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ABSTRACT

This report describes and compares the demographic and academic characteristics of Fiscal Year (FY) 92, FY93, FY94, FY95, and FY96 graduates of Howard Community College (HCC) in Maryland, and the respondents to graduate surveys. The purposes of these surveys were to collect data about the employment and educational experiences of alumni one year after graduating and to use this information to evaluate the effectiveness of college programs in preparing students for employment and transfer. This report describes the methodology used in the five surveys and describes characteristics of all graduates and the respondents who completed the follow-up survey. Two types of data are available to describe HCC graduates: (1) demographic characteristics and data such as grade point average (GPA), program, and years from entry to graduation; and (2) data from surveys that are available only for those graduates who respond to the annual surveys. Information concerning where these graduates transfer, where they find employment, and how they evaluate their HCC experience is available only from the graduates who responded to the five surveys. The tables in this report describe the HCC graduates of the past five years and compare the characteristics of respondents to the characteristics of all graduates. In general, the demographic, academic, and occupational characteristics of HCC graduates and survey respondents have remained relatively stable over the five-year period. A copy of the questionnaire is included. (JL)

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 1992 - 1996 GRADUATES A TREND ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

In the spring of each year, Howard Community College conducts a study of students who graduated in the previous year. The purposes of these surveys are to collect data about the employment and educational experiences of graduates one year after graduating and to use this information to evaluate the effectiveness of college programs in preparing students for employment and transfer.

In these surveys, graduates responded to questions about goals, goal achievement, personal development, transfer success, student satisfaction with HCC, and current educational and employment status. The data collected were merged with college information about all graduates, such as academic performance and demographic characteristics, to present a picture of graduates when they entered HCC, their goals and success at HCC, and how they had progressed approximately one year after leaving the college.

This report describes and compares the demographic and academic characteristics of FY92, FY93, FY94, FY95, and FY96 graduates and the respondents to these graduate surveys. It also describes the methodology used in the five surveys and serves as the foundation for a series of forthcoming topical reports on goal achievement, transfer, employment, graduates' satisfaction with HCC, and changes in the characteristics of graduates.

Methodology

Graduates

Each year the survey population consists of all students who receive an associate degree or certificate from HCC. Data on entry goals and variables like GPA were extracted from HCC's database and are available for the total graduate population.

Survey Instrument

Survey questionnaires were developed by the Maryland Community College Research Group in accordance with MHEC procedures. During this five-year time frame most items on the survey remained the same, and the mailing and processing procedures remained similar except for the 1997 survey of 1996 graduates. In the 1997 survey, the questionnaire was reformatted by MHEC so it could be scanned, and the survey was mailed in June one year after graduation rather than in March. The questionnaires used in these five surveys are included at the end of this report.

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Response Rates

To encourage response from graduates, raffle tickets for HCC bookstore gift certificates were included with the questionnaire mailing. Two weeks after the initial mailings, a second questionnaire was sent to graduates who had not responded. In a further effort to increase the response rate, follow-up telephone calls were made to nonrespondents after the second mailing encouraging survey participation. Despite these efforts, response rates have declined from a high of 71 percent in 1992 to 34 percent for 1996 graduates. The low response rate for the 1996 graduates can be partly attributed to the new survey format and timing issues.

For the 1992, 1994 and 1996 graduates, MHEC compiled the statewide data and shared these data tables among all Maryland community colleges. In years that MHEC did not conduct the survey, the college's planning and evaluation office prepared the analysis.

Characteristics of All Graduates

The demographic, academic and occupational characteristics of HCC graduates have remained relatively stable over this five-year period.

The total number of graduates ranged from 264 to 324 over the five-year period. The percentage of males among HCC graduates has ranged from 26 percent to 32 percent. The number of Asians and African Americans among graduates has increased since 1992, while the number of graduates from other ethnic categories has been steady.

The median age of HCC's graduates increased from 26 to 28 years over the five-year period, reflecting a large increase in the 30-39 age group. The historically largest age category, 23-29, was surpassed by the 30-39 group in 1996.

The mean grade point average remained at 3.2 and the average number of credits earned at HCC remained near 64. The average time from entry to HCC to graduation has increased from 4.0 to 4.2 years, with more than 70 percent of the graduates now taking more than two years to graduate.

Characteristics of Respondents

The demographic, academic and occupational characteristics of respondents to the graduate survey have also remained relatively stable over the five-year period.

The total number of respondents ranged from 97 to 188 over the five-year period. The percentage of males among respondents ranged from 23 percent to 31 percent. The percentages of both Asians and African Americans among respondents have increased since 1992, while that of respondents from other ethnic categories remained fairly steady.

The median age of respondents increased from 27 to 30 years over the five-year period, again reflecting a large increase in the 30-39 age group.

The mean grade point average remained at 3.2 and the average number of credits earned at HCC ranged from 62 to 65. The average time from entry to graduation remained at 4.1 for all years except for 1995.

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Summary

Two types of data are available to describe HCC graduates: 1) demographic characteristics and data such as GPA, program, and years from entry to graduation, which are available from academic records and are available for all graduates; and 2) data from surveys that are available only for those graduates who respond to the annual surveys. Much valuable information concerning where these graduates transfer, where they find employment, and how they evaluate their HCC experience is available only from the graduates who responded to the five surveys. The tables in this report describe the HCC graduates of the past five years and compare the characteristics of respondents to the characteristics of all graduates.

