

# The Graduate Transfer Experience Report

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*January 2017*



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# Executive Summary

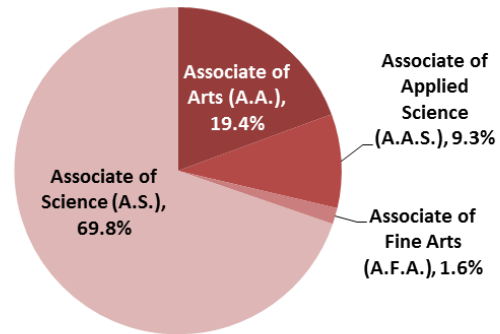
## The Survey

- A 12-question survey was sent to 1,275 2016<sup>1</sup> 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 twenty-nine responses were collected.
- 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, general education requirements, and any courses that were not accepted at their transfer institution.

## The Respondents

- Of the 129 respondents, the overwhelming majority of students transferred with an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree (69.8%). A little over 19% transferred with an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree, 9.3% transferred with an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree, and 1.6% transferred with an Associate of Fine Arts degree (A.F.A.).
- The most popular degree program that respondents graduated from before transferring was General Professional Studies A.S., from which 52 respondents (40.3%) graduated. Nine respondents graduated with a General Liberal Arts A.A. degree (7.0%), and seven graduated with a General Natural Science and Math A.S. degree (5.4%).
- One hundred nine respondents (85.2%) transferred to an in-state institution, whereas 19 respondents (14.8%) transferred to an out-of-state institution.
- The most frequently transferred-to institutions were Montclair State University, William Paterson University, and Ramapo College of New Jersey.

**Degree Types Received from Bergen**



Transfer Institution Location	N	%
In-State	109	85.2
Out-of-State	19	14.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100.0</b>

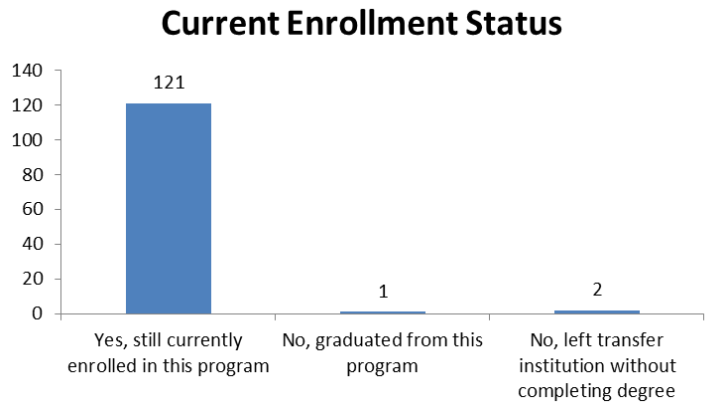
Top Transfer Institutions	N	% <sup>2</sup>
Montclair State University	22	17.2
William Paterson University	19	14.8
Ramapo College of New Jersey	15	11.7

<sup>1</sup>2016 includes August 2015, December 2015, and May 2016 graduates.

<sup>2</sup> Percent out of all transfer colleges.

### Current Enrollment Status

The overwhelming majority of graduates who transferred to a four-year institution were still enrolled there at the time of the survey (121 respondents, 97.6%). One student graduated from the transfer program (0.8%), and two left without obtaining a degree (1.6%).

