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**ABSTRACT**

A follow-up study was conducted of students who graduated from LaGuardia Community College (LCC) in 1980 to provide information on graduates entering the labor market, industries employing LCC's graduates, salary data, transfer information, and LCC's graduates compared to those of other institutions. Questionnaires were mailed to each of the 824 students who graduated from LCC in 1980, and responses were received from 59.7% (N=492). Study findings included the following: (1) the number of graduates from certain curricular areas increased sharply from 1979 including secretarial science (+39%), human services (+26%), and business administration/management (+18%), while marked decreases were seen in liberal arts (-22%) and occupational therapy (-15%); (2) the transfer rate continued to rise with 63.3% of the graduates indicating they were enrolled in a senior college or in the process of enrolling; (3) of the transfer students, 60% were attending day classes and 40% were attending evening classes; (4) manufacturing, education/health/social agencies, banks, and legal firms attracted the most LCC graduates; (5) 57.5% of the graduates were employed full-time, and 80% of these graduates were working at new positions obtained near graduation; (6) the average salary of a 1980 LCC graduate was \$11,584, an average of 19.8% higher than that of other two-year college graduates in the Middle Atlantic area; and (7) approximately 46% of the graduates entering the labor market initially after graduation were employed with cooperative education employers. (AYC)

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**LaGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**REPORT ON GRADUATE PLACEMENT  
CLASS OF 1980**

Prepared by the Placement Office  
Division of Cooperative Education  
Professor Jeffrey I. Weintraub  
Director

LaGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
LONG ISLAND CITY, NEW YORK

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LaGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

REPORT ON GRADUATE PLACEMENT - CLASS OF 1980

Prepared by Placement Office - Division of Cooperative Education

Prof. Jeffrey I. Weintraub, Director

BACKGROUND

LaGuardia Community College awarded Associates Degrees to 824 graduates in the class of 1980. This represented an increase of 56 graduates (7.3%) from 1979.

The purpose of this report is to provide the college administration and faculty with an analysis of graduate activity. This includes information on graduates entering the labor market, which industries are hiring graduates, salary data, transfer information and comparison of LaGuardia graduates to those of comparable institutions.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. Information was obtained on 492 or 59.7% of the 824 graduates from a variety of sources.
2. The numbers of graduates within certain curricular areas increased sharply from 1979. Secretarial Science (+39%), Human Services (+26%) and Business Administration/Management (+18%). Curricular area which showed marked decreases are Liberal Arts (-22%) and Occupational Therapy (-15%). (See Table I)
3. The Secretarial Science curriculum graduated 193 students which represented 23.4% of all graduates. This was the largest concentration of graduates in one curriculum. 1980 represents the first year in which the Liberal Arts curriculum did not have the highest number of graduates. (See Table II)
4. The transfer rate continued to rise with 63.3% of the graduates indicating they are enrolled in a senior college or are in the process of enrolling. (See Table III)
5. Of the students transferring, approximately 60% are attending day classes and approximately 40% evening class. (See Table IV)
6. LaGuardia graduates entered a broad range of occupational areas in a cross section of industry. Manufacturing, Education/Health/Social Agencies, Banks and Legal Firms attracted the most graduates. (See Table V)
7. Of the 492 graduates responding, 283 (57.5%) are employed full-time. 80% of these employed graduates are working at new positions obtained near graduation. (See Table VI)

8. The average salary of a 1980 LaGuardia graduate is \$11,584 up 10.8% from 1979. Liberal Arts, Business Adm/Mgt and Data Processing graduates reported the largest increase. No curricular area reported a salary decrease. (See Table VII)
9. A comparison of entry level salaries of LaGuardia graduates to the Middle Atlantic Career Counseling Association (MACCA) survey shows LaGuardia graduates average 19.8% higher starting salaries than other two year graduates in the Middle Atlantic area. (See Table VIII)
10. Approximately 46% of the graduates entering the labor market initially after graduation are employed with Co-op employers.

#### DATA COLLECTION

A total of 824 degrees were granted between January and September 1980. Each graduate was mailed a questionnaire. After a period of three weeks, if no response was received, a second questionnaire was mailed. The total response from both mailings was 371 (45%) with 52 (6.3%) questionnaires being returned as undeliverable.

Additional data was obtained from the Admission Office with regard to students who intended to transfer. Of the students who did not respond to the questionnaire 87 had filed an intent to transfer. These students are included in all transfer statistics, although there is no verification as to whether or not they are actually attending a senior college at the present time.

Additional data was also obtained from the Placement Office employment folders where employment data for 34 who did not respond to the questionnaire was verified.

