

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.

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.

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).

1. Graduation rates:

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

b. Two-year graduation rate of fall 2008 FT/FT degree/certificate seeking students:

	Total	
	Num	Pct
Fall 2008 Cohort	2,063	
Graduated after 2 Years	322	15.6%

Source: IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey

c. Three-year graduation and transfer rates of fall 2008 FT/FT degree/certificate seeking students by race/ethnicity:

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian	
	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
Fall 2008	1,677		80		150		43	
Graduated after 3 Years	586	34.9%	8	10.0%	26	17.3%	11	25.6%
Transferred	262	15.6%	20	25.0%	26	17.3%	9	20.9%
	Alien		Other*		Total			
	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct		
Fall 2008	28		85		2,063			
Graduated after 3 Years	9	32.1%	17	20.0%	657	31.8%		
Transferred	7	25.0%	18	21.2%	342	16.6%		

*Other includes American Indian, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders, 2 or More Races and Unknown.

Source: IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey

2. Third-semester retention of first-time students, fall 2010 to fall 2011:

a. By attendance status

Fall 2010 First-Time Full-Time Undergraduates	Full-Time Retained in Fall 2011	Retention Rate	Fall 2010 First-Time Part-Time Undergraduates	Part-Time Retained in Fall 2011	Retention Rate
1,931	1,287	66.6%	454	210	46.3%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey, Part E

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