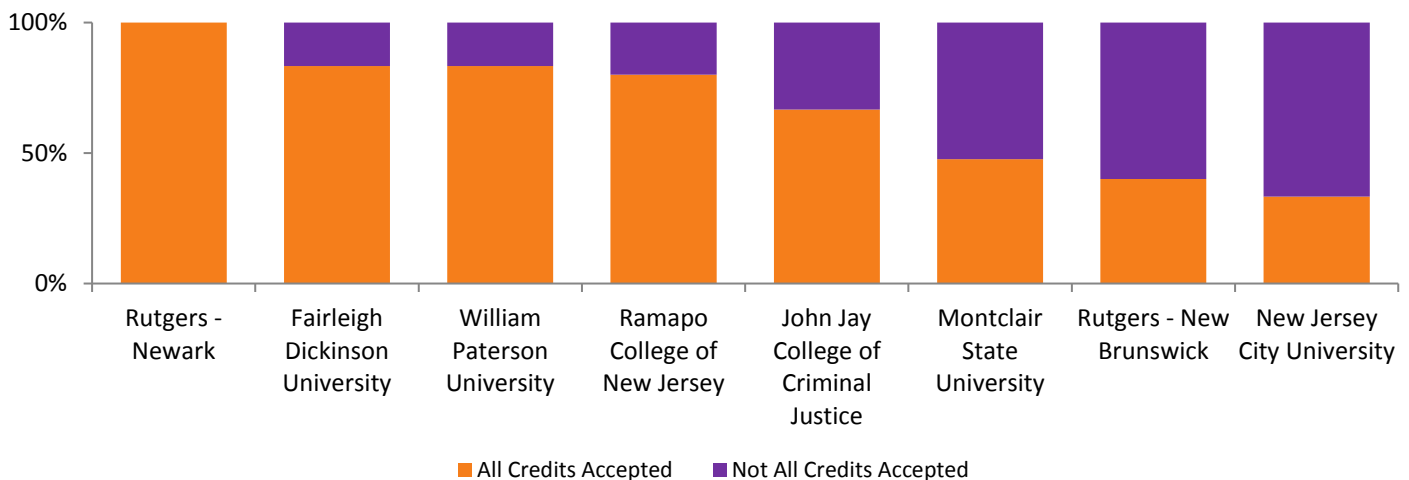


Graduates’ original programs of study at Bergen were compared with the program in which they enrolled at their transfer institution. Those with a degree in General Professional Studies A.S. most frequently transferred into a Social Science or Liberal Arts program. Those from the General Liberal Arts A.A. program typically transferred into a Business Administration program. All respondents with a degree in Business Administration A.S. transferred into a Business Administration program. Similarly, most of the respondents who were General Natural Science and Math A.S. majors at Bergen enrolled in a Natural Sciences and Math or Information Technology program at their transfer institution.

### The Transfer Experience

Eighty-two transfer students (66.1%) reported that all of the credits they had taken at Bergen Community College were accepted by their transfer institution. In-state transfer institutions were more likely to accept all transfer credits (68.3%) than were out-of-state institutions (52.6%). When looking at transfer degrees, 100% of respondents who went into a Communication program at their transfer institution had all of their credits accepted. Only 20% of respondents who went into an Information Technology program at their transfer institution had all of their credits accepted.

The percentage of accepted credits was broken out by transfer institution to see which of the top transfer colleges more frequently accepted all credits from Bergen. Every respondent who transferred to Rutgers – Newark had all of their transfer credits accepted (100%). Both Fairleigh Dickinson University and William Paterson University accepted all transfer credits 83.3% of the time.



## Introduction

In December 2016, a 12-question survey was distributed to 2016 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 1,275 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 out to the students' school and personal email addresses and 129 responses were collected (10.1% response rate). These responses were then analyzed and are presented to the Bergen community in the form of this report.

## The Survey Questions

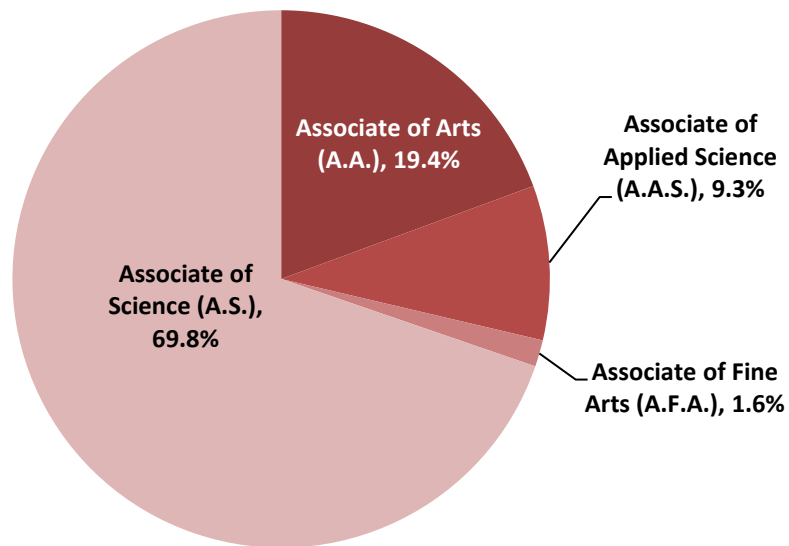
1. Please enter your 7-digit student ID, provided in your e-mail survey invitation.
2. After leaving Bergen, in which four-year institution did you enroll?
3. In what type of degree did you enroll at your transfer institution?
  - a. BA
  - b. BS
  - c. MA
  - d. MS
4. In What type of program did you 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 ALL of the General Education course requirements you completed at Bergen transfer to your four-year institution?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
9. If you selected 'No' in response to Question 8:  
Which General Education courses did not transfer, please specify, if known (Ex: COM-100 OR Speech Communication)
10. Did all of the additional, Non-General Education courses you completed at Bergen transfer to your four-year institution?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
11. 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)
12. 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.

## Section I: The Respondents

### *Degrees Received from Bergen*

Before examining the transfer experience, it is important to first explore the demographic make-up of the transfer students who participated in this survey. Program data was collected through Colleague by matching students' 7-digit identification numbers with their Bergen degree programs. 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, 90 respondents (69.8%) graduated with an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, 25 respondents (19.4%) received an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree, 12 respondents (9.3%) received an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree and 2 respondents (1.6%) received an Associate of Fine Arts (A.F.A.) degree.

