

Your Right to Know

The federal government under the Student Right-to-Know legislation requires colleges and universities to report the percentage of students who began their studies full-time and then completed their programs within 150% of the normal time for completion. This time is three years for an associate degree.

In general, Dutchess Community College students compare favorably with other community colleges in the Hudson Valley. For full-time students entering DCC in the Fall 2007 semester, the percentage of students who graduated within a three-year period (24%) has been consistently among the highest when compared with the other five regional community colleges.

The sample used to satisfy the federal report contains only first time, full-time students. Since in many programs the majority of students enrolled are part-time, many successful students are not counted in the numbers above.

Several factors tend to delay graduation for community college students: three years is a relatively short time to complete a degree. Many community college students work full-time, and tend to change from one program to another and from full- to part-time. They may “stop out” for a semester or more. Also, more than half of the students entering DCC are required to take remedial courses which increases the time necessary to complete a degree.

Several positive factors can influence community college students to transfer out of the community college before completing their degrees. Reasons include the selection of a specialized career goal; desire for a full-time, residential campus experience; and increased independence and confidence. Therefore, the transfer-out rate is a measure of the community college experience as a stepping stone to further success. For the cohort of Dutchess Community College students described above, the transfer-out rate is 19%.

Adding together these three measures of academic success (graduation, transfer out, and continuing enrollment) we find the full-time students who entered DCC in the fall of 2007 have succeeded at a consistently high rate when compared to the other five regional community colleges.

