

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 2009 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 — including selection of a specialized career goal — can cause community college students to transfer out of the community college before completing their degrees. 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 20%. DCC is proud that in a recent SUNY report, students who transferred from DCC to four-year SUNY schools had the highest retention rate in the system. This is a testament to the College’s commitment to prepare students for future success.

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 2009 have succeeded at a consistently high rate when compared to the other five regional community colleges.

