institution last attended, but after a stop out period of non-registration. No other institutions were attended in the intervening period.

Figure 16: Student Pathways in the B.C. Public Post-Secondary Education System



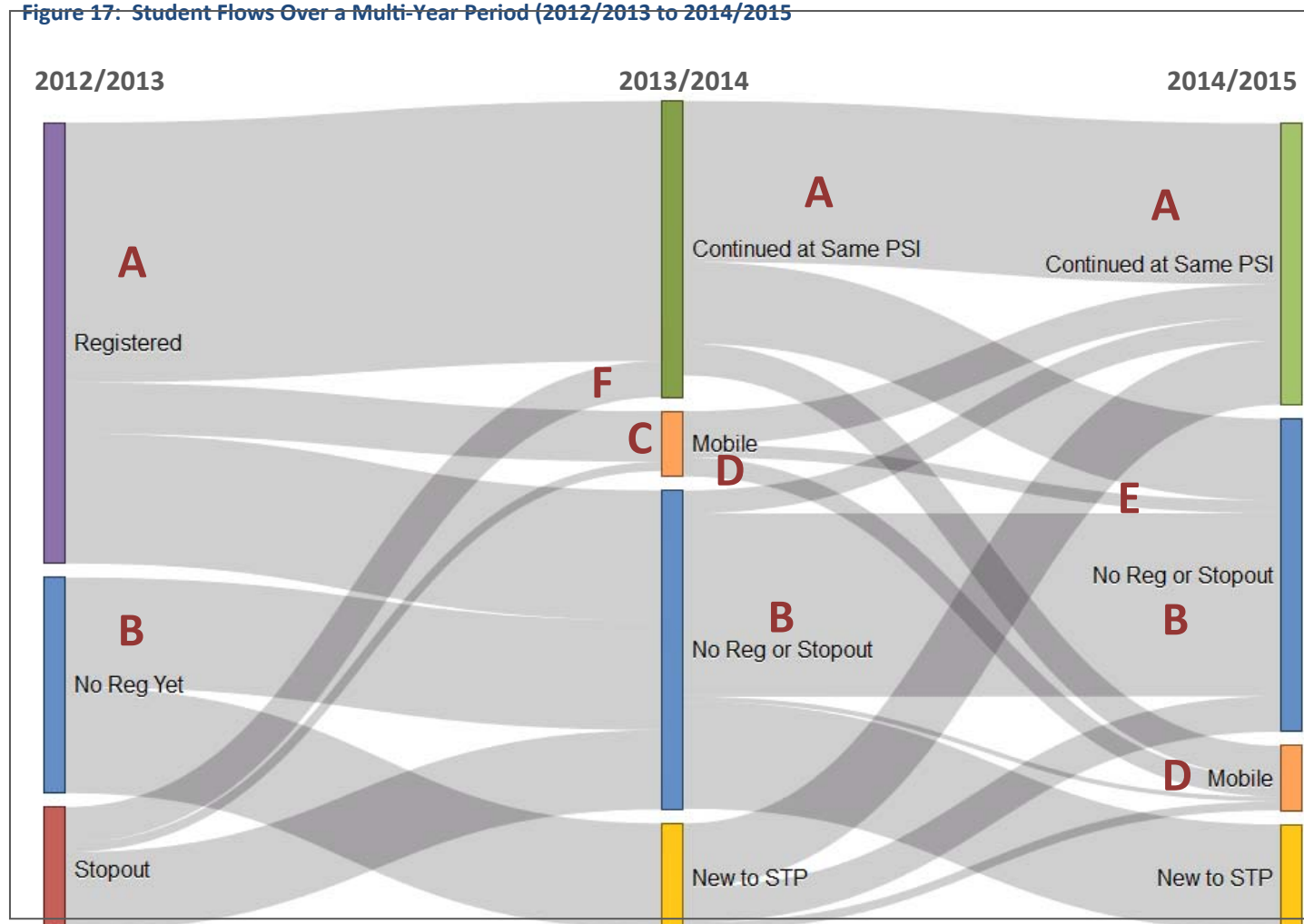


### Following Student Flows Over a Multi-Year Period

Students in the B.C. public post-secondary system flow in and out of various states of registration and non-registration over time. As shown in the 3-Year Registration State Sankey diagram<sup>13</sup> for 2012/2013 to 2014/2015, the dominant flow patterns between registration states are evident (see [Figure 17](#)):

- A. Registered students who continue at the same institution as the previous year provide the dominant flow pattern, representing about two-thirds of all registrants per year.
- B. Non-registrants are also common, representing about one-third of the previous year's headcount enrollment, as students exit or temporarily stop out of the education system.
- C. Mobile students who switch institutions represent a relatively small proportion (17%) of all student flows;
- D. Nearly one-third of mobile students in 2013/2014 switched institutions again in 2014/2015.
- E. About 20% of the students who switched institutions in 2013/2014 were no longer registered in 2014/2015.
- F. Approximately one-third of students who stopped out returned in the following year, primarily at the same institution they last attended, with 7% resuming their education at a different institution.

