The Graduate Transfer Experience Report



Published in February 2019

Bergen Community College | Center for Institutional Effectiveness

Table of Contents

Executive Summary **2**

The Survey 2

The Respondents 2

Current Enrollment Status 3

The Transfer Experience 3

Introduction **4**

Section I: The Respondents **4**

Degrees Received from Bergen 4

Transfer Institutions 6

Transfer Degrees 7

Current Enrollment Status 8

Section II: The Transfer Experience **9**

Credits Accepted by Transfer Institutions 9

Credits Needed to Complete Transfer Degree 11

General Education Requirements 11

Accepted Bergen Courses 12

Section III: Additional Comments **13**

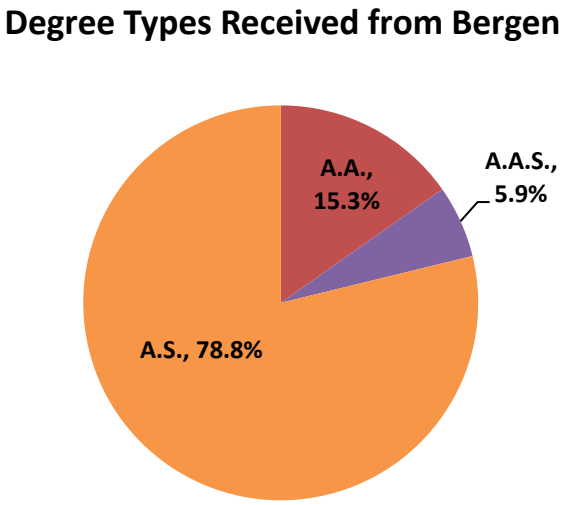
Section IV: The Survey Questions **15**

Executive Summary

The Survey

- A 13-question survey was sent to 1,214 2018[1] graduates of Bergen Community College who transferred to a four-year institution.
- A web link to an online survey was sent out to the students' school and personal email addresses. One hundred and eighteen responses were collected (9.7% response rate).
- The students were asked questions regarding their current institution, their current degree program, the number of credits they transferred from Bergen, the number of credits they have left to complete at their transfer institution, general education requirements, and any courses that were not accepted by their transfer institution.

The Respondents



- Of the 118 respondents, most transferred with an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree (78.8%). Fifteen percent transferred with an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree, and nearly 6% transferred with an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree.
- The most popular degree program that respondents graduated from before transferring was the A.S. in Professional Studies, General Curriculum (44 graduates, 37.3%).
- One hundred and three respondents (87.3%) transferred to an in-state institution. Fifteen respondents (12.7%) transferred out of state.
- The most frequently transferred-to institutions were Montclair State University, William Paterson University, and Rutgers University – Newark.

Transfer Institution Location	N	%
In-State	103	87.3%
Out-of-State	15	12.7%
Total	**118**	**100.0%**

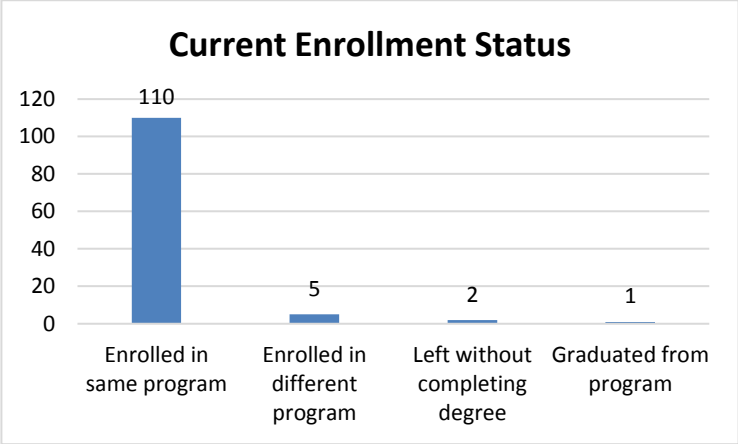
Top Transfer Institutions	N	%[2]
Montclair State University	29	24.6%
William Paterson University	18	15.3%
Rutgers University - Newark	11	9.3%

[1] 2018 graduation dates include August 2017, December 2017, and May 2018.

[2] Percent out of all transfer colleges.

Current Enrollment Status

Most respondents were still enrolled at their transfer institution in the same major at the time of the survey (110 respondents, 93.2%). Five students were still enrolled at their transfer institution but had switched majors (4.2%). Two students had left without completing a degree (1.7%), and one student had graduated (0.8%).