**Figure 1. Degree Types Received from Bergen**



As shown below in Table 1, the most popular major was General Professional Studies A.S., in which 52 respondents (40.3%) received degrees. Following in popularity, 9 respondents (7.0%) received a degree in General Liberal Arts A.A., and 7 respondents (5.4%) graduated with a General Natural Science and Math A.S. degree.

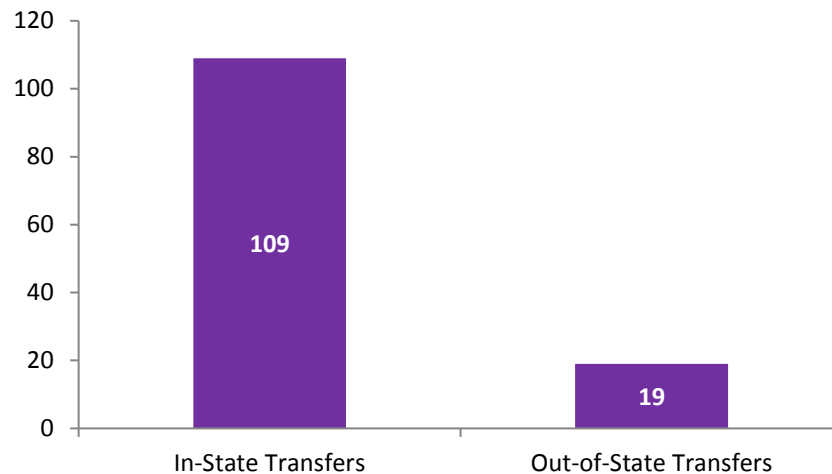
**Table 1. Degrees Received from Bergen**

<b>Degree Name and Type</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
General Professional Studies A.S.	52	40.3
General Liberal Arts A.A.	9	7.0
General Natural Science and Math A.S.	7	5.4
Business Administration A.S.	6	4.7
Psychology A.A.	6	4.7
Exercise Science A.S.	4	3.1
Communication A.A.	3	2.3
Criminal Justice A.S.	3	2.3
Nursing A.A.S.	3	2.3
Social Work A.S.	3	2.3
Accounting A.S.	2	1.6
Art A.A.	2	1.6
Biology A.S.	2	1.6
Computer Animation A.A.S.	2	1.6
Engineering Science A.S.	2	1.6
Marketing A.S.	2	1.6
Web Development and Management A.A.S.	2	1.6
Broadcasting A.S.	1	0.8
Chemistry A.S.	1	0.8
Education A.S.	1	0.8
General Hotel/Restaurant/Hospitality A.A.S.	1	0.8
Graphic Design A.A.S.	1	0.8
Hospitality A.S.	1	0.8
Information Technology A.S.	1	0.8
International Trade A.S.	1	0.8
Literature A.A.	1	0.8
Management A.S.	1	0.8
Medical Office Assistant A.A.S.	1	0.8
Music A.A.	1	0.8
Music Business A.A.S.	1	0.8
Music Business A.F.A.	1	0.8
Music Technology A.F.A.	1	0.8
Paralegal Studies A.A.S.	1	0.8
Philosophy A.A.	1	0.8
Political Science A.A.	1	0.8
Theatre-Acting A.A.	1	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Transfer Institutions

Respondents were asked to identify the institution they transferred to after graduating from Bergen. The majority of graduates (85.2%) transferred within the state of New Jersey. Nineteen respondents (14.8%) 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 (20.2%), William Paterson University (17.4%), and Ramapo College of New Jersey (13.8%). For those who transferred out of state, 15.8% enrolled in the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

**Table 2. Transfer Institutions**

In-State Transfer Institutions	N	%	Out-of-State Transfers	N	%
Montclair State University	22	20.2	John Jay College of Criminal Justice	3	15.8
William Paterson University	19	17.4	Fashion Institute of Technology	2	10.5
Ramapo College of New Jersey	15	13.8	American University	1	5.3
Fairleigh Dickinson University	14	12.8	Grand Canyon University	1	5.3
Rutgers - New Brunswick	11	10.1	LIM College	1	5.3
Rutgers - Newark	8	7.3	Marymount Manhattan College	1	5.3
New Jersey City University	3	2.8	Middle Tennessee State University	1	5.3
New Jersey Institute of Technology	3	2.8	NYU Steinhardt	1	5.3
Seton Hall University	3	2.8	Parsons The New School	1	5.3
Kean University	2	1.8	School of Visual Arts	1	5.3
Stockton University	2	1.8	St. Johns University	1	5.3
Thomas Edison State College	2	1.8	Touro College	1	5.3
Centenary University	1	0.9	University of Massachusetts Lowell	1	5.3
Fairleigh Dickenson, Ramapo College	1	0.9	University of North Georgia	1	5.3
Felician College	1	0.9	University of South Carolina	1	5.3
Ramapo College	1	0.9	Villanova University	1	5.3
Rowan University	1	0.9	<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100.0</b>			



## Transfer Degrees

In order to see how degrees awarded at Bergen Community College translated into degrees pursued at transfer institutions, the top 5 most popular Bergen degrees were examined. The students were asked to write in their transfer degrees, which were later grouped into 12 categories. Table 3 shows the crosswalk between the top 5 Bergen degrees and the 12 transfer degree categories.