Comparisons of characteristics such as gender, race, age and program type for all graduates versus survey respondents have been used to test the representativeness of the survey respondents. Over the five-year period, the percent of respondents in various student and demographic categories has been quite similar to the percent of graduates in those same categories. Male respondents have been slightly under represented. Also slightly under represented in the survey responses were African American graduates in 1993 and 1996 and respondents from transfer programs in 1995. This comparison provides a check on whether the respondents can be fairly used to represent the experience and views of all the graduates. This analysis has reassured us that the respondents, despite a declining response rate, continue to reflect the demographic and educational experiences of all graduates.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL GRADUATES
HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FY 1992 - 1996**

	FISCAL YEAR									
	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Highest Degree										
Total Graduates	264	100%	279	100%	281	100%	324	100%	284	100%
Associate Degrees	237	90%	257	92%	265	94%	302	93%	256	90%
Certificates	27	10%	22	8%	16	6%	22	7%	28	10%
Gender										
Male	86	33%	95	34%	88	31%	87	27%	90	32%
Female	178	67%	184	66%	193	69%	237	73%	194	68%
Ethnicity										
African American	24	9%	28	10%	19	7%	28	9%	41	14%
Asian	7	3%	15	5%	5	2%	11	3%	11	4%
Hispanic	5	2%	5	2%	6	2%	7	2%	4	1%
Native American	1	0%	2	1%	0	0%	2	1%	1	0%
White	220	83%	224	80%	248	88%	267	82%	222	78%
Other	7	3%	5	2%	3	1%	9	3%	5	2%
Age										
Median Age	26		27		27		28		28	
16 - 22	80	30%	62	22%	52	19%	70	22%	65	23%
23 - 29	90	34%	100	36%	118	42%	103	32%	89	31%
30 - 39	55	21%	68	24%	69	25%	93	29%	94	33%
40 - 59	36	14%	48	17%	41	15%	56	17%	35	12%
>59	3	1%	1	0%	1	0%	2	1%	1	0%
Grade Point Average (mean)										
	3.21		3.16		3.18		3.15		3.11	
<2.00	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
2.00 - 2.49	27	10%	26	9%	18	6%	30	9%	39	14%
2.50 - 2.99	62	23%	78	28%	75	27%	94	29%	87	31%
3.00 - 3.49	90	34%	98	35%	114	41%	108	33%	78	27%
3.50 - 4.00	84	32%	77	28%	74	26%	92	28%	80	28%
Credits Earned										
Average Credits Earned	62.4		64.8		64.2		65.2		62.7	
<30	14	5%	10	4%	8	3%	16	5%	22	8%
30 - 59	82	31%	87	31%	90	32%	84	26%	90	32%
60 - 80	138	52%	137	49%	141	50%	159	49%	125	44%
>80	30	11%	45	16%	42	15%	65	20%	47	17%
Years to Completion										
Average	4.0		4.3		4.2		4.5		4.2	
1 - 2 Years	73	28%	65	23%	59	21%	66	20%	67	24%
3 - 4 Years	104	39%	115	41%	124	44%	135	42%	128	45%
5 - 10 Years	73	28%	85	30%	79	28%	107	33%	77	27%
Over 10 Years	5	2%	8	3%	10	4%	12	4%	10	4%
Unknown	9	3%	6	2%	9	3%	4	1%	2	1%

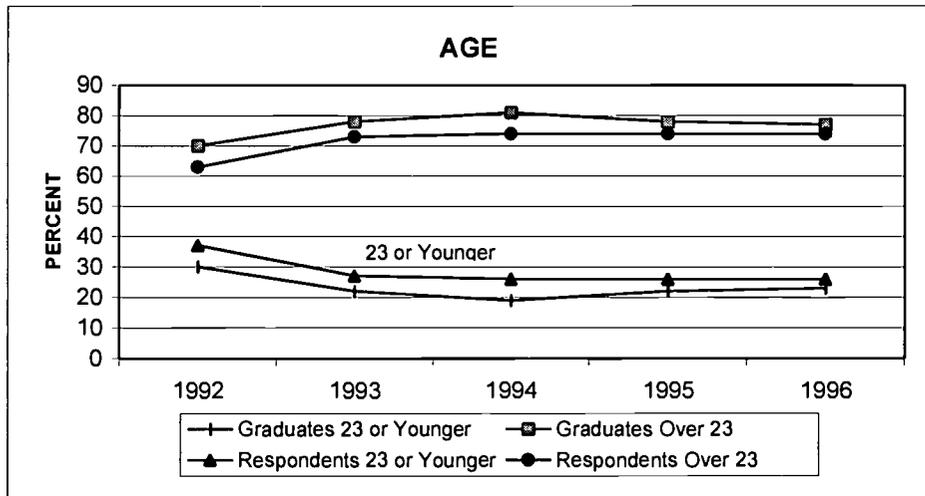
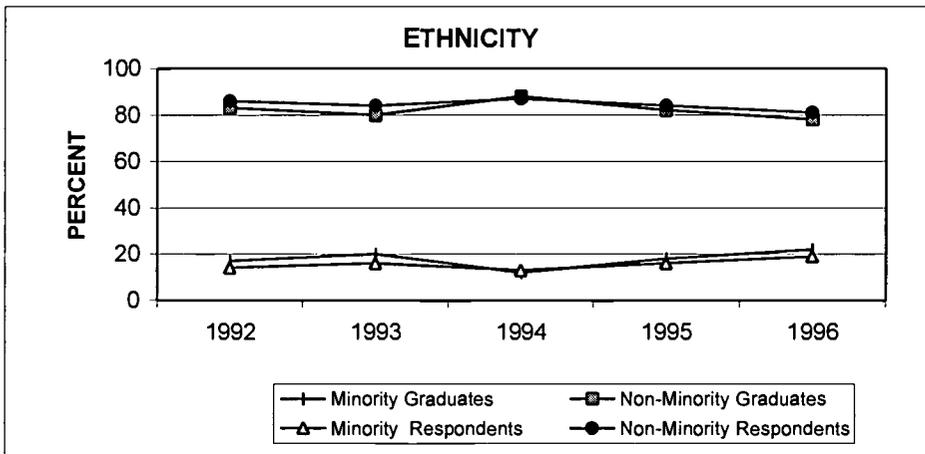
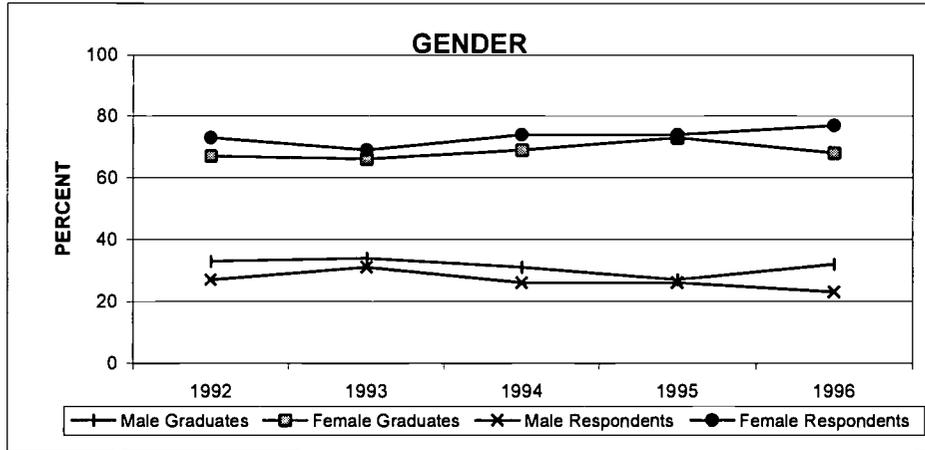
Note: Data was compiled from the HCC graduation files.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL RESPONDENTS TO THE GRADUATE SURVEY
HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FY 1992 - 1996**