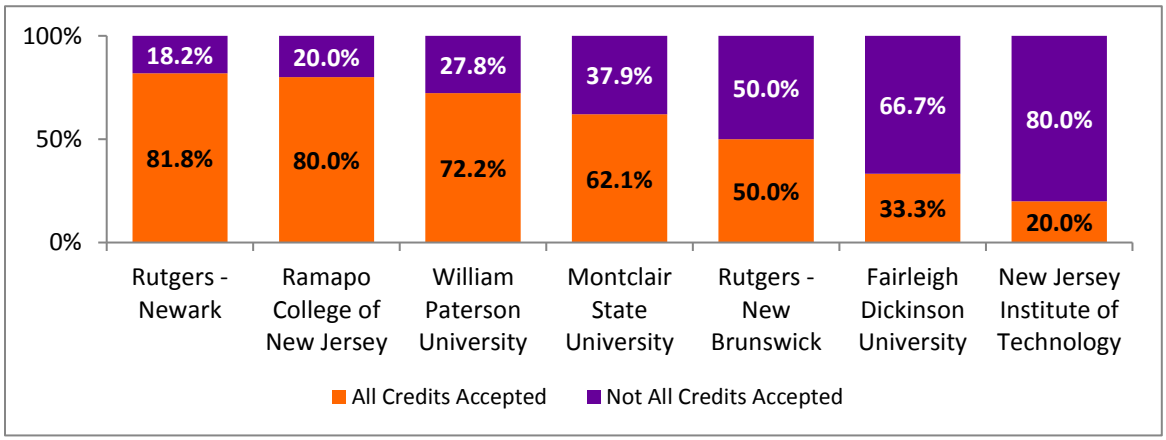


Graduates' original programs of study at Bergen were compared with the program in which they enrolled at their transfer institution. Respondents from the Professional Studies, General Curriculum, A.S. degree program transferred most frequently into a Psychology (8, 18.2%) or Nursing program (6, 13.6%), but generally Professional Studies graduates were spread out into all areas. All Business Administration, A.S. graduates transferred into business-related programs. They either went into Accounting (2, 18.2%), Business Administration (4, 36.4%), Finance (1, 9.1%), or Marketing (4, 36.4%). Eighty-three percent of the students who graduated from Bergen with a degree in Accounting pursued a degree in Accounting at their transfer institution.

The Transfer Experience

Seventy-four transfer students (62.7%) reported that all the credits they had earned at Bergen Community College were accepted by their transfer institution. Sixty-two percent of in-state transfers had all their credits accepted by their transfer institution while 67% of out-of-state transfers had all their credits accepted. When looking at transfer degrees, 90% of graduates who transferred into a Nursing degree program reported that all their credits were accepted, while 84.6% of Business Administration transfers had all their credits accepted by their transfer institution.

The percentage of accepted credits was broken out by transfer institution to see which of the top transfer destinations more frequently accepted all credits from Bergen. Eighty-two percent of respondents who transferred to Rutgers University – Newark had all their transfer credits accepted. Only 20% of respondents who transferred to the New Jersey Institute of Technology had all their transfer credits accepted.



Introduction

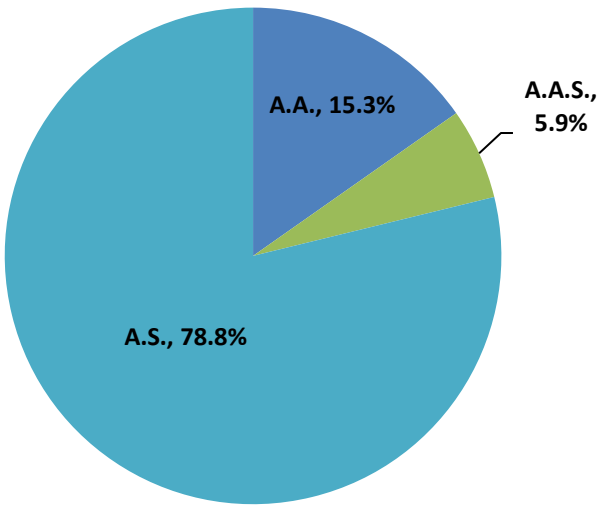
In December 2018, a 13-question survey was distributed to 2018[3] graduates of Bergen Community College who had transferred to a four-year institution, according to data from the National Student Clearing House. The goal of this questionnaire was to garner feedback regarding the transfer experience of Bergen graduates. In total, the survey was sent to 1,214 graduates who received an Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Fine Arts (A.F.A.), Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.), or an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree. A link to an online survey was sent to the students' Bergen and personal email addresses and 118 responses were collected (9.7% response rate). These responses were then analyzed, and the findings are presented in this report.

