D. Student outcomes:

Several measures of student outcomes are presented in this section. They are: Two year graduation rate, three-year combined graduation and transfer rates by race/ethnicity; and third-semester retention rates by attendance status.

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:

a. Four-, five- and six-year graduation rate by race/ethnicity (senior publics)

b. Two-year graduation rate of Fall 2006 FT/FT degree/certificate seeking students:

	Total	
	Num	Pct
Fall 2006 Cohort	1,876	
Graduated after 2 Years	206	11.0%

Source: IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey

c. Three-year graduation and transfer rates of Fall 2006 FT/FT degree/certificate seeking students by race/ethnicity:

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian	
	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
Fall 2006	1,529		56		112		32	
Graduated after 3 Years	433	28.3%	12	21.4%	18	16.1%	13	40.6%
Transferred	245	16.0%	11	19.6%	23	20.5%	9	28.1%

	Alien		Other*		Total	
	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
Fall 2006	26		121		1,876	
Graduated after 3 Years	0	0.0%	30	24.8%	506	27.0%
Transferred	5	19.2%	12	9.9%	305	16.3%

*Other includes American Indian and Unknown Race.
Source: IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey

The numbers of degrees and certificates granted by curriculum over the past ten years are listed in Appendix D.

2. Third-semester retention rates:

a. By attendance status

Fall 2008 First-Time Full-Time Undergraduates	Full-Time Retained in Fall 2009	Retention Rate	Fall 2008 First-Time Part-Time Undergraduates	Part-Time Retained in Fall 2009	Retention Rate
2,063	1,434	69.5%	477	198	41.5%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey, Part E