LaGCC Grads and Transfer Success to CUNY BA/BS Programs

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We took three cohorts of new (first-time and transfer) students, Fall 2006, Fall 2007, and Fall 2008, and gave each cohort six-years to transfer to and graduate from a four-year program at another CUNY college. For each transfer, we looked at the date of CUNY BA/BS graduation (if any), the major upon BA/BS graduation, the number of credits earned at the CUNY four-year (local, transferred in, and total) and the final, cumulative GPA for the BA/BS program.

The results are available as online tables with selections for CUNY colleges and BA/BS graduation majors at http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/IR/IR-facts/   under "Student Outcomes," "Transfer Success to CUNY Colleges by BA/BS Major."

Each table contains the following data:
- **Total Number Transferred from LaGCC**
- **Total Number Graduated from the CUNY BA/BS Program**
- **6-yr. (from LaGCC entrance) Graduation Rate**
- **4-yr. Cumulative GPA upon Graduation at 4-year college**
- **4-yr. College Local Credits Earned**
- **4-yr. College Transfer Credits Accepted**
- **Total Credits Earned upon Graduation**
- **If 120 Needed for BA/BS, Credits Not Accepted**
- **If 120 Needed, Credits Accepted for Major**
- **Years to BA/BS from LaGCC Entry**

Findings

Given the caveats discussed below, these are our findings as shown in Table 1.

1) On average, this group of LaGuardia new students, given six years to finish their LaGuardia education and CUNY baccalaureate, completed within about five years.

2) **On average LaGCC students who graduated from CUNY BA/BS programs, if those programs required 120 credits for a four-year degree, transferred 56 credits, of which 48 counted toward the major.**

3) **On average transfers to CUNY four-year programs with LaGuardia degrees lost eight credits (13% of total credits transferred), while early transfers from LaGuardia lost nine credits (20% of total credits transferred).**

4) While students who began at LaGuardia as new transfers complete a four-year degree about one semester earlier than students who began as first-timers, they transferred

more credits, as well as lost more credits than students who began at LaGuardia as first-timers.

5) Early transfers to CUNY four-year programs appear to reach a four-year degree slightly more quickly than students who first earn a degree at LaGuardia and then transfer, even though the early transfers lost more credits.

Transfer Success of LaGuardia Transfers to CUNY Colleges											
1st Time or New Transfer	Left LaGuardia as: Early Transfer or Grad	Transfers Out	BA-BS Grads	Transfer BA/BS Grad Rate	BA/BS GPA	BA/BS College Credits	Transfer Credits	Total BA/BS Credits	Transfer Credits Not Accepted	Transfer Credits Accepted	% of Transfer Credits Lost	Years to BA/BS from Start at LaGCC
First-time only												
	Early Trans & Grads	1,408	555	39%	3.15	75	52	127	7	45	14%	5.2
	Early Trans only	425	155	36%	3.16	88	39	128	8	32	21%	5.1
	Grads only	983	400	41%	3.14	66	61	127	7	54	11%	5.2
New Transfer only												
	Early Trans & Grads	785	378	48%	3.24	69	62	130	10	51	16%	4.5
	Early Trans only	260	123	47%	3.17	76	53	130	10	43	18%	4.4
	Grads only	525	255	49%	3.29	63	68	130	10	57	15%	4.6
First-time & New Transfer												
	Early Trans & Grads	2,193	933	43%	3.19	72	56	129	9	48	15%	4.9
	Early Trans only	685	278	41%	3.17	83	45	129	9	37	20%	4.8
	Grads only	1,508	655	43%	3.21	64	64	128	8	56	13%	4.9
	Data from Fall 2006, 2007 & 2008 new student cohorts after six years											
	Assumes 120 credits to BA/BS degree											
	Blank or nonsense majors excluded											
	Staten Island, Medgar Evers, Professional School excluded											

Table 1

Caveats

1. In order to keep the information as recent as possible, we cut our horizon off at six-years after entering LaGuardia. Still, we had to go back to 2006 to get a large enough sample of three cohorts to produce results. Six years is a short time, but about 35% the cohorts who transferred had graduated with a BA or BS degree. This also artificially cuts off the time to obtain a BA/BS degree. Our average time is five years, but only for those who took no more than six. We have the option of re-doing this analysis by giving students eight years, but we would need to go back to 2004. We think 2006 and six years gives good comparative data to help the transfer office in advising students.

2. Some CUNY BA/BS programs may have required more than 120 credits for graduation. In those cases, the number of credits actually accepted into the major is too low by the amount required above 120.

3. Users may wish to filter out blank majors. Most of these appear to be non-degree programs.

4. Not all of the transfer credits are necessarily from LaGuardia. Nevertheless, all had been enrolled in LaGuardia and more than half had graduated from LaGuardia. Although the lost credits may not all be from LaGuardia, they still represent lost credits, most from LaGuardia and the majority of the remainder from other CUNY two-year colleges.

5. Not all programs in the comprehensive colleges appear to be properly coded in the CUNY data files (IRDB). While we selected only for four-year degree programs, the low numbers of credits needed to graduate at Staten Island and Medgar Evers suggest that some students graduated with two-year degrees coded as four-year. We recommend excluding these colleges using the filter.

6. Not all four-year graduate major codes in the IRDB appear to be valid. The major code upon graduation of "ADMITTED TO COLLEGE" is clearly incorrect, for example. We did our best to group similar majors together. About 500 of the IRDB graduation entries had no major and can be filtered out of the results.

7. Although we have students' final major at LaGuardia, we found the number of combinations between LaGuardia and CUNY four-year majors enormous. We had no automatic way, given the variations in naming, to link similar majors across colleges. If we could eliminate those students who changed major from LaGuardia to the CUNY four-year, the number of lost credits would undoubtedly decrease for some of the more specific programs.