Section I: The Respondents

Degrees Received from Bergen

Program data was collected from Colleague, Bergen's student information system, by matching students' 7-digit identification numbers. Figure 1 below shows the breakdown of Bergen degree types and Table 1 shows the breakdown of the specific degrees earned by the respondents. Overall, 93 respondents (78.8%) graduated with an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, 18 respondents (15.3%) received an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree, and 7 respondents (5.9%) received an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree.

Figure 1. Degree Types Received from Bergen



As shown below in Table 1, the most popular program was the A.S. in Professional Studies, General Curriculum, from which 44 respondents (37.3%) graduated. Following in popularity, 11 respondents (9.3%) received a degree in Business Administration, A.S., and 6 respondents (5.1%) graduated from Accounting, A.S. as well as Liberal Arts, General Curriculum, A.A.

[3] 2017 graduation dates include August 2017, December 2017, and May 2018.

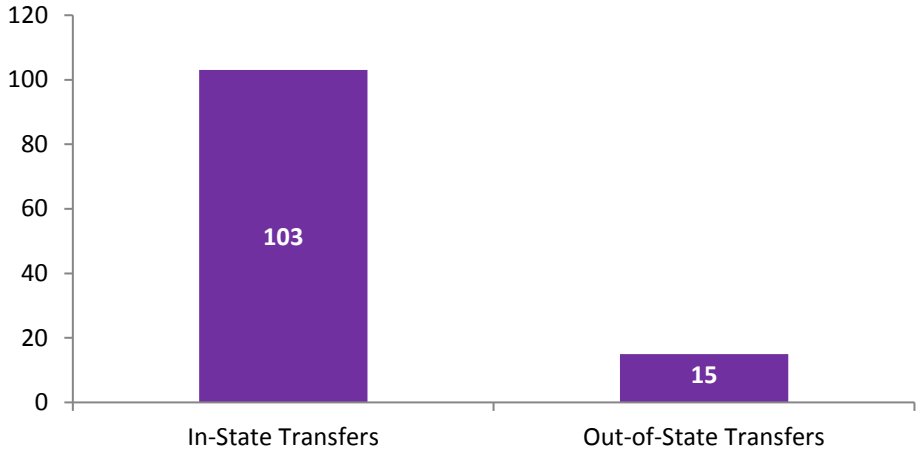
Table 1. Degrees Received from Bergen

Degree Name and Type	N	%
Professional Studies, General Curriculum, A.S.	44	37.3%
Business Administration, A.S.	11	9.3%
Accounting, A.S.	6	5.1%
Liberal Arts, General Curriculum, A.A.	6	5.1%
Psychology, A.A.	6	5.1%
Natural Sciences and Math, General Curriculum, A.S.	5	4.2%
Criminal Justice, A.S.	4	3.4%
Management, A.S.	4	3.4%
Nursing, A.A.S.	4	3.4%
Computer Science, A.S.	3	2.5%
Information Technology, A.S.	3	2.5%
Biology, A.S.	2	1.7%
Education, A.S.	2	1.7%
Social Work, A.S.	2	1.7%
Sociology, A.A.	2	1.7%
Aviation Operations, A.S.	1	0.8%
Broadcasting, A.S.	1	0.8%
Dental Hygiene, A.A.S.	1	0.8%
Early Childhood Education, A.S.	1	0.8%
Exercise Science, A.S.	1	0.8%
History, A.A.	1	0.8%
Hospitality, A.S.	1	0.8%
Information Technology, A.A.S.	1	0.8%
Marketing, A.S.	1	0.8%
Nonprofit Management, A.S.	1	0.8%
Paralegal, A.A.S.	1	0.8%
Philosophy, A.A.	1	0.8%
Theatre Arts - Acting, A.A.	1	0.8%
Theatre Arts - Dance, A.A.	1	0.8%
Total	**118**	**100.0%**

Transfer Institutions

Respondents were asked to identify the institution they transferred to after graduating from Bergen. Most graduates (103, 87.3%) transferred within the state of New Jersey. Fifteen respondents (12.7%) transferred to an out-of-state institution (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Number of In-State vs. Out-of-State Transfers



Shown in Table 2, the in-state institutions that accepted the most transfers were Montclair State University (29, 28.2%), William Paterson University (18, 17.5%), and Rutgers University – Newark (11, 10.7%). For those who transferred out of state, top institutions were Baruch College, Columbia University, and The City College of New York.