In utilizing these three sources (questionnaires, intent to transfer forms and employment folders) there is post graduate data on 492 (59.7%) of the 824 graduates.

GRADUATING CLASS OF 1980 BY CURRICULUM COMPARED TO THE CLASS OF 1979

Table I shows the number of graduates by curriculum for the 1980 and 1979 and the percentage change from the preceding year. The total number of graduates increased by 56 or 7.3%. Curricular areas which showed the largest increases were Secretarial Science + 39%, Human Services + 26% and Business Administration/Management + 18%. Curricular areas showing the largest decreases were Liberal Arts -22%, Occupational Therapy -15% and Ed Assoc./ Bil. Ed.Assoc.- 16%.

TABLE 1 GRADUATING CLASS OF 1980 vs 1979 BY CURRICULUM

<u>CURRICULUM</u>	<u>1980 Graduates</u>	<u>% of Graduating Class</u>	<u>1979 Graduates</u>	<u>Change</u>
Liberal Arts	115	14.0%	148	-22 %
Secretarial Science	193	23.4%	139	+39 %
Business Adm/Business Mgt.	156	18.9%	132	+18 %
Data Processing	97	11.8%	96	+ .01%
Accounting	89	10.8%	92	- 3 %
Human Services	106	12.9%	84	+26 %
Occupational Therapy	35	4.2%	41	-15 %
Bil Ed Assoc/Ed Assoc.	30	3.7%	36	-16 %
Dietary Technician	<u>3</u>	<u>.3%</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
	824	100.0%	768	+ 7.3%

Table II shows the percentage of graduates by curriculum for the years 1975-1980. While many curricular areas demonstrate limited fluctuation, Secretarial Science has grown by 73% in the past 6 years and almost one out of every four graduates is a Secretarial Science major. In contrast the Liberal Arts curriculum decreased by 47% in the same period of time and is now down to a 14% share.

TABLE II - GRADUATING CLASSES OF 1975-80 BY CURRICULUM

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1975</u>
Liberal Arts	14.0%	19.3%	25.1%	23.5%	25.1%	26.6%
Secretarial Science	23.4%	18.1%	16.5%	17.9%	14.7%	13.5%
Business Adm/Business Mgt.	18.9%	17.2%	18.1%	19.4%	16.6%	17.3%
Data Processing	11.8%	12.5%	7.8%	5.9%	8.4%	8.5%
Accounting	10.8%	12.0%	9.6%	10.0%	9.8%	10.5%
Human Services	12.9%	11.0%	11.8%	11.4%	14.1%	12.0%
Occupational Therapy	4.2%	5.3%	5.0%	3.4%	3.4%	3.1%
Ed Associate/Bil Ed Associate	3.7%	4.6%	6.1%	7.1%	7.9%	9.0%
Dietary Technician	.3%	--	--	--	--	--

TRANSFER TO SENIOR COLLEGE

Table III shows the percentage of graduates by curriculum who are recorded as transferring to a senior college. This table was compiled from questionnaires mailed to all graduates, transfer applications provided by the Admission Office, and graduate information on file in the Placement Office. Of the 371 students responding to the questionnaire 222 indicated that they have transferred to a senior college. An additional 87 students are listed as transferring: this data was derived from transfer applications provided by the Admission Office. There is no information available as to whether or not these 87 graduates actually registered and are now attending a senior college.

This table indicates a continuance of the resurgence in transfer rates which began in 1978. Although the transfer rates continue to rise Table IV reveals that 39.8% of those students transferring are also working full-time and 6.2% are working part-time.

**TABLE 111 - PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES APPLYING FOR TRANSFER TO SENIOR COLLEGES BY CURRICULUM 1973 - 1980**

<u>CURRICULUM</u>	<u>1980</u>		<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1973</u>
	<u># of Grads Responding</u>	<u># of Grads Transferring</u>								
Liberal Arts	75	55	75.3%	71.0%	60.0%	37.0%	53.0%	76.0%	80.0%	91.0%
Secretarial Science	90	39	44.3%	34.5%	21.0%	4.0%	22.0%	34.0%	14.0%	33.0%
Business Administration/ Business Management	96	70	72.9%	75.0%	49.0%	48.0%	50.0%	68.0%	75.0%	54.0%
Human Services	64	53	82.8%	80.0%	55.0%	49.0%	46.0%	66.0%	88.0%	0.0%
Accounting	63	43	68.0%	66.0%	54.0%	44.0%	54.0%	76.0%	50.0%	59.0%
Data Processing	58	28	50.0%	41.2%	31.0%	19.0%	30.0%	43.0%	38.0%	44.0%
Occupational Therapy	28	8	28.6%	29.0%	28.0%	8.0%	26.0%	36.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Bl Ed/Ed Associates	15	10	66.0%	73.0%	56.0%	31.0%	69.8%	62.5%	88.0%	44.0%
Dietary Technician	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>--</u>						
<u>TOTAL</u>	492	309	62.8%	59.3%	46.0%	32.0%	45.0%	62.0%	65.0%	62.0%