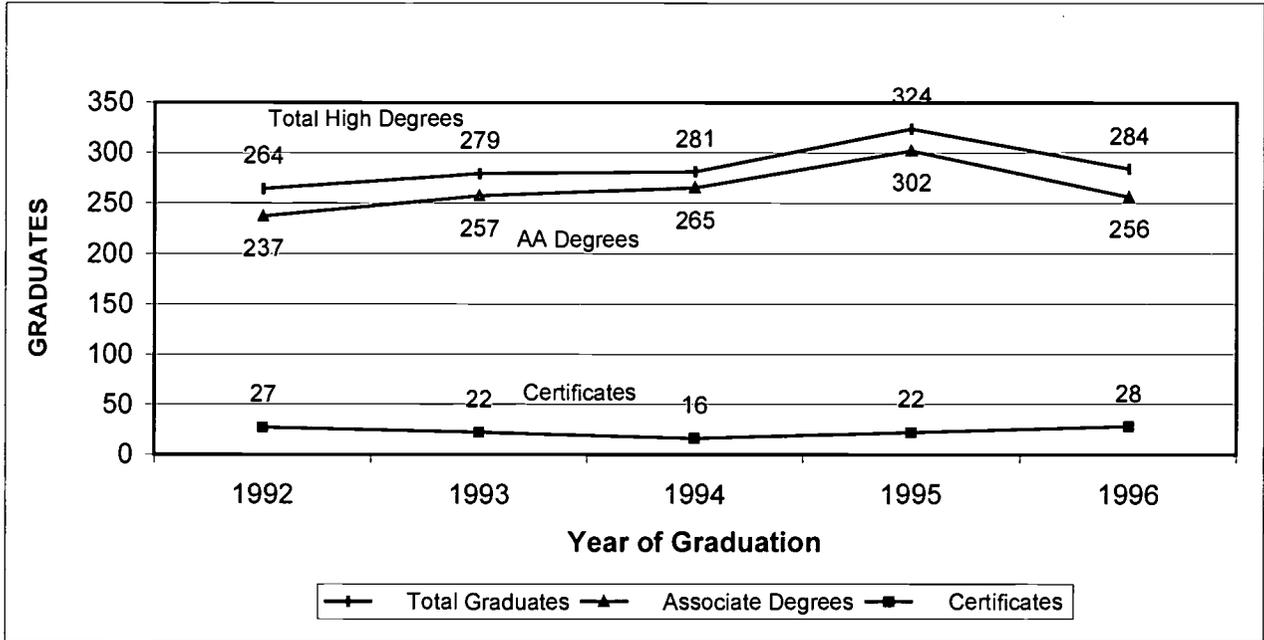
	FISCAL YEAR									
	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Overall Response Rate	188	71%	180	65%	171	61%	164	51%	97	34%
Highest Degree										
Associate Degrees	171	91%	164	91%	164	96%	153	93%	86	89%
Certificates	17	9%	16	9%	7	4%	11	7%	11	11%
Gender										
Male	51	27%	55	31%	45	26%	43	26%	22	23%
Female	137	73%	125	69%	126	74%	121	74%	75	77%
Ethnicity										
African American	15	8%	13	7%	12	7%	13	8%	10	10%
Asian	4	2%	8	4%	3	2%	5	3%	4	4%
Hispanic	3	2%	3	2%	4	2%	5	3%	1	1%
Native American	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%
White	161	86%	151	84%	149	87%	137	84%	79	81%
Other	4	2%	4	2%	3	2%	3	2%	3	3%
Age										
Median Age	27		28		28		30		30	
16 - 22	55	29%	40	22%	33	19%	34	21%	23	24%
23 - 29	55	29%	65	36%	64	37%	42	26%	22	23%
30 - 39	44	23%	42	23%	44	26%	51	31%	32	33%
40 - 59	31	16%	32	18%	29	17%	35	21%	20	21%
>59	3	2%	1	1%	1	1%	2	1%	0	0%
Grade Point Average (mean)	3.23		3.24		3.25		3.24		3.28	
<2.00	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
2.00 - 2.49	16	9%	7	4%	10	6%	11	7%	9	9%
2.50 - 2.99	42	22%	51	28%	35	20%	37	23%	19	20%
3.00 - 3.49	63	34%	67	37%	73	43%	63	38%	27	28%
3.50 - 4.00	66	35%	55	31%	53	31%	53	32%	42	43%
Credits Earned										
Average Credits Earned	63		65		64		65		62	
<30	7	4%	8	4%	5	3%	8	5%	7	7%
30 - 59	57	30%	57	32%	51	30%	47	29%	38	39%
60 - 80	107	57%	86	48%	91	53%	76	46%	38	39%
>80	17	9%	29	16%	24	14%	33	20%	14	14%
Years to Completion										
Average	4.1		4.1		4.1		4.4		4.1	
1 - 2 Years	52	28%	40	22%	37	22%	37	23%	26	27%
3 - 4 Years	69	37%	79	44%	75	44%	72	44%	47	48%
5 - 10 Years	58	31%	53	29%	49	29%	46	28%	20	21%
Over 10 Years	3	2%	2	1%	7	4%	6	4%	4	4%
Unknown	6	3%	6	3%	3	2%	3	2%	0	0%