Table 2. Transfer Institutions

In-State Transfer Institutions	N	%
Montclair State University	29	28.2%
William Paterson University	18	17.5%
Rutgers - Newark	11	10.7%
Ramapo College of New Jersey	10	9.7%
Fairleigh Dickinson University	9	8.7%
Rutgers - New Brunswick	6	5.8%
New Jersey Institute of Technology	5	4.9%
Felician University	3	2.9%
Caldwell University	2	1.9%
Seton Hall University	2	1.9%
Stockton University	2	1.9%
Thomas Edison State University	2	1.9%
Bloomfield College	1	1.0%
Rowan University	1	1.0%
Stevens Institute of Technology	1	1.0%
Thomas Edison State University	1	1.0%
Total	**103**	**100.0%**

Out-of-State Transfer Institutions	N	%
Baruch College	2	13.3%
Columbia University	2	13.3%
The City College of New York	2	13.3%
Berkeley College	1	6.7%
Boston University	1	6.7%
Fordham University	1	6.7%
Marymount Manhattan College	1	6.7%
Pace University	1	6.7%
Purdue University	1	6.7%
Queens University of Charlotte	1	6.7%
The Ohio State University	1	6.7%
Vaughn College	1	6.7%
Total	**15**	**100.0%**

Transfer Degrees

In order to show how degrees awarded at Bergen Community College aligned with the degrees pursued at transfer institutions, the top five Bergen degrees were examined. The students were asked to provide their transfer degrees, which were later grouped into 14 categories. Table 3 shows the crosswalk between the top 5 Bergen degrees and the 14 transfer degree categories.

Respondents from the Professional Studies, General Curriculum, A.S. degree program transferred most frequently into a Psychology (8, 18.2%) or Nursing program (6, 13.6%), but generally Professional Studies graduates were spread out into all areas. All Business Administration, A.S. graduates transferred into business-related programs. They either went into Accounting (2, 18.2%), Business Administration (4, 36.4%), Finance (1, 9.1%), or Marketing (4, 36.4%). Eighty-three percent of the students who graduated from Bergen with a degree in Accounting pursued a degree in Accounting at their transfer institution. Graduates of the Liberal Arts, General Curriculum, A.A. program transferred to Communications, Liberal Arts, Marketing, Psychology, and Social Sciences. Every student who received a Psychology, A.A. degree transferred into a Psychology major at their transfer institution.

Table 3. Crosswalk between Bergen Degree and Transfer Institution Degree

14 Transfer Degree Categories	Professional Studies, General Curriculum, A.S.		Business Administration, A.S.		Accounting, A.S.		Liberal Arts, General Curriculum, A.A.		Psychology, A.A.	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Accounting	3	6.8%	2	18.2%	5	83.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Business Administration	3	6.8%	4	36.4%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Communications	2	4.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%
Education	4	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Finance	1	2.3%	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Information Technology	2	4.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Liberal Arts	3	6.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%
Marketing	1	2.3%	4	36.4%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%
Natural Sciences and Math	3	6.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Nursing	6	13.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	3	6.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Psychology	8	18.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	33.3%	6	100.0%
Public Health	4	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Social Sciences	1	2.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%
Total	**44**	**100.0%**	**11**	**100.0%**	**6**	**100.0%**	**6**	**100.0%**	**6**	**100.0%**

