

**According to admission statistics, the number of students who transferred from state community colleges to campuses in the University of North Carolina system increased by more than 34 percent between 2000 and 2005.**

The increase occurred as overall enrollment at North Carolina's community colleges grew 5.9 percent. Community colleges are increasingly being seen as a more economical way to begin higher education. Starting at a community college can also help students adapt to a four-year college, according to experts.