Respondents from the General Professional Studies A.S. degree program transferred most frequently into a Social Science (23.1%) or Liberal Arts program (19.2%). Twenty-two percent of the students who graduated from Bergen with a degree in General Liberal Arts A.A. pursued a degree in Business Administration at their transfer institution. Of those who received a Natural Science and Math A.S. degree from Bergen, 85.7% enrolled in a Natural Sciences and Math program. All Business Administration A.S. graduates transferred into a Business Administration program and all Psychology A.A. degree recipients transferred into a Psychology program at their transfer institutions.

**Table 3. Crosswalk between Bergen Degree and Transfer Institution Degree**

12 Transfer Degree Categories	General Professional Studies A.S.		General Liberal Arts A.A.		General Nature, Science and Math A.S.		Business Administration A.S.		Psychology A.A.	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Business Administration	8	15.4	2	22.2	0	0.0	6	100.0	0	0.0
Social Sciences	12	23.1	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Liberal Arts	10	19.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Natural Sciences and Math	4	7.7	0	0.0	6	85.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Psychology	6	11.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	100.0
Information Technology	2	3.8	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Public Health	2	3.8	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Nursing	4	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Communication	0	0.0	2	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Education	2	3.8	2	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Accounting	1	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	1	1.9	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

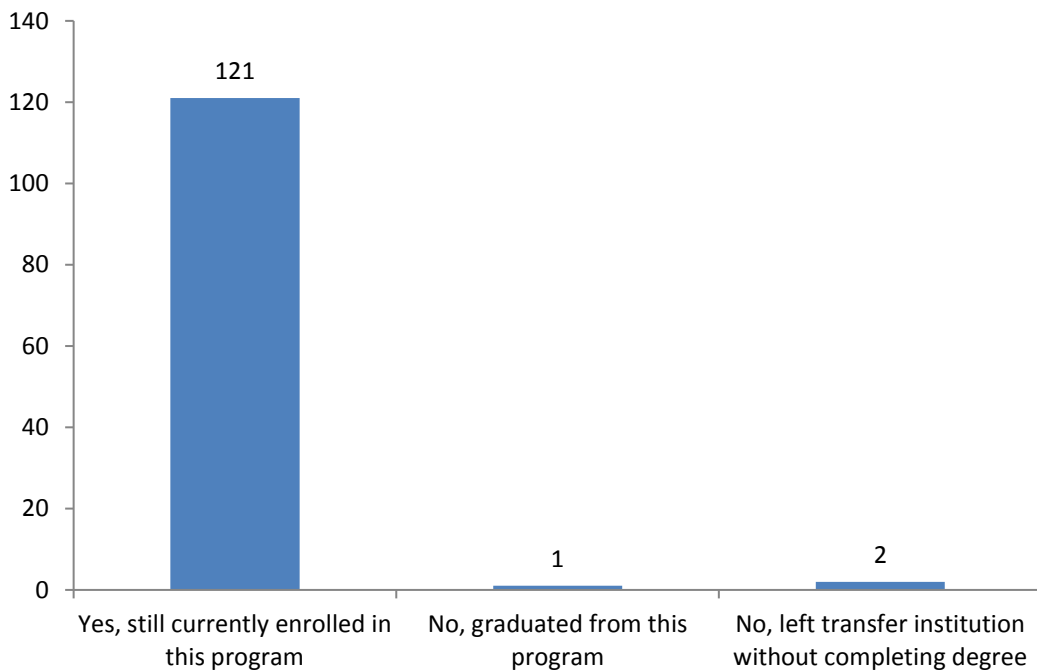
### Current Enrollment Status

Students were asked about their current enrollment status at their transfer institution, whether they were still enrolled in the same program, graduated, left without completing a degree, or if they were still enrolled, but switched to a different program. Shown in Table 4, the overwhelming majority (97.6%) stated that they were still enrolled at their transfer institution. One respondent (0.8%) stated that they had already graduated from their program, and two students (1.6%) left without completing a degree.

**Table 4. Current Enrollment Status**

Status	N	%
Still Enrolled	121	97.6
Graduated from Program	1	0.8
Left Without Completing Degree	2	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Figure 3. Current Enrollment Status**



## Section II: The Transfer Experience

### *Credits Accepted by Transfer Institutions*

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

If respondents answered ‘yes’ to both questions, all of their credits had been accepted, if respondents answered ‘no’ to one of or both of the questions, all 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, a higher proportion of respondents who transferred within the state had all of their credits accepted by their transfer institution (68.3%) than those who transferred outside of the state (52.6%).

**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	71	68.3	33	31.7	104
Out-of-State	10	52.6	9	47.4	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>81<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>123</b>

Table 6 shows the percentage of accepted credits broken out by transfer institution to see which of the top transfer schools more frequently accepted all credits from Bergen. Every respondent who transferred to Rutgers – Newark had all of their transfer credits accepted (100%). Both Fairleigh Dickinson University and William Paterson University accepted all transfer credits 83.3% of the time.

**Table 6. Credits Accepted at Transfer Institution**

Transfer Institution	All Credits Accepted		Not All Credits Accepted		Total
	N	%	N	%	N
Rutgers - Newark	8	100.0	0	0.0	8
Fairleigh Dickinson University	10	83.3	2	16.7	12
William Paterson University	15	83.3	3	16.7	18
Ramapo College of New Jersey	12	80.0	3	20.0	15
John Jay College of Criminal Justice	2	66.7	1	33.3	3
Montclair State University	10	47.6	11	52.4	21
Rutgers - New Brunswick	4	40.0	6	60.0	10
New Jersey City University	1	33.3	2	66.7	3

<sup>3</sup> Eighty-two respondents reported that all of their credits were accepted at their transfer institution, however, one respondent did not provide the name of the transfer institution and is therefore not included in this particular analysis.

**Figure 4. Credits Accepted at Transfer Institution**

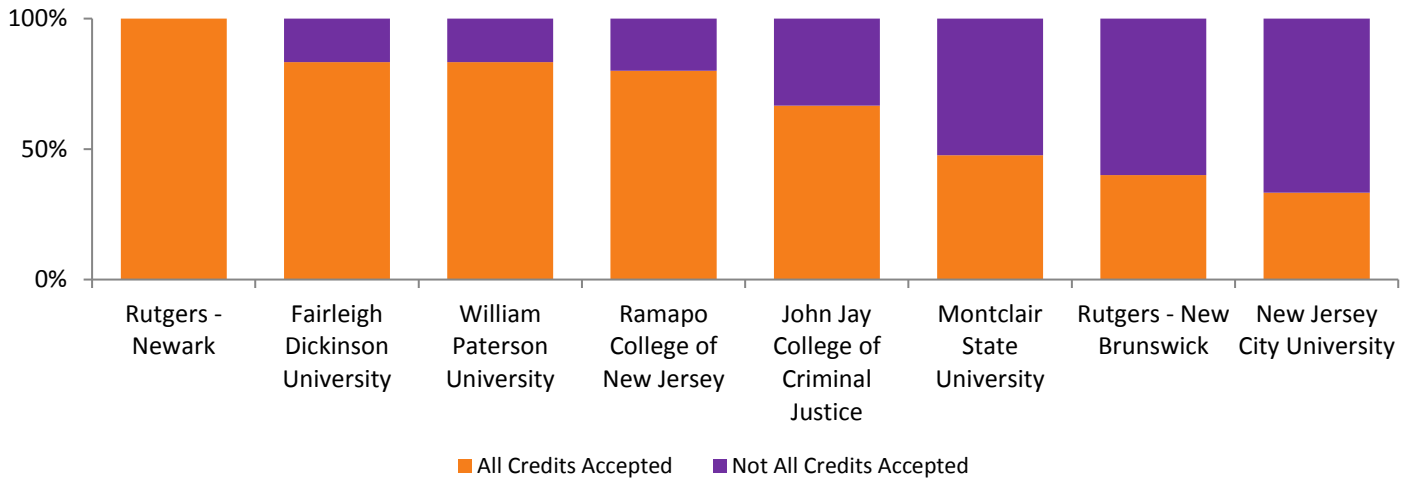


Table 7 shows the acceptance of credits broken out by transfer degree enrollment<sup>4</sup> categories (not including the 'Other' degree category). The six graduates who transferred into a Communication degree program at their transfer institution reported that all of their credits transferred, while 76.9% of Psychology degree recipients had all of their credits accepted by their transfer institution. Only 20% of respondents who went into an Information Technology program reported having all of their credits accepted.

**Table 7. Credits Accepted by Transfer Degree**

Top Transfer Degrees	All Credits Accepted		Not All Credits Accepted		Total N
	N	%	N	%	
Communication	6	100.0	0	0.0	6
Liberal Arts	12	85.7	2	14.3	14
Nursing	5	83.3	1	16.7	6
Psychology	10	76.9	3	23.1	13
Business Administration	17	73.9	6	26.1	23
Social Sciences	12	63.2	7	36.8	19
Education	3	60.0	2	40.0	5
Public Health	4	50.0	4	50.0	8
Natural Sciences and Math	6	46.2	7	53.8	13
Information Technology	2	20.0	8	80.0	10

<sup>4</sup> Including programs with enrollment of 5 students or more

### *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 a four-year degree consisting of anywhere from 22 to 190 credits with an average reported amount of 121.6 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 four-year institutions accepting anywhere from 8 to 82 credits with an average reported amount of 59.1 credits.

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

### *General Education Requirements*

Respondents were asked if all of the General Education courses that they had taken at Bergen Community College were accepted by their transfer institution. One-hundred four respondents (83.2%) stated that all of their General Education course credits successfully transferred to their transfer institution, as Table 8 shows.

**Table 8. General Education Course Credits Accepted**

<b>General Education Course Credits</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
All Gen. Ed Credits Accepted	104	83.2
Not All Gen. Ed Credits Accepted	21	16.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Those who specified that not all of their General Education courses had been accepted were asked to specifically list any rejected courses. Three Communication courses and two Sociology courses were not accepted by transfer institutions. Table 9 shows some of the General Education courses that were not accepted broken out by transfer institution.

**Table 9. General Education Courses Rejected by Transfer Institution**

<b>Transfer Institution</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Course Title</b>
Montclair State University	COM-100	Speech Communication
New Jersey Institute of Technology	GEO-101	Geography
Ramapo College	SOC-101	Sociology
Rutgers – New Brunswick	POL-107	Introduction to Politics
	CHM-100	Introduction to Chemistry
	BIO-101	General Biology I
Touro College	COM-101	Mass Media Communication
	COM-102	Public Speaking
	SOC-103	Sociology of the Family
	INF-101	Introduction to Information Technology

### *Accepted Bergen Courses*

In addition, respondents were asked to report if any Non-General Education courses were rejected by their transfer institution. Ninety-one respondents (73.4%) reported that all of their Non-General Education courses were accepted by their transfer institution, as shown in Table 10.

**Table 10. Non-General Education Credits Accepted**

<b>Non-General Education Course Credits</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
All Non-Gen. Ed Credits Accepted	91	73.4
Not All Non-Gen. Ed Credits Accepted	33	26.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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. Six Health and Wellness courses were reported as having been rejected by transfer institutions along with three Computer Science courses. Table 11 shows some of the Non-General Education courses that were not accepted broken out by transfer institution.

**Table 11. Non-General Education Courses Rejected by Transfer Institution**

<b>Transfer Institution</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Course Title</b>
NYU Steinhardt	WEX-110	Fitness and Nutrition
	WEX-116	Weight Training
	PSY-110	Psychology of Sexuality
Rowan University	MAT-150	Statistics I
Rutgers - New Brunswick	MAT-160	Intermediate Algebra
	BIO-109	Anatomy and Physiology I
Montclair State University	WEX-106	Nutrition, Exercise, and Fitness
	WEX-159	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR] and Emergency First Aid
	CHM-100	Introduction to Chemistry
	CHM-100	Introduction to Chemistry
	WEX-160	Kinesiology for Personal Training and Exercise
	WEX-260	Exercise Physiology
	CIS-271	Computer Organization and Assembly Language
	CIS-270	Programming for Science Applications
	BIO-107	Introduction to Human Biology
	BIO-104	Microbiology
CIS-158	Introduction to Computer Science	

## Appendix A: Bergen Degree by Transfer Institution Degree

Table 12 shows the crosswalk between the degrees awarded by Bergen and the programs in which transfer students enrolled at their new institution. The “Transfer Institution Degrees” have been recoded into 12 categories shown below (including “Other”) to organize the various degree types available at other institutions into similar subjects.

**Table 12. Crosswalk between Bergen Degree and Transfer Institution Degree**

Bergen Degrees	Transfer Institution Degrees												Total
	Business Administration	Social Sciences	Liberal Arts	Natural Sciences and Math	Psychology	Information Technology	Public Health	Nursing	Communication	Education	Accounting	Other	
General Professional Studies A.S.	8	12	10	4	6	2	2	4	0	2	1	1	52
General Liberal Arts A.A.	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	9
General Natural Science and Math A.S.	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Business Administration A.S.	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Psychology A.A.	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Exercise Science A.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
Communications A.A.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Criminal Justice A.S.	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Nursing A.A.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Social Work A.S.	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Accounting A.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Art A.A.	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Biology A.S.	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Computer Animation A.A.S.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Engineering Science A.S.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Marketing A.S.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Web Development and Management A.A.S.	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Broadcasting A.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Chemistry A.S.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Education A.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
General Hotel/Restaurant/Hospitality A.A.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Graphic Design A.A.S.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hospitality A.S.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Information Technology A.S.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
International Trade A.S.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Literature A.A.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Management A.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Medical Office Assistant A.A.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Music A.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Music Business A.A.S.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Music Business A.F.A.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Music Technology A.F.A.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Paralegal Studies A.A.S.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Philosophy A.A.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Political Science A.A.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Theatre-Acting A.A.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>129</b>

## Appendix B: Additional Comments

At the end of the survey, an “Additional Comments” section was provided for transfer students to voice their opinions regarding their transfer experiences between Bergen Community College and their transfer institution. The comments were broken down into either a “Positive”, “Neutral”, or “Negative” category to observe an overall view of the transfer experience. Shown in Table 13, 51.1% of respondents provided positive comments, whereas roughly 33.3% of respondents provided negative comments regarding their transfer experiences. The comments are shown below. The comments were not corrected for grammar, they are transcribed below verbatim.

**Table 13. Additional Comments by Type**

Comment Type	N	%
Positive	23	51.1
Neutral	7	15.6
Negative	15	33.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### *Positive Comments*

1. A very smooth transfer experience on Bergen's end
2. At Bergen Community College, staff and professors helped me to improve my skills in English and math. When I was in college level, I took all classes in BCC as ASL I and II, sciences, Social science, paintings classes, and humanities. At NJCU, I have good education and support me through my art classes to graduate and become an art therapy to teach people with disabilities.
3. BCC gave me a great starting point with my worth ethic. Because of the two classes a week it gave me more of an opportunity to learn more. At NJCU I am rarely kept the full 3 hours per class.
4. BCC has prepared me well to meet the challenges at four-year institution. I have learned most of what I needed to know about the higher education system through the years at BCC. Transferring to such a large research university seemed a dreadful process at first. But all went well, and now I am doing well at the university.
5. Bergen Community was a great experience, and though I am happy with Thomas Edison and I attend completely online, I would have stayed with BCC had it been a four year institution.
6. Bergen set a fantastic foundation for me to enter a program at Montclair that had content I had no previous experience in. Thanks Bergen! However, most of the exercise science classes are non-transferable. if Bergen ever changes to a 4-year school, then more exercise science classes could rise above level 100 classes and become level 200 and 300, which would be transferable.
7. Bergen should be promoted to a four year and William Paterson should be demoted to community college.
8. I did not have any problems with my transfer
9. I first transferred to New York University but had to leave for medical purposes. Commuting was too difficult so I transferred to a closer University, Fairleigh Dickinson University. I had a great transfer experience from Bergen to my new school.
10. I had a very positive experience transferring from BCC. Because of my GPA and honors credits, almost all institutions I applied to offered to accept the full 60 credits for transfer and applied them towards liberal arts and electives. This helped me greatly towards securing a good program offer. Thanks.
11. I love where I am and happy I went to Bergen first. Saved myself money and got my classes done right. Most of my core classes are done for my program. Only thing I didn't like is that I lost basically a whole semesters worth of credits due to Remedial classes.



12. I loved coming to BCC. But touro college accepted most of my credits just towards liberal arts credits. And the English comp classes they took both as intro to comp. I had to retake English comp 1 and 2 again. Its not BCC's fault but rather my transfer school.
13. It was a smooth process to transfer. Everything in terms of my credits were able to transfer. Doing research beforehand is a must!
14. It was an easy transfer experience
15. My professors and advisors were so supportive of me transferring and were super helpful. I felt prepared to transfer and feel I have made those at Bergen who helped me get here, proud. There are many gen ed's that bergen did not require that this school does and they are a bit stingy in transferring some of my major specific courses that I took at Bergen but otherwise I have had a great transfer experience.
16. My transfer experience from BCC to NJIT was smooth. The only difference is that there are professors that are willing to help and there are others professors that they don't care about the students and teachers their way. Courses at NJIT are a lot harder than in BCC.
17. My transfer experience was great with Bergen community college. I just wish I knew what I wanted to study; I would have know what classes to take so I could have optimal credit transfers.
18. My transfer to FDU was a very easy process.
19. The academic advisors at both bergen and stockton made it very helpful to transfer
20. The transfer between schools was pretty smooth, though since I transferred from the end of the fall semester to the upcoming spring semester, it was a bit rushed. The university is a nice enough place, but not quite as organized as BCC. Don't take your community college for granted, things change once you leave. Not everyone is as helpful as BCC.
21. The transfer experience was a lot easier than what I had anticipated. Everything fell in its proper order, and I was able to enroll at William Paterson without any complications.
22. The transfer experience was very seamless. I graduated from Bergen in December 2015 with 64 credits and am graduating from Ramapo in May 2017 with 129 credits.
23. Transferring with a degree from Bergen is the best to do college.

### *Neutral Comments*

1. I answered my questions on estimates, and may not be entirely accurate number of credits.
2. I got my associates
3. I was going to go to Rowan university first but they did not accept a good portion of my credits and would not admit me into the business school. So I went to Rutgers where they took everything and let me in the business school.
4. If you want to have more non general courses transfer over you most bring work you have produced from those classes, schedule a one on one meeting with a transfer counselor at School of Visual Arts and persuade them that your course that you took matches up to theirs. Even if the title of your class is the same as the title of the class you are trying to get exempt from, still bring the work and schedule a meeting to try and get them to accept more credits.
5. It is not BCC mistake that a lot of my classes did not transfer it was my mistake coz I did not know that I am transferring so I took a degree hat does not transfer
6. MSU made it very difficult for me. And toon too long to the point where I couldn't register for classes in the Fall. It was MSU's fault. Not BCC. I prefer BCC over MSU
7. Ramapo needs to treat their transfers better. Some things they gave me a hard time about because it was the exact same class but they run on a four credit system instead of a three which is really ridiculous.

## Negative Comments

1. Bergen didn't really help me with the process as much as I would have liked. This resulted in me starting a semester later at my new school. The most helpful person along the way was a counselor [omitted]. Aside from him, it was a tough process to navigate by myself.
2. I felt like there wasn't much help with transferring, I feel like I did it alone
3. I had a very hard time transferring my AAS credits. The transfer counselors rely very heavily on NJ Transfer to see which credits apply even though they have transfer guides on their website that properly show where your credits from Bergen should apply at Kean. They also spent a very long time evaluating my credits causing me to register late for the fall semester. I spent a long time during the summer trying to get this solved with the dean of my major and my general education credits still aren't properly applied to my program evaluation. While I am satisfied with the education I'm receiving at Kean, my credit situation is a mess. Hopefully in the future there is a more streamlined way for students to transfer.
4. I wasn't given any info about NYU community College transfer opportunity program until I was accepted. I think students at Bergen should be more aware of this scholarship so they have the opportunity to enroll at NYU with out the worry of financial burden.
5. I wish BCC had more information about what Montclair's semester by semester schedule was for FCST so I could have had a better idea what others were taking at the same time as me. That would've made my scheduling a little different, especially once I transferred; it felt like I had to play a bit of catch up.
6. Initially, my physics series from Bergen (280,290,291) transferred as algebra-based physics but it is actually a calculus-based series. It turns out that on NJTransfer, the courses had not been evaluated in several years. I brought the syllabi to the director of undergraduate physics and the dean of transfers and they were able to sort that out for me, as well as update NJTransfer for all incoming Bergen students. The only reason some courses didn't transfer was simply due to the credit limit (60). Furthermore, I wish CIS-270 had transferred; I would not have had to take a similar course again this semester.
7. Insuring students are out of having to take any more algebraic math classes due to accuplacer/placement test results that aren't included in degree program.
8. It would have been helpful if BCC had sent some sort of reminder or included within the transfer info sheets that transfer students should resend their transcripts after actually completing their last semester at Bergen. I know this sounds like common sense so let me clarify: You need to send a copy of your BCC transcript to your new school (in my case WPU) in order to apply, which I did at the beginning of my last semester at BCC. It didn't occur to me to send another copy of my transcript to WPU when the semester had ended. I also know a few friends that had a similar thing happen. I ended up taking and paying for a class my first semester at WPU that I didn't actually need to take because it was covered by a class I finished during my last semester at BCC. So by my second semester at WPU, that class didn't even count towards my degree and I ended up basically wasting over \$1000 + time I could have spent in another course.
9. My guidance counselor at Bergen was horrible, after I transferred over I learned I've could of taken many more classes at bergen and save a lot of money and time but my guidance counselor was rarely available or not helpful at all.
10. The BCC Gen Ed courses did transfer over, but there was a Rutgers required Gen Ed which is not offered at BCC. Since NJ Transfer sufficed my general education courses to Rutgers, I was in a position to focus in my major classes at the time of transfer. However, my major required a Gen Psych II, which is unavailable at BCC but a prereq for all the major courses at Rutgers. By the time the transfer students were able to register for classes (in late April), most of the major classes had already been closed for Summer and Fall. I was in a situation where I could not take any other classes except one - Gen Psych II in the fall. They have a SPN system to add students to closed classes, but the SPNs are given out to the Seniors. In order to resolve this, I made visits, phone calls, and emails to many heads and staff at various departments. It was a nightmare!
11. The one big difference that I see is that Rutgers has more of a work load, such as with labs and studying, then Bergen in which I was not aware of. Adjusting to the Rutgers system was hard and kinda still is.
12. Transcripts had to be sent thee times.

13. Very hard to transfer into a music program. The music theory courses went much further than we did at Bergen making it hard to catch up. Work load in almost all classes was easily doubled. Very hard as a commuter to transfer. I can see the advantages of living on campus.
14. Wish I knew I had to take Bio 1 and 2 in order for the classes to transfer
15. Wish it was easier to get in touch with someone over the phone or email. It was almost impossible to talk to someone without making an appointment at school. I was working 50 hours a week and going to school at night/online which made it impossible to come in at a different time. I had few questions that were mostly yes or a no answer but no one ever got back to me via email or phone. William Paterson university helped me more with my transfer than Bergen did since they replied to my email or phone call within 48 hours.