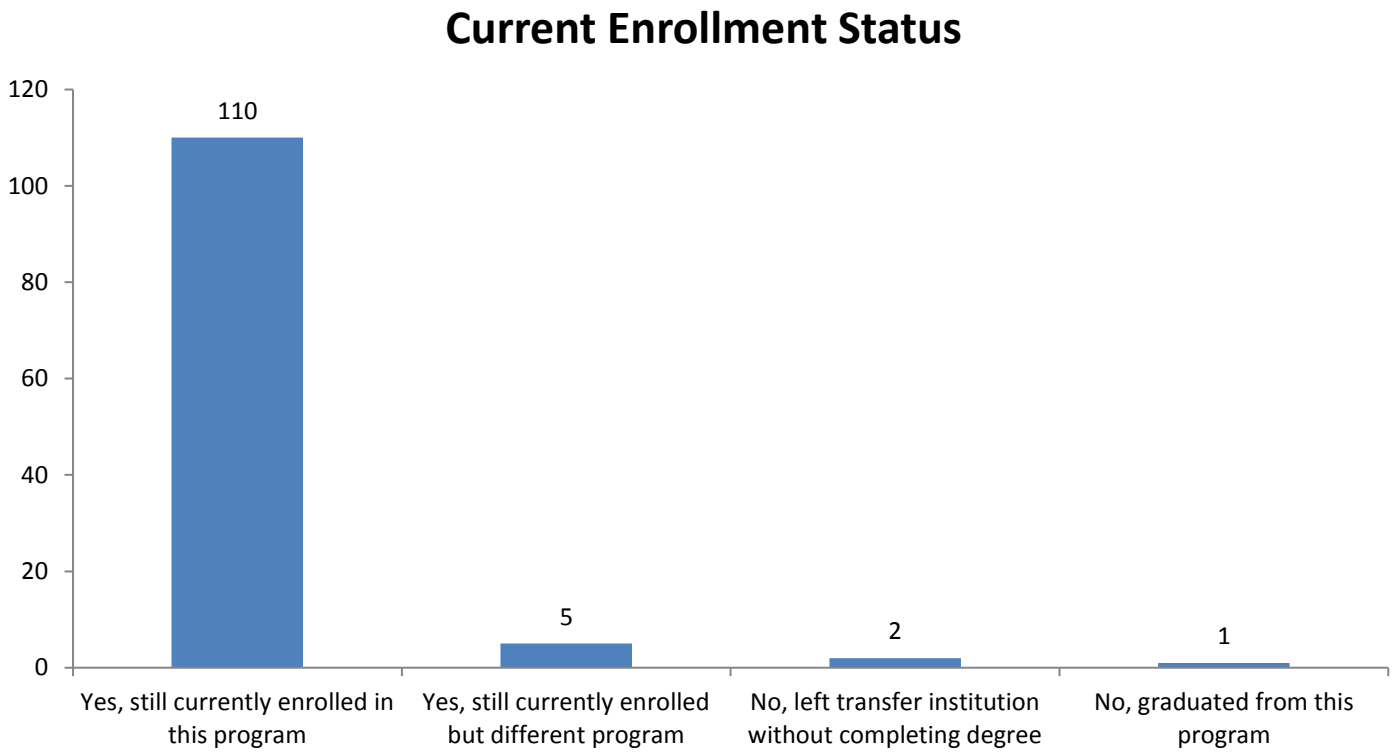
Current Enrollment Status

Students were asked about their current enrollment status at their transfer institution, to determine whether they were still enrolled in the same program, graduated, left without completing a degree, or still enrolled, but switched to a different program. Shown in Table 4, the majority (110, 93.2%) stated that they were still enrolled in the same program at their transfer institution. Five respondents (4.2%) stated that they had enrolled in a different program at their transfer institution, two respondents (1.7%) left without completing a degree, and one student (0.8%) had already graduated from their program at the time of survey administration.

Table 4. Current Enrollment Status

Status	N	%
Enrolled in same program	110	93.2%
Enrolled in different program	5	4.2%
Left without completing degree	2	1.7%
Graduated from program	1	0.8%
Total	**118**	**100.0%**

Figure 3. Current Enrollment Status



Section II: The Transfer Experience

Credits Accepted by Transfer Institutions

Respondents were asked to report if all their general education course credits and non-general education course credits transferred to their new institution.

If respondents answered 'yes' to both questions, all their credits had been accepted, if respondents answered 'no' to one of or both questions, some of their credits did not transfer.

The acceptance of credits was broken out by in-state and out-of-state transfer institutions. As shown in Table 5, overall, 62.7% of respondents had all their Bergen credits accepted at their transfer institution. Exactly two-thirds of the out-of-state transfer students had all their credits accepted.

Table 5. Credits Accepted by In-State vs. Out-of-State Institutions

Institution Type	All Credits Accepted		Not all Credits Accepted		Total
	N	%	N	%	N
In-State	64	62.1%	39	37.9%	103
Out-of-State	10	66.7%	5	33.3%	15
Total	**74**	**62.7%**	**44**	**37.3%**	**118**

Table 6 and Figure 4 show the percentage of accepted credits broken out by transfer institution to show which of the top transfer schools more frequently accepted all credits from Bergen. Eighty-two percent of respondents who transferred to Rutgers – Newark had all their transfer credits accepted. Ramapo College of New Jersey and William Paterson University also had high levels of credit acceptance (80.0% and 72.2% respectively).