**Figure 17: Student Flows Over a Multi-Year Period (2012/2013 to 2014/2015)**



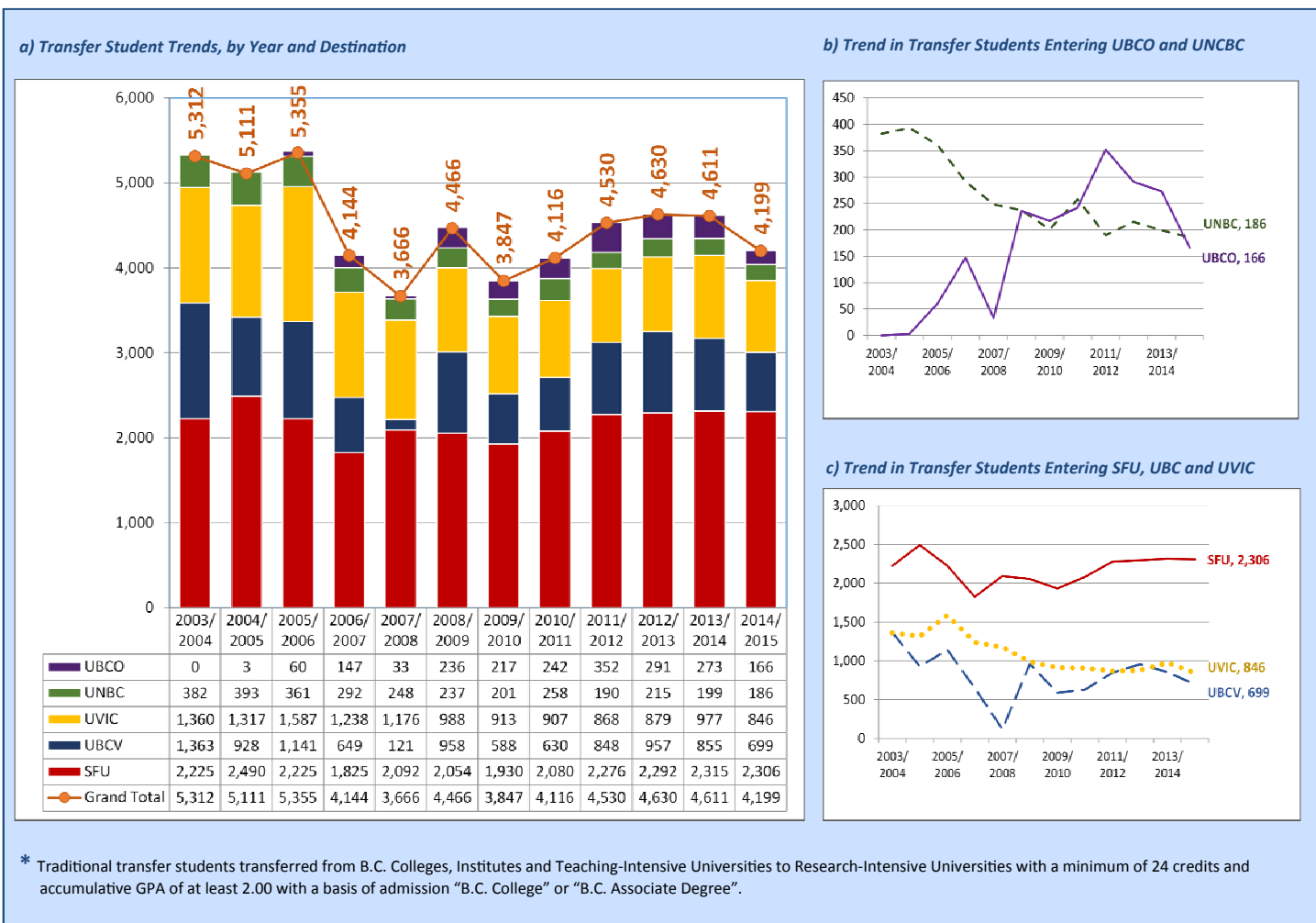
13. A Sankey diagram is a flow diagram in which the arrows are shown proportionally to the amount of flow. These diagrams are typically used to visualize the amount of flow between processes, but they are also useful for visualizing student flows.

