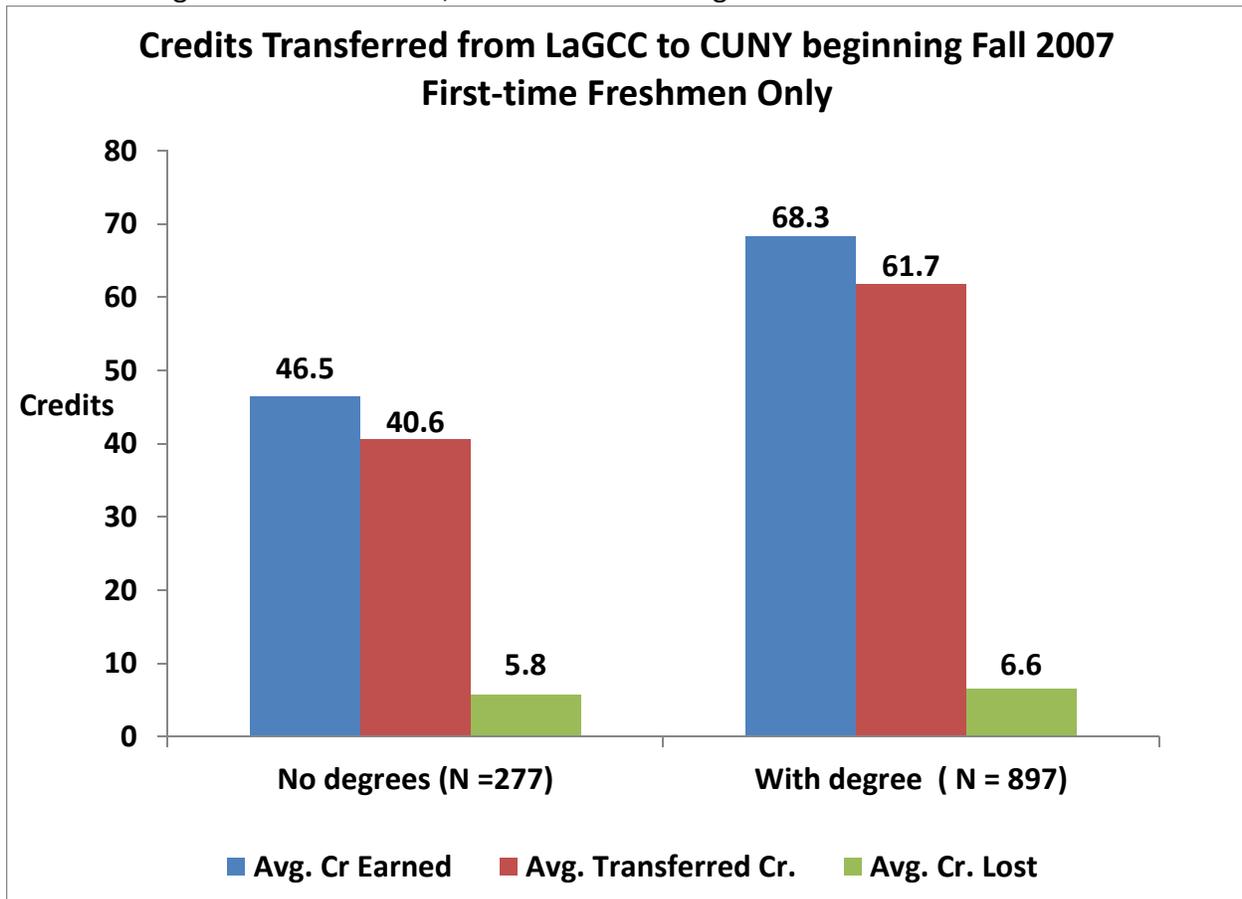


# The Loss of Credits When Transferring from LaGuardia to Other CUNY Colleges A Myth?

Qi-Jian Gau  
Nathan Dickmeyer  
Institutional Research & Assessment  
March 22, 2012

We looked at CUNY OIRA records of students who had transferred from LaGuardia to other CUNY colleges (both four-year and two-year) beginning Fall 2007. Because CUNY OIRA records do not allow us to identify the origin of transfer credits, we looked only at students who had no transfer credits while they were at LaGuardia (who began as first-time freshmen) and who began at the transferred-to college with no other college experience in between.

As shown in the graph below, LaGuardia students who transferred before earning their degree lost on average 5.8 of 46.5 credits, while those with degrees lost 6.6 of 68.3 credits.



The OIRA data is somewhat difficult to work with, because the original field indicating transferred credits is not updated. Nevertheless, there is a running field of total transfer credits that is updated. In several cases, it appeared that the student's credits did not transfer immediately, perhaps because the courses were outside of TIPPS. The updated field then

showed a higher number one or two semesters later. We checked this against our own data for students who transferred into LaGuardia and found that the updated field was usually more reliable.

It appears to us that our average transfer student loses two 3-credit courses of credit. Nevertheless, those with degrees transfer more than sixty credits on average, perhaps mostly limited by credit transfer ceilings, rather than objections to specific courses.