Table 6. Credits Accepted at Transfer Institution

Transfer Institution	All Credits Accepted		Not All Credits Accepted		Total
	N	%	N	%	N
Rutgers - Newark	9	81.8%	2	18.2%	11
Ramapo College of New Jersey	8	80.0%	2	20.0%	10
William Paterson University	13	72.2%	5	27.8%	18
Montclair State University	18	62.1%	11	37.9%	29
Rutgers - New Brunswick	3	50.0%	3	50.0%	6
Fairleigh Dickinson University	3	33.3%	6	66.7%	9
New Jersey Institute of Technology	1	20.0%	4	80.0%	5

Figure 4. Credits Accepted at Transfer Institution

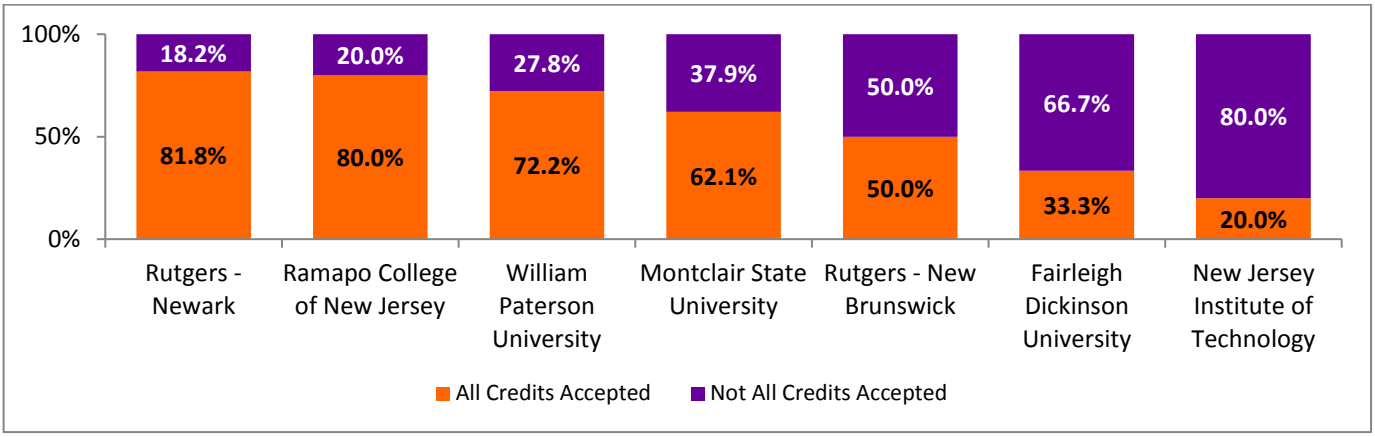


Table 7 shows the acceptance of credits broken out by transfer degree enrollment categories (not including the 'Other' degree category). Ninety percent of graduates who transferred into a Nursing degree program at their transfer institution reported that all their credits transferred, while 84.6% of Business Administration transfers had all their credits accepted by their transfer institution. Only 30.0% of respondents who went into an Accounting program reported having all their credits accepted.

Table 7. Credits Accepted by Transfer Degree Category

Transfer Degree Categories	All Credits Accepted		Not All Credits Accepted		Total
	N	%	N	%	N
Nursing	9	90.0%	1	10.0%	10
Business Administration	11	84.6%	2	15.4%	13
Psychology	14	77.8%	4	22.2%	18
Communications	4	66.7%	2	33.3%	6
Finance	2	66.7%	1	33.3%	3
Natural Sciences and Math	6	66.7%	3	33.3%	9
Public Health	6	66.7%	3	33.3%	9
Education	3	60.0%	2	40.0%	5
Social Sciences	5	50.0%	5	50.0%	10
Liberal Arts	2	40.0%	3	60.0%	5
Information Technology	3	33.3%	6	66.7%	9
Marketing	2	33.3%	4	66.7%	6
Accounting	3	30.0%	7	70.0%	10
Total	**74**	**62.7%**	**44**	**37.3%**	**118**

Table 8 shows the acceptance of credits broken out by the top five Bergen degrees. Eighty-three percent of Psychology, A.A. graduates had all their credits accepted at their transfer institution.

Table 8. Credits Accepted by Bergen Degree Received, Top Five Degrees

Bergen Degree	All Credits Accepted		Not All Credits Accepted		Total
	N	%	N	%	N
Psychology, A.A.	5	83.3%	1	16.7%	6
Professional Studies, General Curriculum, A.S.	29	65.9%	15	34.1%	44
Business Administration, A.S.	6	54.5%	5	45.5%	11
Liberal Arts, General Curriculum, A.A.	3	50.0%	3	50.0%	6
Accounting, A.S.	2	33.3%	4	66.7%	6

Credits Needed to Complete Transfer Degree

The students were asked "At your four-year transfer institution, how many **total** credits are required to complete your degree?" In response, students reported that their four-year degrees consisted of anywhere between 120 and 200 credits with an average reported amount of 125 credits.

As a follow-up, they were then asked, "Approximately how many credits, completed at Bergen, were accepted by your transfer institution?" In response, students reported that their four-year institutions accepted anywhere between 24 and 160 credits with an average reported amount of 60 credits.

These reported amounts are consistent with the consensus that a four-year degree takes around 120 credits and students leave Bergen with around 60 transferrable credits.

General Education Requirements

Respondents were asked if all the General Education courses that they had taken at Bergen Community College were accepted by their transfer institution. Ninety-seven respondents (86.6%) stated that all their General Education course credits successfully transferred to their transfer institution, as Table 9 shows.

Table 9. General Education Course Credits Accepted

General Education Course Credits	N	%
All Gen. Ed Credits Accepted	97	86.6%
Not All Gen. Ed Credits Accepted	15	13.4%
Total	**112**	**100.0%**

Those who specified that not all their General Education courses had been accepted were asked to specifically list any rejected courses. Seven institutions had rejected General Education courses from fifteen respondents. In examining Table 10, patterns begin to emerge. Three of the nine students who transferred to Fairleigh Dickinson University reported having their COM-100 credits rejected. Neither respondent who transferred to Columbia University had their WRT-101 credits accepted and NJIT rejected credits from History courses.

Table 10. General Education Courses Rejected by Transfer Institution

Transfer Institution	Rejected Course(s)
Caldwell University	INF-103: Introduction to Programming (Python), INF-236: Java Programming
Columbia University	WRT-201: English Composition II, MAT-130: Contemporary Math
	Literature and English Composition Courses
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Communications Courses
	COM-100: Speech Communication
	COM-100: Speech Communication, PHR-101: Intro to Philosophy
Montclair State University	LAN-170: American Sign Language I
	The credits that didn't transfer were because they only accepted a certain amount of transferred credits
New Jersey Institute of Technology	HIS-106: Modern Europe to the French Revolution
	HIS-101: Western Civilization to the Reformation
Ramapo College of New Jersey	Dental Hygiene Courses
Rutgers - Newark	WRT-101: English Composition I

Accepted Bergen Courses

In addition, respondents were asked to report if any Non-General Education courses were rejected by their transfer institution. Seventy-nine respondents (70.5%) reported that all their Non-General Education courses were accepted, as shown in Table 11.

Table 11. Non-General Education Credits Accepted

Non-General Education Course Credits	N	%
All Non-Gen. Ed Credits Accepted	79	70.5%
Not All Non-Gen. Ed Credits Accepted	33	29.5%
Total	**112**	**100.0%**

If respondents stated that some of their Non-General Education courses were rejected by their institution, they were asked to provide the specific courses that were rejected. Table 12 shows these results. Despite being Bergen's top transfer institution, Montclair State University rejected several Non-General Education courses. One student reported having three different courses rejected by Montclair. NJIT did not accept INF courses from two separate students. A few students expressed that once the transfer institution had already accepted 60 credits, all other courses taken at Bergen were rejected.

Table 12. Non-General Education Courses Rejected by Transfer Institution

Transfer Institution	Rejected Course(s)
Boston University	PSY-110: Psychology of Sexuality
Columbia University	Not all were accepted due to strict standards
Fairleigh Dickinson University	MAT-150: Statistics I
Montclair State University	BUS-233: Business Law I
	Biology Courses
	PHY-114: Meteorology
	CRJ-101: Introduction to Criminal Justice, PHY-113: Geology, BIO-108: Intro to Environmental Biology
	PSY-106: Developmental Psychology: Lifespan
	ACC-120: Computerized Accounting
New Jersey Institute of Technology	INF-103: Introduction to Programming (Python)
	INF-101: Introduction to Information Technology
Rutgers - New Brunswick	I had more than 60 credits completed
	MAT-150: Statistics I
Rutgers - Newark	PTK Seminar Course
Seton Hall University	I graduated with 65 credits from Bergen, but only 60 would be accepted, so the excess class wasn't accepted.
The City College of New York	CHM-100: Introduction to Chemistry
	BIO-109: Anatomy and Physiology I, PHY-111: Astronomy, BIO-211: Intro to Bioinformatics
William Paterson University	Math Courses and Writing Courses
	BIO-210: Introducton to Biotechnology

Section III: Additional Comments

Respondents were asked to "provide any additional comments you may have regarding your transfer experience between Bergen Community College and your current institution." Twenty-two students left additional comments. They are transcribed below verbatim.