TABLE IV- BREAKOUT OF TRANSFEREES BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	<u>Transferred Full-Time Not Working</u>	<u>Transferred Full-Time Working Part-Time</u>	<u>Transferred Evening Working Full-Time</u>
Liberal Arts	38	6	11
Secretarial Science	15	1	23
Business Adm/Mgt.	28	6	55
Data Processing	14	-	14
Accounting	23	3	17
Human Services	36	3	14
Occupational Therapy	5	-	3
Ed Assoc/Bil Ed Assoc.	6	-	4
Dietary Technician	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	167	19	123

PLACEMENT BY INDUSTRY

Table V shows that of the 235 Liberal Arts and Business graduates employed full-time after graduation, 177 were determined to be entry level positions obtained prior to or just after graduation. This table analyzes those 177 placements by industry and reveals the wide range of industries entered by LaGuardia graduates which is reflective of the broad range of internships available to LaGuardia students.

TABLE V -PLACEMENTS BY INDUSTRY BY CURRICULUM

<u>INDUSTRY</u>	<u>L.A.</u>	<u>B.A./B.M.</u>	<u>ACCT.</u>	<u>S.S.</u>	<u>D.P.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Banking	-	4	3	6	5	18
Finance	-	3	2	2	1	8
C.P.A.	-	-	4	-	-	4
Ed/Health/Social	4	1	-	9	8	22
Manufacturing	1	9	5	10	3	28
Government	1	1	2	3	6	13
Legal	1	-	-	16	1	18
Retail	-	2	1	3	1	7
Publishing	1	1	1	1	-	4
Insurance	-	4	3	2	1	10
Entertainment/Arts	-	1	3	2	-	6
Advertising	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hotels/Travel	1	1	1	2	1	6
Communication	1	-	1	1	2	5
Real Estate	-	4	-	1	1	6
D.P. Service	-	-	-	-	5	5
Other	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16</u>
TOTAL	13	33	31	65	35	177

PATHS OF LAGUARDIA GRADUATES

Table VI indicates the post graduate directions of the class of 1980 by curricular area. Graduates of Secretarial Science, Occupational Therapy, Human Services, Data Processing and Accounting are more likely to need placement assistance upon graduation than Business or Liberal Arts students, many of whom, are employed while attending and are not looking to change jobs upon graduation. These figures may not add up across because a number of students obtained full-time positions and are attending college in the evening. (See Table IV)

TABLE VI - PATHS OF LAGUARDIA GRADUATES BY CURRICULUM

<u>Curriculum</u>	<u>#of Grads</u>	<u>#of Grads Resp.</u>	<u>Grads Emp.</u>		<u>Sr. College Trans.<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Not In Labor Market<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>Seeking Employ.</u>	<u>No Info</u>
			<u>New Job<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Exist. Job</u>				
Liberal Arts	115	75	13	11	55	3	3	40
Secretarial Science	193	90	65	2	39	-	1	103
Business Adm/Mgt.	156	96	33	22	70	-	7	60
Data Processing	97	58	35	8	28	-	4	39
Accounting	89	63	31	7	43	-	3	26
Human Services	106	64	20	3	53	-	7	42
Occupational Therapy	35	28	22	-	8	-	1	7
Ed Assoc/Bil Ed Assoc.	30	15	5	5	10	-	-	15
Dietary Technician	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL	824	492	225	58	309	3	26	332

1. A new job is defined as a position a graduate has obtained just prior to, or after graduation. This includes the continuation of an internship into permanent employment.
2. See Table IV for breakdown of day or evening attendance.
3. The graduates are not in the labor market or continuing their education by choice. Some are Senior Citizens, others are raising families, etc.

SALARY DATA

Table VII shows salary data for the 219 of the 283 employed graduates. These are the graduates who indicated that their current job was obtained just prior to or after graduation. Salaries of the other 58 graduates are not included in this table as they represent jobs which the graduate obtained prior to entering LaGuardia. Salaries of Education Associates, Bilingual Education Associates and Dietary Technicians are also not included in this survey. The objective of this table is to analyze entry level salaries. Salaries in all curricular areas increased from 2% to 19% with Liberal Arts (+19.6%), Business Admin./Mgt. (+14.2%), and Data Processing (+11.8%) reporting the highest increase. Overall LaGuardia graduates salaries increased by +10.8%.

