Student Right-to-Know

What is Student Right-To-Know?
Student Right-To-Know is a federal law that requires all colleges and universities to disclose certain information to students. This handout provides the information that a college must provide to students on graduation rates and transfer-out rates for full-time students seeking degrees at Mountwest Community and Technical College.

What is a graduation rate and what is a transfer-out rate?
Federal regulations specify how to calculate the graduation and transfer rates. The rates come from a study of Mountwest students who started at the college in the fall of 2012. The study includes all first-time students who enrolled full-time that fall and were seeking to earn a degree, diploma or certificate at the college. The graduation rate is the percentage of these students who graduated from Mountwest within three years. The transfer-out rate is the percentage of these students who did not graduate from Mountwest, but instead transferred to another college or university within three years.

What do I need to know about these rates?
These rates do not report on all students at Mountwest. The 492 first-time, full-time students in the study were about 19 percent of all students enrolled in fall of 2012.

What are the graduation and transfer-out rates for Mountwest students and how do they compare to rates for other colleges?
• The graduation rate for Mountwest was 16 percent.
• The transfer-out rate for Mountwest was 6 percent.
• The combination of the graduation rate and the transfer-out rate for Mountwest was 22 percent. The national average combined rate for our official IPEDS comparison group was 33 percent.

Why don’t more Mountwest students graduate or transfer in 3 years?
• Since Mountwest has an “open door” mission, many new students need to take “developmental” courses to improve their reading, writing or math skills before taking other college courses;
• Students who switch from full-time to part-time enrollment or “stop out” for one or more semesters are more likely to take more than three years to graduate;
• Some students take jobs before they graduate;
• Other students delay their education for personal, family or financial reasons.