

E. Student outcomes

Several measures of student outcomes are presented in this section. They are, first, two- and three-year combined graduation and transfer rates; second, third-semester retention rates (a) by race/ethnicity and (b) for low-income students; and third, three-year transfer rate to NJ senior public institutions.

What is the graduation rate for Ocean County College students?

There are several ways of defining graduation or completion rates. Students attend college for many reasons, not all of which point toward the goal of graduation. While many students begin their attendance at OCC with the intention of graduating, others begin their studies for the following reasons: (1) to take a few courses for promotion possibilities at their place of employment; (2) to enhance their knowledge in specific areas; (3) to experience personal enrichment; and (4) to take a number of courses and then transfer to another college prior to graduation.

In recent years, the federal government has established a definition of the graduation rate for postsecondary institutions. The definition is included in the Student Right-to-Know Act and its enabling regulations. The graduation rate of students attending postsecondary institutions is the number of first-time students in a given fall semester who complete their degree within 150% of the normal time for completion. Since OCC is a two-year institution, those students entering in the fall would have three years to complete their associate degree requirements. Students may be eliminated from the tracking requirement if they enter the armed forces, go on an official church mission (e.g., Peace Corps), or if they die or are unable to continue enrollment due to a permanent disability.

What is the "success" rate for Ocean County students?

Community college students may be judged successful in their collegiate career by measures other than just graduation. New Jersey community colleges have established another measure known as "success" rate. It is computed as the percentage of an entering first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshman fall class who achieved one of the following:

- (1) Graduated
- (2) Transferred to a NJ senior public institution before graduation
- (3) Were still enrolled and did not graduate within four years; or
- (4) Left in good academic standing (GPA of 2.00 or higher).

In theory, OCC should add the percent of students who transferred to a NJ private institution or to an out-of-state institution; however, the data cannot be collected reliably. Another problem is the accuracy of the GPA data. In many cases, the GPA data is not up to date and, in other cases, the data is missing since the State Commission on Higher Education is just beginning to collect the spring semester data. As a result, this definition of "success" may be considered a minimum.

1. Graduation rates by race/ethnicity and income

a. Four-, five- and six-year graduation rate (does not apply to Ocean County College)

b. Two- and three-year graduation rate by race/ethnicity

Two- and Three-Year Graduation Rates of Fall 2003 Full-time First-time Degree Seeking Freshmen by Race/Ethnicity

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian		Alien		Other *		Total	
	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
Fall 2003 Cohort	1,176		50		75		32		7		61		1,401	
2 Year Rates	78	6.6%	0	0.0%	2	2.7%	1	3.1%	0	0.0%	6	9.8%	87	6.2%
3 Year Rates	196	16.7%	3	6.0%	6	8.0%	3	9.4%	1	14.3%	9	14.8%	218	15.6%

* Other includes American Indian and Unknown Race.

Two- and Three-Year Graduation Rates of Fall 2003 Full-time First-time Degree Seeking Freshmen by Income

	Low Income *		Non-Low Income		Unknown		Total	
	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
Fall 2003 Cohort	200		638		563		1,401	
2 Year Rates	4	2.0%	56	8.8%	27	4.8%	87	6.2%
3 Year Rates	16	8.0%	120	18.8%	82	14.6%	218	15.6%

* Low Income is defined as student with a NJ Eligibility Index between 1 and 2,499.

c. Two- and three-year combined graduation and transfer rate

Two- and Three-Year Success Rates (Combined Graduation & Transfer) of Fall 2003 Full-time First-time Degree Seeking Freshmen by Race/Ethnicity

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian		Alien		Other *		Total	
	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
Fall 2003 Cohort	1,176		50		75		32		7		61		1,401	
2 Year Rates	148	12.6%	3	6.0%	6	8.0%	7	21.9%	1	14.3%	9	14.8%	174	12.4%
3 Year Rates	331	28.1%	8	16.0%	19	25.3%	10	31.3%	2	28.6%	15	24.6%	385	27.5%

* Other includes American Indian and Unknown Race.

Success Rate (Graduation and Transfer) by Income

Two- and Three-Year Success Rates (Combined Graduation & Transfer) of Fall 2003 Full-time First-time Degree Seeking Freshmen by Income

	Low Income *		Non-Low Income		Unknown		Total	
	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
Fall 2003 Cohort	200		638		563		1,401	
2 Year Rates	19	9.5%	113	17.7%	42	7.5%	174	12.4%
3 Year Rates	41	20.5%	214	33.5%	130	23.1%	385	27.5%

* Low Income is defined as student with a NJ Eligibility Index between 1 and 2,499.

2. Third-Semester Retention Rates

a. By Race/Ethnicity

Third Semester Retention of Full-time First-time Freshmen by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2005 to Fall 2006

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian	
	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
Retained	704	63.1%	30	55.6%	50	64.1%	11	61.1%
Not Retained	411	36.9%	24	44.4%	28	35.9%	7	38.9%
Total	1,115	100.0%	54	100.0%	78	100.0%	18	100.0%
	American Ind.		Alien		Race Unknown		Total	
	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
Retained	1	33.3%	6	100.0%	38	58.5%	840	62.7%
Not Retained	2	66.7%	0	0.0%	27	41.5%	499	37.3%
Total	3	100.0%	6	100.0%	65	100.0%	1,339	100.0%

b. By Income

Third Semester Retention of Full-time First-time Freshmen by Income, Fall 2005 to Fall 2006

	Low Income *		Non-Low Inc.		Unknown		Total	
	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
Retained	116	64.8%	418	62.6%	306	62.2%	840	62.7%
Not Retained	63	35.2%	250	37.4%	186	37.8%	499	37.3%
Total	179	100.0%	668	100.0%	492	100.0%	1,339	100.0%

* Low Income is defined as student with a NJ Eligibility Index between 1 and 2,499.

3. Transfer

a. Percentage of entering students who are transfers (does not apply to Ocean County College)

b. Three-Year Transfer Rate to NJ Senior Public Institutions

Three-Year Transfer Rate of Fall 2003 Full-time First-time Freshmen to NJ Senior Public Institutions

Transfers thru Spring 2006		Non-Transfers		Total FTFTF Fall 2003	
Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
196	14.0%	1,205	86.0%	1,401	100.0%

c. Overall three-year transfer rate

Overall Three-Year Transfer Rate of Fall 2003 Full-time First-time Freshmen

Transfers thru Spring 2006		Non-Transfers		Total FTFTF Fall 2003	
Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
251	17.9%	1,150	82.1%	1,401	100.0%