TABLE VII SALARY DATA BY CURRICULUM FOR 1980 GRADUATES

<u>Curriculum</u>	<u>Emp. Grads.</u>	<u>Salary Data Provided</u>	<u>1980 Salary Range</u>	<u>1980 Average Salary</u>	<u>% of Grads Above/Below Curriculum Mean Salary</u>	<u>% of Grads reporting salary greater than \$10,000</u>	<u>1979 Average Salary</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Liberal Arts	13	12	\$ 7,800-18,000	\$11,865	50/50	75%	\$ 9,921	+19.6%
Business Adm./Mgt.	33	30	7,800-19,800	11,722	50/50	66%	10,216	+14.2%
Accounting	31	29	9,100-13,000	10,046	62/38	79%	9,433	+ 6.5%
Secretarial Science	65	58	8,372-15,900	11,817	52/48	82%	10,785	+ 9.5%
Occupational Therapy	22	18	11,000-14,820	12,615	39/61	100%	11,575	+ 9.0%
Human Services	20	20	6,097-14,500	9,142	40/60	35%	8,538	+ 7.0%
Data Processing (All Grads)	35	31	6,812-21,000	13,324	55/45	84%	11,914	+11.8%
Data Processing (Operations Grads)	18	15	6,812-15,000	11,067	40/60	66%	10,857	+ 2.0%
Data Processing (Programming grads)	17	16	10,400-21,000	15,440	50/50	100%	14,144	+ 9.1%
<u>TOTALS</u>	219	198	\$ 6,097-21,000	\$11,584	47/53	76%	\$10,453	+10.8%
Liberal Arts & Business (S.S., Acct., B.A./B.M., D.P., L.A.)				\$11,774			\$10,499	+12.1%
Business Only				\$11,766			\$10,597	+11.0%

LaGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES SALARIES COMPARED TO THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC CAREER COUNSELING SALARY SURVEY (MACCA)

Table VIII is a comparison of LaGuardia graduates entry level salaries to salary survey conducted by MACCA which represents close to 50 Community Colleges in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia and Pennsylvania. While LaGuardia graduates have kept pace with inflation (approximately 12%) other 2 year graduates have fallen far behind. Most dramatic is that of the Secretarial Science graduate. While the LaGuardia graduates' salary increased 9.5%, MACCA surveyed graduates salaries decreased, showing an average difference of 38.6% in entry salaries. Overall LaGuardia's entry salaries rose 12.1% while MACCA's rose 2.8% which reflects the 19.8% difference in starting salaries between LaGuardia graduates and other comparable institutions.

TABLE VIII

<u>Curriculum</u>	<u>LaGUARDIA</u>			<u>MACCA</u>			<u>LaG. vsMACCA Salary Difference</u>
	<u>Range</u>	<u>Av. 1980 Salary</u>	<u>%Change from '79</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Av. 1980 Salary</u>	<u>%Change from '79</u>	
Bus. Adm. Mgt.	\$7,800-19,800	\$11,722	+14.2%	\$ 7,800-13,000	\$10,285	+19.1%	+14.0%
Accounting	9,100-13,000	10,004	+ 6.5%	7,800-10,920	9,464	- 1.6%	+ 5.7%
Secretarial Science	8,372-15,900	11,817	+ 9.5%	7,800-10 868	8,528	- 5.2%	+38.6%
Liberal Arts	7,800-18,000	11,865	+19.6%	7,592-13,520	10,639	+17.9%	+11.5%
Data Processing	6,812-21,000	13,324	+11.8%	11,180-14,560	13,104	+18.1%	+ 1.7%
<b>AVERAGE SALARY</b>		<b>\$11,774</b>	<b>+12.1%</b>		<b>\$ 9,829</b>	<b>+ 2.8%</b>	<b>+19.8%</b>

COMPARISON OF LaGUARDIA SALARIES TO OFFERS MADE TO B.A. GRADUATES AS REPORTED BY THE COLLEGE PLACEMENT COUNCIL (C.P.C.)

Table IX offers a comparison of salary offers to B.A. graduates and LaGuardia Community College actual average entry level salary by curriculum. Although LaGuardia salaries are considerably less than B.A. graduates their salaries are rising at a comparable rate.

<u>Curriculum</u>	<u>LaGuardia Average Salary</u>	<u>% Change From '79</u>	<u>C.P.C. Average Salary</u>	<u>% Change From '79</u>
Liberal Arts	\$11,865	+19.6%	\$12,876	+13.5%
Accounting	10,004	+ 6.5%	15,516	+10.3%
Business	11,722	+14.2%	14,616	+13.1%
Data Processing	13,324	+11.8%	18,696	+ 9.7%

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