In 2006-2007, nearly 1,000 program-placed students at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) earned at least 45 credit hours and transferred to other colleges without receiving an Associate of Arts (A.A.) or Associate of Science (A.S.) degree. This Research Brief reviews the enrollment of these students in Student Development (SDV), Physical Education (PED), and Speech and Drama (SPD) courses. This document reveals that large percentages of these students never enrolled in SDV, PED, and SPD courses. As program placement can be an indicator of a student’s intent to graduate, this analysis is a first step in determining why program-placed students who transfer from NOVA after earning a significant number of credit hours are not completing certain courses and obtaining their degrees at NOVA. Other analyses related to this topic will be addressed in future documents.

Figure 1 displays the percentage of program-placed transfer students at NOVA who did not enroll in an SDV (Student Development) course before transferring to another college. Of the 961 students who transferred to other colleges in 2006-2007, 58% (561 of 961) never enrolled in an SDV course while attending NOVA.
Figure 2 presents the percentage of program-placed transfer students at NOVA who did not enroll in a PED (Physical Education) course before transferring to another college. As shown below, 48% (462 of 961) of these students never enrolled in a PED course while attending NOVA.

Figure 2. Percentage of 2006-07 Program-Placed Transfer Students in PED Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PED Enrollment Status</th>
<th>Program-Placed Transfer Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never Enrolled in PED</td>
<td>48.1% (462)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled in PED</td>
<td>51.9% (499)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3 shows that 43% (415 of 961) of program-placed transfer students never enrolled in an SPD (Speech and Drama) course before transferring from NOVA.

Figure 3. Percentage of 2006-07 Program-Placed Transfer Students in SPD Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPD Enrollment Status</th>
<th>Program-Placed Transfer Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never Enrolled in SPD</td>
<td>43.2% (415)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled in SPD</td>
<td>56.8% (546)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 4 displays the percentage of program-placed transfer students at NOVA who did not enroll in Student Development and/or Physical Education courses before transferring, as well as the percentage of students who enrolled in both of those courses while attending NOVA. As the figure shows, a majority (approximately 70% (663)) did not enroll in SDV and/or PED courses before transferring\textsuperscript{1}. Conversely, just over 30% (298 of 961) of these students were enrolled in both SDV and PED courses while attending NOVA.

**Figure 4. Percentage of 2006-07 Program-Placed Transfer Students in SDV and PED Courses**

![Bar Chart](chart1.png)

Figure 5 shows the percentage of program-placed students who did not enroll in Student Development, Physical Education, and/or Speech and Drama courses before transferring, as well as the percentage of students who enrolled in all three courses while attending NOVA. As shown in the figure, nearly 75% (706 of 961) of these students did not enroll in SDV, PED, and/or SPD courses\textsuperscript{2}. Only approximately 25% (255) enrolled in all three courses (SDV, PED, and SPD) while attending NOVA.

**Figure 5. Percentage of 2006-07 Program-Placed Transfer Students in SDV, PED, and SPD Courses**

![Bar Chart](chart2.png)

\textsuperscript{1} These students may have taken either an SDV or a PED course or neither course.

\textsuperscript{2} Within this group, students either took one of the courses, two of the courses, or none of the courses.
Summary

This Research Brief presents enrollment in Student Development, Physical Education, and Speech and Drama courses for students who earned at least 45 credit hours and transferred to other colleges without graduating from NOVA. For these students, findings show:

- 58% never enrolled in a Student Development (SDV) course
- 48% never enrolled in a Physical Education (PED) course
- 43% never enrolled in a Speech and Drama (SPD) course
- 69% never enrolled in SDV and/or PED courses
- 74% never enrolled in SDV, PED, and/or SPD courses

Student Development, Physical Education, and Speech and Drama courses in particular were reviewed because questions are repeatedly raised about any possible links between enrollment in these courses and students choosing to transfer without a degree. Analyses of links between enrollment in other courses and students transferring before graduating will be addressed in future studies.