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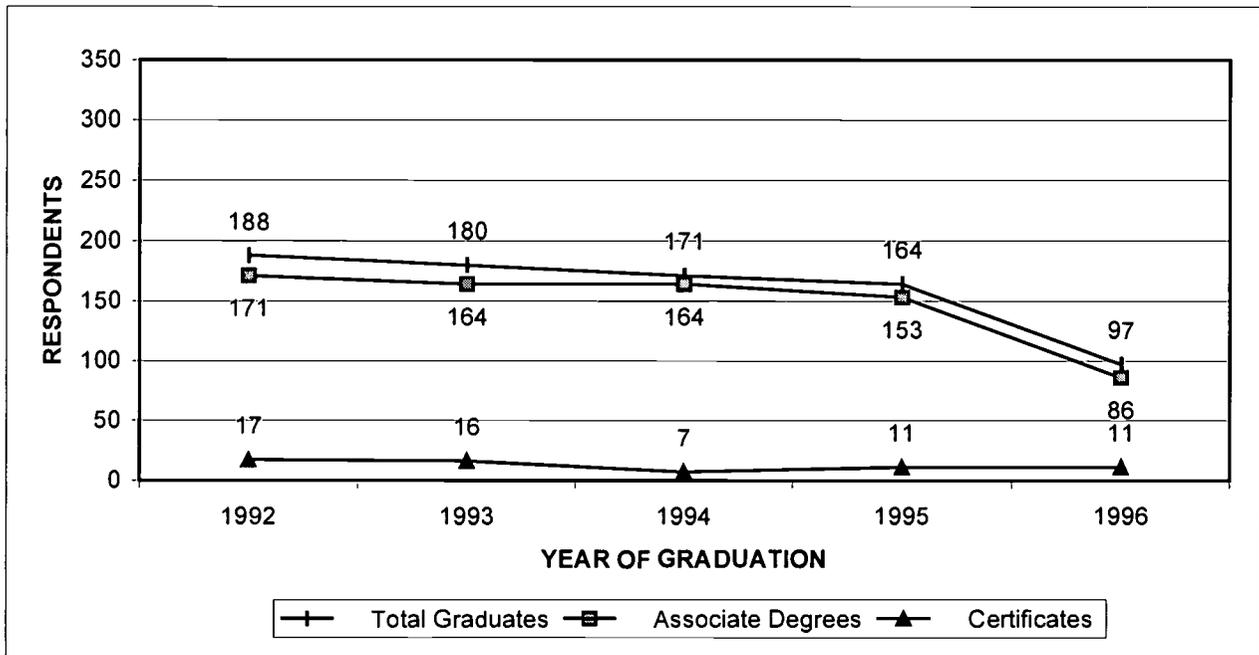
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS GRADUATES AND SURVEY RESPONDENTS



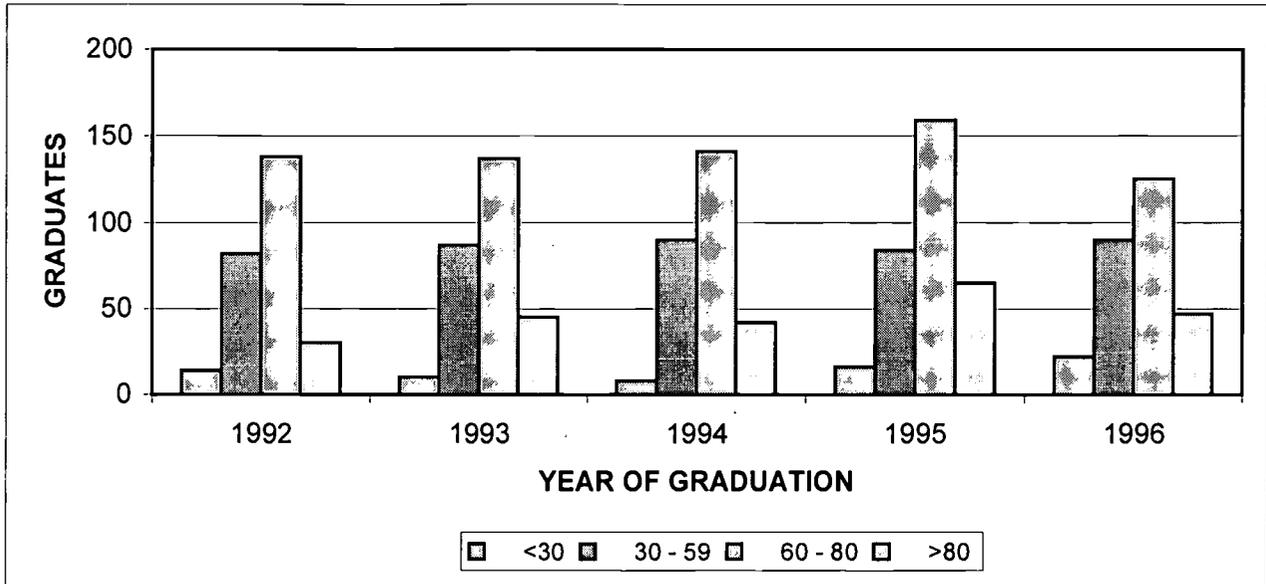
HIGHEST DEGREES OF ALL GRADUATES



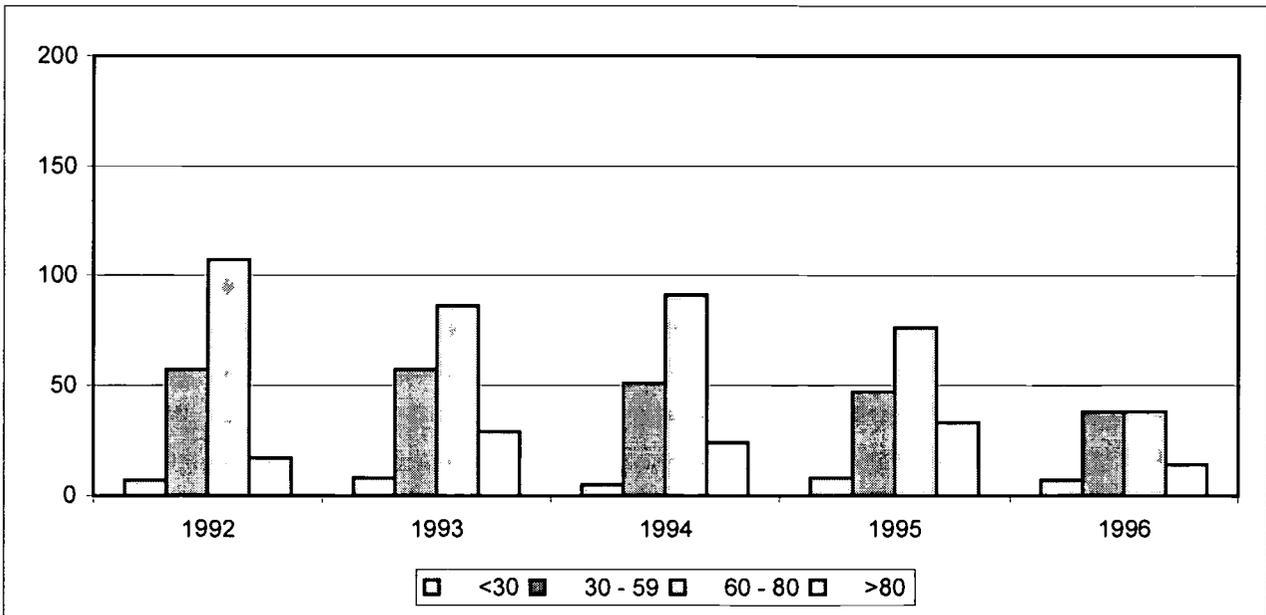
HIGHEST DEGREES OF RESPONDENTS



CREDITS EARNED AT HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALL GRADUATES

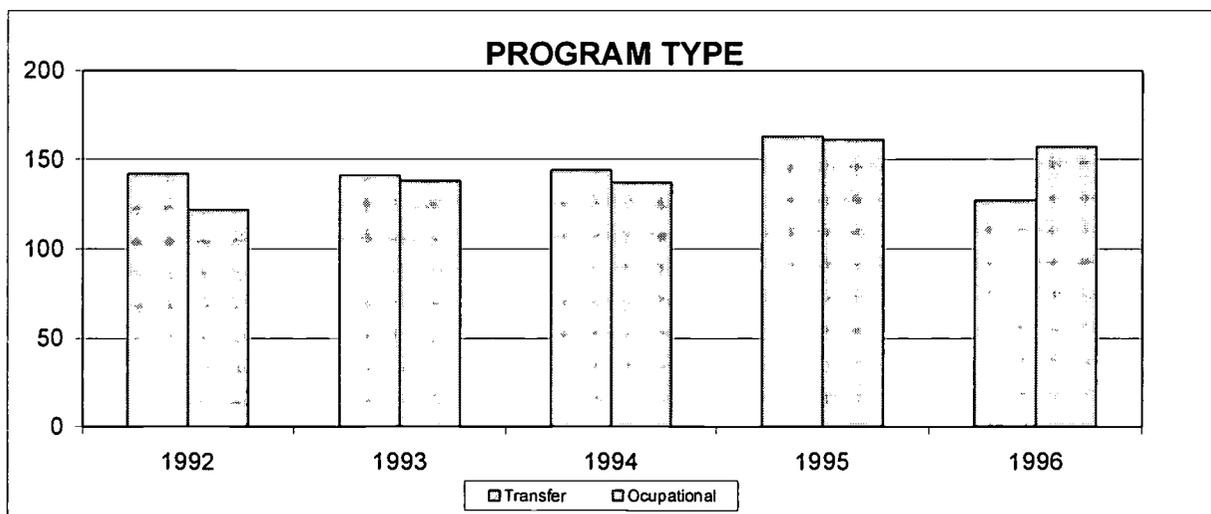


CREDITS EARNED AT HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALL RESPONDENTS



**ALL GRADUATES' PROGRAMS OF STUDY
HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FY 1992 - 1996**

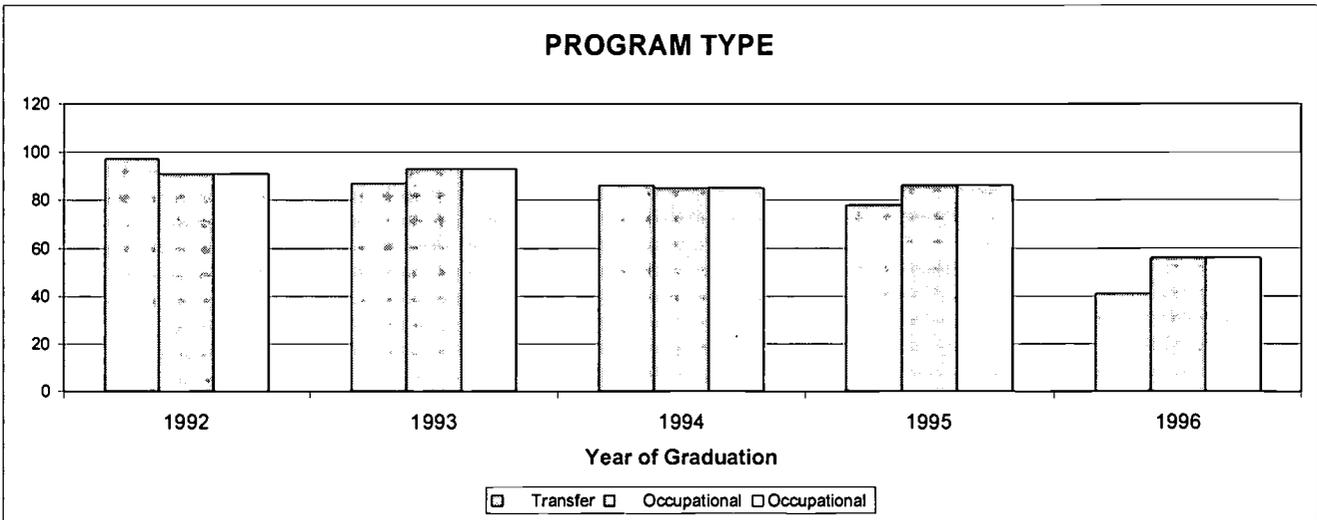
Program Type	FISCAL YEAR									
	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	264		279		281		324		284	
Transfer	142	54%	141	51%	144	51%	163	50%	127	45%
Occupational	122	46%	138	49%	137	49%	161	50%	157	55%
Transfer Programs										
Arts & Sciences	37	14%	35	13%	64	23%	68	21%	43	15%
Engineering	4	2%	2	1%	3	1%	5	2%	3	1%
General Studies	37	14%	32	11%	40	14%	38	12%	43	15%
Teacher Education	23	9%	17	6%	15	5%	21	6%	14	5%
Business Administration	39	15%	49	18%	20	7%	31	10%	22	8%
Computer Science	2	1%	6	2%	2	1%	0	0%	2	1%
Subtotal Transfer Programs	142	54%	141	51%	144	51%	163	50%	127	45%
Accounting (disc 93)	4	2%	5	2%	5	2%	5	2%	2	1%
Business Management	19	7%	27	10%	18	6%	23	7%	14	5%
Office Technology	14	5%	6	2%	8	3%	20	6%	14	5%
Data Processing	9	3%	5	2%	5	2%	2	1%	3	1%
Comp Tech/Comp Supp Tech	0	0%	0	0%	2	1%	0	0%	1	0%
Micro Computer Appl (disc 95)	10	4%	3	1%	3	1%	2	1%	1	0%
Network Administration (added 93)	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	1	0%
Nursing/Pract. Nursing (LPN adde	43	16%	59	21%	65	23%	82	25%	89	31%
Cardiovascular Tech (added 94)	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Computer Aided Design	3	1%	7	3%	1	0%	6	2%	9	3%
Electronics Tech	2	1%	6	2%	5	2%	4	1%	6	2%
Construction Tech (disc 95)	6	2%	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Biomedical Eng Tech	7	3%	10	4%	15	5%	7	2%	9	3%
Plant Science	0	0%	3	1%	3	1%	1	0%	1	0%
Early Childhood Devel	5	2%	6	2%	6	2%	8	2%	7	2%
Subtotal Occupational Programs	122	46%	138	49%	137	49%	161	50%	157	55%
Total for All Programs	264	100%	279	100%	281	100%	324	100%	284	100%



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**RESPONDENTS' PROGRAMS OF STUDY
HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FY 1992 - 1996**

Program Type	FISCAL YEAR									
	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	188		180		171		164		97	
Transfer	97	52%	87	48%	86	50%	78	48%	41	42%
Occupational	91	48%	93	52%	85	50%	86	52%	56	58%
Transfer Programs										
Arts & Sciences	29	15%	19	11%	38	22%	34	21%	14	14%
Engineering	2	1%	1	1%	2	1%	4	2%	1	1%
General Studies	18	10%	20	11%	22	13%	17	10%	14	14%
Teacher Education	20	11%	13	7%	8	5%	6	4%	5	5%
Business Administration	27	14%	30	17%	15	9%	17	10%	7	7%
Computer Science	1	1%	4	2%	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Subtotal Transfer Programs	97	52%	87	48%	86	50%	78	48%	41	42%
Occupational Programs										
Accounting (disc 93)	4	2%	4	2%	2	1%	3	2%	1	1%
Business Management	16	9%	17	9%	12	7%	14	9%	8	8%
Office Technology	12	6%	4	2%	4	2%	9	5%	9	9%
Data Processing	7	4%	2	1%	3	2%	1	1%	2	2%
Comp Tech/Comp Supp Tech	0	0%	0	0%	2	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Micro Computer Appl (disc 95)	7	4%	2	1%	3	2%	2	1%	1	1%
Network Administration (added 93)	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Nursing/Pract. Nursing (LPN added 93)	31	16%	39	22%	42	25%	45	27%	26	27%
Cardiovascular Tech (added 94)	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Computer Aided Design	2	1%	6	3%	0	0%	4	2%	5	5%
Electronics Tech	1	1%	4	2%	3	2%	1	1%	0	0%
Construction Tech (disc 95)	3	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Biomedical Eng Tech	5	3%	7	4%	8	5%	3	2%	1	1%
Plant Science	0	0%	3	2%	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%
Early Childhood Devel	3	2%	5	3%	5	3%	3	2%	3	3%
Subtotal Occupational Programs	91	48%	93	52%	85	50%	86	52%	56	58%
Total for All Programs	188	100%	180	100%	171	100%	164	100%	97	100%



FY92, FY93, FY94, FY95 Questionnaire

GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The purpose of this questionnaire is to help your community college and the State Board for Community Colleges assess and improve programs. Please complete the survey and return it in the stamped envelope provided. Additional comments are welcome. All answers will be strictly confidential. Thank you for your assistance in helping us evaluate our programs and services.

(Please make corrections if necessary)

Name _____

Address _____

A. What is your current work/education status? (Check all that apply.)

- 1. Employed full-time (35 or more hours per week)
- 2. Employed part-time
- 3. Full-time student (12 or more credit hours)
- 4. Part-time student
- 5. Active military service
- 6. Full-time homemaker
- 7. Unemployed and seeking a job
- 8. Unemployed and not seeking a job
- 9. Retired

B. Below are a number of reasons for attending a community college. Please rate how important each was to you. For each item, circle the number that most clearly reflects your opinion.

	Reason		
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
1. Prepare for entry into first career	3	2	1
2. Prepare for entry into different career	3	2	1
3. Update skills for current job	3	2	1
4. Prepare for transfer to four-year institution	3	2	1
5. Self-enrichment/courses of interest only	3	2	1
6. Explore new occupational area	3	2	1
7. Explore new academic area	3	2	1
8. Obtain salary increase and/or job promotion	3	2	1
9. Earn an associate in arts degree	3	2	1
10. Other (specify) _____	3	2	1

C. Please give the number (from question B) of the single most important reason for deciding to attend this community college. _____

D. Was your most important goal (indicated in question C) achieved by the time you graduated from this community college?

3. Achieved completely 2. Achieved partly 1. Not achieved

E. Did your attendance at this community college contribute to your personal development in the following areas? (For each item, circle the number that most closely reflects your experience.) My experience at this community college:

	<u>A Great Deal</u>		<u>A Fair Amount</u>		<u>Not at All</u>
1. Improved my writing skills	5	4	3	2	1
2. Enhanced my appreciation of art, music, or literature	5	4	3	2	1
3. Increased my ability to use mathematics	5	4	3	2	1
4. Improved my understanding of science and technology	5	4	3	2	1
5. Increased my attentiveness to news and world events	5	4	3	2	1
6. Clarified my educational or career goals	5	4	3	2	1
7. Enhanced my self-confidence	5	4	3	2	1
8. Improved my reading comprehension	5	4	3	2	1
9. Increased my knowledge of other cultures & periods of history	5	4	3	2	1
10. Increased my enjoyment of learning	5	4	3	2	1

F. During the semester(s) you attended this community college, did you work:

- 1. Primarily full-time (35 or more hours per week)
- 2. Primarily part-time
- 3. No, most of the time I did not work

G. During the semester(s) you attended this community college, did you attend primarily full-time or part time?

- 1. Primarily as a full-time student (12 or more credit hours per term)
- 2. Primarily as a part-time student

H. Please rate each of the following aspects of this community college. (Circle the answer that most closely reflects your opinion.)

	<u>Very Good</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Very Poor</u>	<u>No basis to Judge</u>
1. Quality of classroom instruction	5	4	3	2	1	0
2. Quality of laboratory equipment	5	4	3	2	1	0
3. Faculty availability/helpfulness	5	4	3	2	1	0
4. Class scheduling	5	4	3	2	1	0
5. Academic advising	5	4	3	2	1	0
6. Developmental Reading courses	5	4	3	2	1	0
7. Developmental English courses	5	4	3	2	1	0
8. Developmental Math courses	5	4	3	2	1	0
9. Library	5	4	3	2	1	0
10. Tutorial services	5	4	3	2	1	0
11. Student activities	5	4	3	2	1	0
12. Job placement services	5	4	3	2	1	0
13. Overall quality of college	5	4	3	2	1	0

I. Have you taken courses at a four-year college/university since graduating from this college?(Check only one.)

- 1. Yes, primarily as a full-time student (12 or more credit hours per term)
- 2. Yes, primarily as a part-time student
- 3. No, I have not taken courses at a four year college/university (skip to question T)

J. What is the name of the four- year college/university to which you have transferred?

College/University _____ Location/Campus _____ Major _____

K. Do you intend to earn a bachelor's degree at the above named institution?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Not sure

L. Is your current major in the same academic field as the program from which you graduated at this community college? Academic program is in:

- 1. Same academic field
- 2. Somewhat related academic field
- 3. Different academic field

M. How many credit hours have you completed at your transfer college/university? _____ credit hours completed

N. What is your overall grade point average (GPA) for credits earned at your transfer college/university (based on a 4-point scale)? ____ . ____ ____ GPA

O. How well did the community college prepare you for transfer? Preparation was:

- 5. Very good
- 4. Good
- 3. Fair
- 2. Poor
- 1. Very poor

P. Were any credits for courses with a "C" or better from this community college NOT accepted at your transfer college/university?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No (skip to question T)

Q. How many credit hours with a "C" or better were NOT accepted? _____ credit hours

R. Why were the courses with a "C" or better NOT accepted? (Check all that apply.)

- 1. Changed major
- 2. Earned over 60 credits
- 3. No comparable course offered at the transfer college
- 4. Other (please specify) _____

S. What community college courses were not accepted that you expected to transfer?

(Please specify course(s)) _____

**IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED, GO TO QUESTION AB.
IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED, PLEASE CONTINUE.**

T. What is your current job title? _____

U. Where is your job located? Company/Employer's name: _____

City _____ County _____ State _____

V. How is your job related to your community college program?

- 1. Same field
- 2. Somewhat related field
- 3. Different field

W. If you are employed and your job is NOT RELATED to your program of study, check the major reason below. (Check one)

- 1. Could not find a job related to my program/major
- 2. Better pay in field in which employed
- 3. Better opportunity for advancement in field in which employed
- 4. Did not want to work in the field of preparation
- 5. Program of study at this college was not career-oriented
- 6. Other (please explain) _____

X. When did you begin your present job?

- 1. Before attending this community college
- 2. While attending this community college
- 3. After graduating from this community college

Y. If you are employed full-time, what is your current gross annual salary (before overtime, deductions, and taxes)? All responses are confidential. \$ _____ per year.

Z. How well did your community college prepare you for employment? Preparation was:

- 5. Very good
- 4. Good
- 3. Fair
- 2. Poor
- 1. Very poor

AA. For some programs we would like to contact employers to ask how well they think the community college prepared students for their job. May we contact your supervisor for this purpose?

- 1. Yes. Supervisor's name and title _____

Address _____ City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

- 2. No

AB. If you had to do it over again, would you attend this community college?

- 5. Definitely yes
- 4. Probably yes
- 3. Not sure
- 2. Probably not
- 1. Definitely not

AC. If you had to do it over again, would you enroll in the same program?

- 5. Definitely yes
- 4. Probably yes
- 3. Not sure
- 2. Probably not
- 1. Definitely not

AD. What did you like best about this community college?

AE. What changes could this community college make to improve its services and to help students achieve their goals?

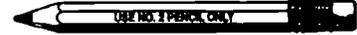
**Thank you for completing this questionnaire.
Please return it in the enclosed prepaid envelope.**

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FY96 Questionnaire

Follow-Up Survey of 1995 - 96 Maryland Community College Graduates

The purpose of this questionnaire is to help your community college and the Maryland Higher Education Commission assess and improve programs. Please complete the survey and return it in the pre-paid envelope provided. Additional comments are welcome. All answers will be strictly confidential and used only in summary statistical reports. Thank you for your assistance in helping us evaluate our programs and services.



Use a No. 2 pencil.

Choose your answer and fill circles that correspond to your answers.

Please fill circles completely.

Proper Mark

Improper Marks

1. What is your current work/education status? (Mark all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Employed full-time (35 or more hours per week) | <input type="radio"/> Full-time homemaker |
| <input type="radio"/> Employed part-time (fewer than 35 hours per week) | <input type="radio"/> Unemployed and seeking a job |
| <input type="radio"/> Full-time student (12 or more credit hours per semester) | <input type="radio"/> Unemployed and not seeking a job |
| <input type="radio"/> Part-time student (fewer than 12 credit hours per semester) | <input type="radio"/> Retired |
| <input type="radio"/> Active military service | |

2. Below are a number of reasons for attending a community college. Please rate how important each was to you. For each item, mark the response that most closely reflects your opinion.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
A. Prepare for entry into first career	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B. Prepare for entry into different career	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C. Update skills for current job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D. Prepare for transfer to four-year institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E. Self-enrichment/courses of interest only	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
F. Explore new occupational area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
G. Explore new academic area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
H. Obtain salary increase and/or job promotion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I. Earn a certificate or degree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
J. Other (specify) _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Please mark the letter (from question 2) of the single most important reason for deciding to attend your community college.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | <input type="radio"/> E |
| <input type="radio"/> F | <input type="radio"/> G | <input type="radio"/> H | <input type="radio"/> I | <input type="radio"/> J |

4. Was your most important goal (indicated in question 3) achieved by the time you graduated from your community college?

