



TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS BRIEF

BIENNIAL TRANSFER STUDENT REPORT

2003-04 AND 2004-05 ACADEMIC YEARS

In order to evaluate Tidewater Community College's (TCC) effectiveness in preparing students for transfer, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness publishes the Transfer Student Report each biennium. This report provides an analysis of TCC students who transferred to four-year institutions in fall 2003 or in fall 2004. To determine the impact that a student's education at TCC had on performance at the transfer institution, the student must have completed 12 or more credits at TCC prior to transferring, and the student must have been enrolled at TCC during the year immediately preceding transfer. Major findings from this study revealed the following:

- Slightly over 4,500 TCC students were enrolled at over 350 four-year colleges across the United States. Of these transfers, 1,452 (32%) graduated TCC prior to transfer while 3,055 (68%) did not.
- Nearly one-half (47%) of all TCC transfers enrolled at Old Dominion University (ODU). The next two schools with the largest number of transfers, Norfolk State University (NSU; 9%) and Virginia Wesleyan College (VWC; 6%) are also located within the college's service region.
- Prior to transferring to a four-year institution, the majority (67%) of transfer students were enrolled in a college transfer degree program with the highest concentrations in General Studies (25%) and Business Administration (15%). Twenty-one percent (21%) of the transfers were unclassified while attending TCC, and 12% were enrolled in occupational/technical programs.
- After transferring, students most frequently declared majors in the areas of Business (23%), Liberal Arts (19%), Health/Medicine (11%), and Public Service (9%).
- In terms of gender and ethnicity, transfer students generally mirrored the TCC student population as a whole. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of all transfers were minority, compared to 43% of the TCC student body, and 63% of all transfers were female, compared to 62% of the TCC student body.
- Generally, acceptance rates for TCC graduates were equal to or higher than rates for non-graduates. NSU, VWC, and ODU had the highest acceptance rates of TCC students (99%, 98%, and 94%, respectively). For students who were accepted at a four-year institution, NSU had the highest enrollment rate of TCC students (91%) and VWC had the lowest (67%).
- TCC students tended to experience "transfer shock" after enrolling at a four-year institution, a phenomenon cited repeatedly in the academic literature. The average GPA (Grade Point Average) of transfer students at TCC was 3.10, but decreased to an average of 2.70 after transfer. The average GPA of TCC transfer students at the four-year institutions ranged from 2.25 at George Mason University (GMU) to 3.17 at the University of Virginia (UVa). A decline in GPA was found at all 11 universities reporting data, with the largest occurring for those students enrolled at VWC (-0.95), GMU (-0.87), and Christopher Newport University (CNU; -0.81).

- Similar to what has been reported in previous transfer reports, TCC graduates had a higher average GPA at the four-year institutions (2.83) compared to non-graduates (2.57).
- Students who did not enroll in a developmental English course at TCC had considerably higher cumulative GPAs at both TCC and at the four-year institutions to which they transferred. The same was true with respect to developmental mathematics, though not nearly to the same extent.
- According to the most recent Transfer Survey, 49% of respondents indicated that their goal was to graduate from TCC and then transfer to a four-year college or university. Thirty-three percent (33%) indicated that their goal was to transfer without receiving a degree from TCC. Two-thirds of the respondents reported that they did graduate from TCC prior to transfer.
- Students are increasingly satisfied with their preparation for the academic environment of a four-year institution: 86% of respondents indicated that they were prepared compared with 86% in the 2003 survey and 78% in the 2001 survey.
- Seven of the eight services offered to students for program planning were used by the majority of students responding to the transfer survey, with academic counseling and the college catalog having usage rates of 85% or higher.
- Eighty-six percent (86%) of survey respondents rated their transfer experience as excellent, very good, or good. Reflective of the overall high degree of satisfaction with their experience and preparation while at TCC, 94% of students indicated that they would recommend TCC to other potential students.
- Transfer students clearly held very positive self-perceptions of success, which appear consistent with the academic performance data analysis cited in this report. TCC is providing a quality two-year foundation for its students who elect to pursue the baccalaureate degree.