1. They don't accept python from other universities
2. They accepted all of my credits, but I was only allowed to use a handful towards my bachelors degree.
3. The transfer workshops held on campus were essential in my preparation process. They provided a lot of good general information to be aware of.
4. Students need more information to transfer they need more access to consular to advice on the future steps they need.
5. Some of my courses transferred, but counted towards other credits such as electives or non-major coursework, so the college made me retake a similar course on their campus
6. Not mentally prepared for four year school. Accounting classes and what was taught in them didn't help the transfer go any easier. I will probably have to switch majors as my accounting classes are dropping in grades
7. My transfer experience to Ramapo College of New Jersey from Bergen Community College was extremely easy. All 88 credits were accepted thanks to the transfer program they share together. Because of this program, I only need to spend 2 semesters at RCNJ to complete my BSN degree and will be graduating this May. Thank you Bergen!
8. It wasn't as annoying as I originally thought it would be.
9. It was seamless, very efficient, very fair
10. It was a smooth transfer but i wish i had more guidance from bergens part like helping me with transfer information and credit information before taking classes
11. It was a relatively easy transfer
12. I love Montclair State University. I was accepted on Instant Decision Day and they said definitely coming from Bergen was a help. I had a high GPA (3.9) and good work ethics --something that is common for students coming from Bergen.
13. i like Bergen Community college better than my current school.
14. Great school, appreciate all the professors I took in the program and for Gen Ed's.
15. GET YOUR ASSOCIATES DEGREE BEFORE TRANSFERRING. It makes the whole process way easier in regards to credits.
16. Felician University made the transfer experience easy. I transferred into the non traditional adult degree completion program and I am graduating May 2019
17. Bergen's counseling center is very unorganized and Felician is always organized and helpful
18. Bergen was wonderful. The education received left me a little short of NJITs standards but well above Caldwell U standards. My degree from Bergen was full enough to secure an internship at a CPA firm which developed into a career with them as a Support Tech. And then a recent internal promotion to Business Analyst.
19. Bergen did its job. My problems with my transfer experience lie with Montclair.
20. Bergen community college prepared me not only for a 4 year institution, but also for the real world.

21. Bergen Community College was a great college to start at and I recommend it. If Bergen offered Bachelors degrees I would still be attending. The transfer process on Bergen's end was easy.
22. As a transfer student BCC was good step to have college core experience. Now I am focusing what I am taking major and minor. BCC experience more important to me to push forward.

Section IV: The Survey Questions

1. Please enter your 7-digit student ID, provided to you in your e-mail survey invitation.
2. After leaving Bergen, in which four-year institution did you enroll?
3. In what type of degree did you enroll at your transfer institution?
    a. BA
    b. BS
    c. MA
    d. MS
4. In What type of program did you enroll at you transfer institution? (e.g., Accounting, Business Administration, Sociology, etc.)
5. Are you still enrolled in this program?
    a. Yes, I am still currently enrolled in this program.
    b. No, I have graduated from this program.
    c. No, I have left my transfer institution without completing a degree.
    d. No, I am at the same institution but have switched to a different program (please identify below).
6. At your four-year transfer institution, how many TOTAL credits are required to complete your degree?
7. Approximately how many credits, completed at Bergen, were accepted by your transfer institution?
8. Did your Success 101 (IST-123) course transfer to your four-year institution?
9. Did ALL of the General Education course requirements you completed at Bergen transfer to your four-year institution?
    a. Yes
    b. No
10. If you selected 'No' in response to Question 9:
    Which General Education courses did not transfer, please specify, if known (Ex: COM-100 OR Speech Communication)
11. Did all of the additional, Non-General Education courses you completed at Bergen transfer to your four-year institution?
    a. Yes
    b. No
12. If you selected 'No' in response to Question 10:
    Which Non-General Education courses did not transfer, please specify, if known (Ex: BUS-101 OR Introduction to Business)
13. Please use the space below to provide any additional comments you may have regarding your transfer experience between Bergen Community College and your current institution.