- Yes No, why not _____



5. Did your attendance at your community college contribute to your personal development in the following areas? (For each item, mark the response that most closely reflects your experience.)

	A Great Deal		A Fair Amount		Not at All
A. Improved my writing skills	5	4	3	2	1
B. Enhanced my appreciation of art, music, or literature	5	4	3	2	1
C. Increased my ability to use mathematics	5	4	3	2	1
D. Improved my understanding of science and technology	5	4	3	2	1
E. Increased my attentiveness to news and world events	5	4	3	2	1
F. Clarified my educational or career goals	5	4	3	2	1
G. Enhanced my self-confidence	5	4	3	2	1
H. Improved my reading comprehension	5	4	3	2	1
I. Increased my knowledge of other cultures & periods of history	5	4	3	2	1
J. Increased my enjoyment of learning	5	4	3	2	1
K. Improved my computer skills	5	4	3	2	1

6. During the semester(s) you attended your community college, did you work:

- Primarily full-time (35 or more hours per week)
- Primarily part-time (fewer than 35 hours per week)
- No, most of the time I did not work

7. During the semester(s) you attended your community college, did you attend primarily full-time or part-time?

- Primarily as a full-time student (12 or more credit hours per semester)
- Primarily as a part-time student (fewer than 12 credit hours per semester)

8. Please rate each of the following aspects of your community college. Mark the response that most closely reflects your opinion. Choose "No basis to judge" if you did not have any experience with an item.

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	No basis to judge
A. Quality of classroom instruction	5	4	3	2	1	0
B. Quality of laboratory equipment	5	4	3	2	1	0
C. Faculty availability/helpfulness	5	4	3	2	1	0
D. Class scheduling	5	4	3	2	1	0
E. Academic advising	5	4	3	2	1	0
F. Developmental Reading courses	5	4	3	2	1	0
G. Developmental English courses	5	4	3	2	1	0
H. Developmental Math courses	5	4	3	2	1	0
I. Library	5	4	3	2	1	0
J. Tutorial services	5	4	3	2	1	0
K. Student activities	5	4	3	2	1	0
L. Job placement/referral services	5	4	3	2	1	0
M. Access to information technology	5	4	3	2	1	0
N. Overall quality of college	5	4	3	2	1	0

9. Have you taken courses at a four-year college/university since graduating from your college? (Mark only one.)

- Yes, primarily as a full-time student (12 or more credit hours per semester)
- Yes, primarily as a part-time student (fewer than 12 credit hours per semester)
- No, I have not taken courses at a four-year college/university (skip to question 20)

10. To what kind of four-year college or university did you transfer?

- Maryland public
- Maryland private
- Out of state

11. Do you intend to earn a bachelor's degree at your transfer college/university?

- Yes No Not sure

12. Is your current major in the same academic field as the program from which you graduated at your community college?

- Same academic field Somewhat related academic field Different academic field

13. How many credit hours have you completed at your transfer college/university?

- 7 or less 8-10 11-15 16-20
 21-25 26-30 more than 30

14. In what range is your overall grade point average (GPA) for credits earned at your transfer college/university?

- less than 1.00 1.00-1.99 2.00-2.99 3.00-4.00

15. How well did the community college prepare you for transfer?

- Very good Good Fair Poor Very poor

16. Were any credits for courses with a "C" or better from your community college **NOT** accepted at your transfer college/university?

- Yes No (skip to question 20)

17. How many credit hours with a "C" or better were **NOT** accepted?

- None 1-6 7-10 11-15
 16-20 More than 20

18. Why were the courses with a "C" or better **NOT** accepted? (Mark all that apply.)

- Changed major No comparable course offered at the transfer college
 Earned over 60 credits Other (please specify) _____

19. What community college course(s) were not accepted that you expected to transfer?

Please specify course(s) _____

**IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED, GO TO QUESTION 28.
IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED, PLEASE CONTINUE.**

20. What is your current job title? _____

21. Where is your job located? Company/Employer's name: _____

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Allegany | <input type="radio"/> Cecil | <input type="radio"/> Kent | <input type="radio"/> Washington County |
| <input type="radio"/> Anne Arundel | <input type="radio"/> Charles | <input type="radio"/> Montgomery | <input type="radio"/> Wicomico |
| <input type="radio"/> Baltimore City | <input type="radio"/> Dorchester | <input type="radio"/> Prince George's | <input type="radio"/> Worcester |
| <input type="radio"/> Baltimore County | <input type="radio"/> Frederick | <input type="radio"/> Queen Anne's | <input type="radio"/> Out-of-state |
| <input type="radio"/> Calvert | <input type="radio"/> Garrett | <input type="radio"/> St. Mary's | |
| <input type="radio"/> Caroline | <input type="radio"/> Harford | <input type="radio"/> Somerset | |
| <input type="radio"/> Carroll | <input type="radio"/> Howard | <input type="radio"/> Talbot | |

22. What is your supervisor's name, company's complete mailing address and phone number.

Supervisor's name _____

Company's mailing address _____

Company's phone number _____

May your community college contact your employer for the purpose of completing a survey about work force quality?

- Yes No

23. How is your job related to your community college program?

- Same field (skip to question 25) Somewhat related field (skip to question 25) Different field

24. If you are employed and your job is NOT RELATED to your program of study, mark the major reason below. (Mark one)

- Could not find a job related to my program/major Did not want to work in the field of preparation
 Better pay in field in which employed Program of study at this college was not career-oriented
 Better opportunity for advancement in field in which employed Other (please specify) _____

25. When did you begin your present job?

- Before attending this community college After graduating from this community college
 While attending this community college

26. If you are employed FULL-TIME, what is your current gross annual salary (before overtime, deductions, and taxes)?

Salary grid with handwritten numbers 126432 and various bubbles marked.

Blank salary grid.

27. How well did your community college prepare you for employment?

- Very good Good Fair Poor Very poor

28. If you had to do it over again, would you attend your community college?

- Yes No Not sure

29. If you had to do it over again, would you enroll in the same program?

- Yes No Not sure

30. What did you like best about this community college?

31. In what way could your education at your community college have been improved?

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please return it in the enclosed prepaid envelope.





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