## Traditional Transfer Students

The B.C. college transfer system has become more widely understood as a student mobility system because the traditional transfer pathway<sup>14</sup> from a B.C. college or institute to a B.C. research-intensive university is just one of the many routes that students may take through B.C.'s post-secondary system towards earning a bachelor's degree or other post-secondary credential or other personal education goals.

As shown in **Figure 18**, roughly 4,200 students took the traditional transfer pathway to a B.C. research-intensive university in academic year 2014/2015, down from the annual transfer volumes exceeding 5,000 students per year a decade ago.<sup>15</sup>

**Figure 18: Number of Traditional Transfers Students\* by Academic Year and Destination Research-Intensive University**



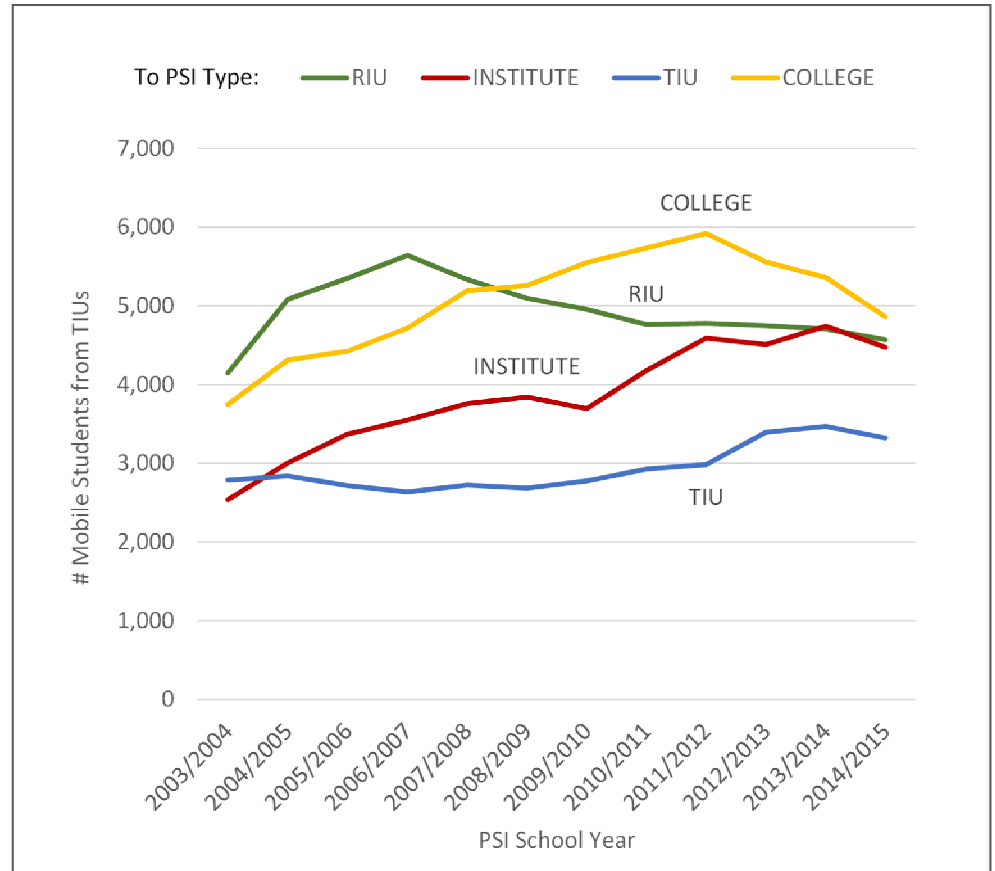
14. "Transfer students" have traditionally been defined as students who transferred to a research-intensive university (RIU) from a B.C. college, institute or teaching-intensive university with a minimum of 24 credits and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 with a basis of admission of B.C. College or B.C. Associate Degree.

15. The basis of admission (BOA) category is used to identify traditional college transfer students entering BC research-intensive universities. The STP2015 data used in this analysis includes submissions to the STP from UBCV and UBCO with a greater share of BOA="other" and smaller share of BOA="BC College" than previously submitted for the same time period. Therefore, the total number of traditional transfer students reported here is lower than previously reported for the time period up to and including 2012/2013.

## Trends in Mobile Students From Teaching-Intensive Universities

Given that numerous B.C. public post-secondary institutions became teaching-intensive universities several years ago, it may be of interest to the B.C. system to understand the impact these changes had on student mobility. As shown in **Figure 19**, the number of students switching from TIU's to RIU's has declined from a high of 5,600 students in 2006/2007 to about 4,600 students in 2014/2015. This may be an indication that students are staying at TIU's to complete their program, rather than transferring to RIUs.

Figure 19: Trend in Destinations of Mobile Students Leaving TIU's for Other Institutions



Notes: