

# Selection of Peer Institutions for Bergen Community College

December 2017

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## Introduction

Bergen Community College last selected a group of peer institutions in 2007. These peer institutions are used in the annual Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Data Feedback Reports (DFRs) and serve as a default list of Bergen peers for benchmarking and other purposes. Being able to reference institutional characteristics and performance metrics from a valid group of peer institutions is a valuable tool as Bergen Community College makes institutional decisions.

In Fall 2017, the Center for Institutional Effectiveness led a revision of the custom list of peer institutions included in the DFR comparisons using a data-driven approach. The final methodology was developed in consultation with the College Council. As described in the next section, the process of selecting peer institutions took place in two stages (using two “filters” to narrow down all US colleges to those most appropriate for comparison to Bergen).

The old list of peer institutions is included in Appendix B.

## Methodology

The Institutional Research (IR) office conducted a two-stage process to narrow the 7,521 institutions currently reporting data to IPEDS down to a manageable number of peer institutions with similar characteristics to Bergen Community College. First, the IR team selected five traits on which colleges should match Bergen Community College exactly to filter the list of institutions from 7,521 down to 47. Second, a second filter was applied, calculating how similar each of the colleges that had made it through Filter 1 were to Bergen Community College based on eleven selected characteristics. A third filter was proposed but ultimately not used in the selection process due to incomplete data.

### Filter 1

Title IV Institutions: Federal Financial Aid Programs

Sector: Public, 2 year

Institutional Category: Degree granting, associates/certificates

Degree of Urbanization: Suburb, Large

Institutional Size: 10,000 – 19,999

### Filter 2

Fall Enrollment (total number and percentage full-time)

Percentage of fall enrollees who are first-time, degree/cert-seeking

1-year Retention (full-time & part-time)

Graduation Rates (3 years)

Transfer Rates (3 years)

12-month Enrollment (FTE)

Full-time equivalent faculty & staff

Core Expenses per FTE Enrollment

Percent of all undergraduates awarded aid, by type of aid

Percent of undergraduates awarded Pell

Tuition & Fees

Specifically, using the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), the first filter selected all 47 postsecondary Title IV, degree-granting, public, 2-year institutions that, like Bergen Community College, are in a large suburb and serve 10,000 to 19,999 students (Filter 1). These colleges are summarized in Appendix A.

Next, the 25% of these institutions (12 institutions) that were most similar to Bergen Community College across eleven key metrics (Filter 2) were selected.<sup>1</sup> Operational definitions for these eleven filter 2 variables were as follows:

- 1) **Fall enrollment** (measured by (a) the total number of students enrolled in Fall 2015 and (b) the percentage of fall enrollees who enrolled full-time)
- 2) **Percentage of fall enrollees who are first-time, degree/certificate-seeking students** (measured in Fall 2015)
- 3) **Retention rate** (measured by the percentage of (a) full-time and (b) part-time first-time, degree/certificate-seeking students in fall 2014 returning in fall 2015)
- 4) **Graduation rate** (measured by the percentage of first-time, full-time, degree/certificate-seeking students in Fall 2012 who earn a degree or certificate within 3 years)
- 5) **Transfer rate** (measured by the percentage of first-time, full-time, degree/certificate-seeking students in Fall 2012 who transferred to another institution without first earning a degree or certificate within 3 years)
- 6) **12-month enrollment** (measured by the full-time equivalent enrollment in the 2014-15 year)
- 7) **Number of faculty and staff** (measured by the full-time equivalent number of faculty and staff in Fall 2015)
- 8) **Core expenses per FTE enrollment** (measured by the total core expenses per FTE enrollment reported in fiscal year 2015)
- 9) **Percent of all undergraduate students awarded aid** (measured by (a) the percentage of students awarded federal, state/local, institutional, or other sources of grant or scholarship aid in 2014-15 and (b) the percentage of students awarded federal loans in 2014-15)
- 10) **Percent of undergraduate students awarded a Pell Grant** (measured in the 2014-15 year)
- 11) **Tuition and fees** (measured by the academic year tuition and required fees for a full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking student in 2015-16)

Appendix C details the values of these filter variables for the selected peer institutions as well as for Bergen Community College.

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<sup>1</sup> To determine which colleges were most similar to Bergen Community College across these filter variables, the IR office first standardized the filter variables so that each metric or sub-metric had a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1 across the 48 colleges, including Bergen Community College. They then calculated the deviation, or absolute value of the difference, between Bergen Community College and each institution on every metric or sub-metric. For the filter variables that were comprised of two sub-metrics (denoted in the list of operational definitions above by an (a) and (b)), the deviations for the two sub-metrics were averaged.

The resulting values were then used to calculate the Euclidean distance between Bergen Community College and each of the 47 other institutions. The 25% (12 colleges) of these institutions with the shortest Euclidean distance from Bergen were selected.

## Results: Final Proposed List of Peer Institutions

The resulting list of peer institutions is presented below.

### Peer Institutions, Final Proposed List, 2017

1. **Anne Arundel Community College** (Arnold, MD)
2. **Camden County College** (Blackwood, NJ)
3. **Delaware County Community College** (Media, PA)
4. **Middlesex County College** (Edison, NJ)
5. **Monroe Community College** (Rochester, NY)
6. **Montgomery County Community College** (Blue Bell, PA)
7. **Moraine Valley Community College** (Palos Hills, IL)
8. **Northampton County Area Community College** (Bethlehem, PA)
9. **Onondaga Community College** (Syracuse, NY)
10. **Pellissippi State Community College** (Knoxville, TN)
11. **SUNY Westchester Community College** (Valhalla, NY)
12. **Union County College** (Cranford, NJ)

Pending final approval, these colleges will be used to generate IPEDS Data Feedback Reports moving forward.

## Appendix A: Filter 1 Institutions

### **IPEDS: Federal Financial Aid Programs, Public 2 year, Degree granting, Suburb-Large, 10,000 – 19,999**

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|--|--|
| 1. *Anne Arundel Community College (Arnold, MD)                | 25. Midlands Technical College (West Columbia, SC)             |
| 2. Antelope Valley College (Lancaster, CA)                     | 26. MiraCosta College (Oceanside, CA)                          |
| 3. Arapahoe Community College (Littleton, CO)                  | 27. *Monroe Community College (Rochester, NY)                  |
| 4. Brookhaven College (Farmers Branch, TX)                     | 28. *Montgomery County Community College (Blue Bell, PA)       |
| 5. *Camden County College (Blackwood, NJ)                      | 29. *Moraine Valley Community College (Palos Hills, IL)        |
| 6. Chandler-Gilbert Community College (Chandler, AZ)           | 30. *Northampton County Area Community College (Bethlehem, PA) |
| 7. Citrus College (Glendora, CA)                               | 31. Ohlone College (Fremont, CA)                               |
| 8. College of Lake County (Grayslake, IL)                      | 32. *Onondaga Community College (Syracuse, NY)                 |
| 9. College of the Canyons (Santa Clarita, CA)                  | 33. Owens Community College (Perrysburg, OH)                   |
| 10. College of the Desert (Palm Desert, CA)                    | 34. *Pellissippi State Community College (Knoxville, TN)       |
| 11. Cypress College (Cypress, CA)                              | 35. Pikes Peak Community College (Colorado Springs, CO)        |
| 12. *Delaware County Community College (Media, PA)             | 36. Prince George's Community College (Largo, MD)              |
| 13. Diablo Valley College (Pleasant Hill, CA)                  | 37. Rio Hondo College (Whittier, CA)                           |
| 14. Eastfield College (Mesquite, TX)                           | 38. Saddleback College (Mission Viejo, CA)                     |
| 15. Foothill College (Los Altos Hills, CA)                     | 39. Sierra College (Rocklin, CA)                               |
| 16. Front Range Community College (Westminster, CO)            | 40. Southwestern College (Chula Vista, CA)                     |
| 17. Glendale Community College (Glendale, AZ)                  | 41. Stark State College (North Canton, OH)                     |
| 18. Golden West College (Huntington Beach, CA)                 | 42. *SUNY Westchester Community College (Valhalla, NY)         |
| 19. Grossmont College (El Cajon, CA)                           | 43. Triton College (River Grove, IL)                           |
| 20. J Sargeant Reynolds Community College (Richmond, VA)       | 44. *Union County College (Cranford, NJ)                       |
| 21. Jefferson Community and Technical College (Louisville, KY) | 45. Washtenaw Community College (Ann Arbor, MI)                |
| 22. John Tyler Community College (Chester, VA)                 | 46. West Los Angeles College (Culver City, CA)                 |
| 23. Joliet Junior College (Joliet, IL)                         | 47. William Rainey Harper College (Palatine, IL)               |
| 24. *Middlesex County College (Edison, NJ)                     |  |

\* College selected as a peer institution

## Appendix B: Pre-2017 List of Peer Institutions

### List of Peer Institutions (Old Version)

1. Anne Arundel Community College (Arnold, MD)
2. Chaffey College (Rancho Cucamonga, CA)
3. College of the Canyons (Santa Clarita, CA)
4. Glendale Community College (Glendale, CA)
5. Joliet Junior College (Joliet, IL)
6. Monroe Community College (Rochester, NY)
7. Moraine Valley Community College (Palos Hills, IL)
8. Sierra College (Rocklin, CA)
9. Southwestern College (Chula Vista, CA)
10. Triton College (River Grove, IL)
11. William Rainey Harper College (Palatine, IL)

## Appendix C: Selected Characteristics of Proposed Peer Institutions

Institutions are presented in order of similarity to Bergen Community College.

Institution Name	Fall enrollment (#)	% full-time (fall)	% full-time, degree-seeking (fall)	Retention rate (full-time)	Retention rate (part-time)	Grad rate	Transfer rate	12-month enrollment	Faculty and staff FTE	Core expenses per FTE	% of students awarded grants/scholarship	% of students awarded federal loans	% of students awarded Pell	Tuition and fees for full-time student
<i>Bergen Community College</i>	<b>14,585</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>10,986</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>\$11,877</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>\$4,278</b>
SUNY Westchester Community College	12,966	54%	17%	64%	53%	15%	18%	12,884	821	\$12,402	43%	9%	36%	\$4,723
Middlesex County College	11,662	49%	21%	65%	51%	16%	21%	9,075	813	\$12,015	48%	17%	39%	\$3,372
Onondaga Community College	11,886	50%	19%	57%	34%	20%	22%	8,236	860	\$12,142	47%	25%	36%	\$5,014
Moraine Valley Community College	15,016	43%	15%	66%	40%	26%	24%	11,066	874	\$10,268	35%	7%	30%	\$3,996
Northampton County Area Community College	10,269	45%	20%	63%	46%	20%	12%	7,021	931	\$12,425	51%	25%	43%	\$3,990
Union County College	11,220	43%	19%	64%	40%	16%	13%	8,439	679	\$10,586	49%	15%	45%	\$4,450
Monroe Community College	14,586	61%	22%	61%	39%	23%	19%	12,748	1,164	\$12,584	65%	38%	50%	\$4,554
Camden County College	11,263	50%	18%	59%	36%	15%	17%	8,570	608	\$10,362	51%	16%	41%	\$4,320
Montgomery County Community College	12,372	31%	17%	63%	46%	20%	25%	7,955	743	\$13,071	35%	28%	29%	\$4,920
Delaware County Community College	11,742	32%	17%	61%	43%	16%	25%	8,178	758	\$12,739	53%	30%	38%	\$4,760
Pellissippi State Community College	10,325	51%	25%	54%	49%	18%	6%	6,769	686	\$11,020	54%	17%	34%	\$3,988
Anne Arundel Community College	14,689	29%	16%	69%	50%	20%	31%	9,097	1,239	\$14,160	31%	12%	23%	\$4,464