This report aims to increase awareness regarding the characteristics, goals, and academic accomplishments of the students who graduated from Howard Community College (HCC) and transferred to four-year campuses. The data compiled in this report on transfer students were collected as part of follow-up surveys sent to all HCC graduates approximately 1 year after graduation. The report describes and compares the demographics and academic characteristics of fiscal year (FY) 1992, FY 1993, FY 1994, FY 1995, and FY 1996 graduates of HCC who transferred to a four-year institution within a year of graduating and responded to graduate surveys. The report analyzes the characteristics of these graduates as they left HCC and their academic experiences at the transfer institutions during the first year of transfer. Highlighted findings are as follows. The average transfer graduate at HCC between 1992 and 1996 was a 25-year old female, who completed her studies within 4 years, graduating with a cumulative GPA of 3.25. Of the 65 credits earned at HCC, 59 were accepted at the Maryland public four-year institution to which she transferred. One year after graduating from HCC, she had completed 24 credits at the receiving institution, was majoring in the same or a related field as her major at HCC, and was earning a GPA of 3.2. After 1 year at the four-year institution, she rated the transfer preparation received at HCC as 4.2 on a 5-point scale (where 1 is "very poor" and 5 is "very good"). Contains 19 tables and charts. (J JL)
1992 - 1996 TRANSFER GRADUATES:
A TREND ANALYSIS

December 1998
Office of Planning and Evaluation
HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S
1992 - 1996 TRANSFER GRADUATES:
A TREND ANALYSIS

Prepared by Jean Frank, Research Analyst

December 1998
Office of Planning and Evaluation
Howard Community College
Howard Community College's 1992-1996 Transfer Graduates: A Trend Analysis

Introduction

Awareness of the characteristics, goals and academic accomplishments of the students who graduated from Howard Community College (HCC) and transferred to four-year campuses provides valuable feedback as the college evaluates its efforts and plans for its future.

The data compiled in this report on transfer graduates were collected as part of follow-up surveys that were sent to all HCC graduates approximately one year after graduation. Not included in this analysis are the students who transferred to a four-year campus without graduating from HCC; each year fewer than 20 percent of those who transfer from HCC do so after earning a degree. The methodology used in collecting the data used in this analysis as well as a summary of the characteristics of all graduates and of all respondents are reported in the 1998 publication 1992-1996 Graduates: A Trend Analysis.

This report describes and compares the demographic and academic characteristics of FY92, FY93, FY94, FY95 and FY96 graduates of HCC who transferred to a four-year institution within a year of graduating and responded to the graduate surveys. It analyzes the characteristics of these graduates as they left HCC and their academic experiences at the transfer institutions during the first year of transfer.

Characteristics of Transfer Graduates

The majority of transfer respondents were female and constituted between 54 and 70 percent of all transfer respondents over the five years surveyed. Seven to 12 percent of the transfer respondents were African American and between 2 and 6 percent were Asian. The largest age group of these respondents was the 16 to 22 group in most years, although the median age was 25 and more than 25 percent were over 30 years old when they transferred.

The most important goal for these graduates when they first entered HCC was preparing for transfer; earning a certificate or degree was the second most prevalent goal. However, a number of these graduates who transferred entered HCC with a goal that was unrelated to transfer or degree completion, such as self-enrichment or career preparation, and approximately 20 percent earned their degrees in occupational rather than transfer programs.

The percentage of graduates who had a grade point average of at least 3.0 fluctuated between 63 percent in 1993 and 75 percent in 1996. The mean grade point average was above 3.0 in each survey.

The average number of credits earned by transfer graduates while they attended HCC has been
slightly more than 60. In 1996 more students transferred with fewer than 60 credits earned at HCC, indicating they had transferred into HCC with credits from other colleges. In 1996, 84 percent completed their studies at HCC within four years. In prior years the percent of transfer graduates who had been at HCC for five or more years was somewhat greater.

Transfer Graduates One Year After Graduating

One year after graduating from HCC, more than 40 percent of all graduates had transferred. More than half of those who transferred were attending a four-year college or university as full-time students. About one third of the transfer students were also employed full time, and another third were employed part-time.

In the early 1990's 80 percent of transfer respondents attended a Maryland public institution the year after graduating from HCC. The three Maryland campuses most frequently cited as the transfer institution were UM College Park, UM Baltimore County and Towson University. During the last two surveys, an increasing percentage reported they had transferred to an out-of-state campus; the percentage over the five years ranged from 7 to 19. The percentage of transfer respondents attending a private institution in Maryland ranged from 6 to 11 percent.

Most transfer respondents, 80 to 90 percent, intended to earn a bachelor's degree. At least three-fourths reported that their current major was in the same or somewhat related academic field. In 1996 that percentage increased to 91 percent, with only four respondents reporting to be enrolled in a different field.

One year after graduating from HCC, the average number of credit hours completed by the respondents at the transfer campus ranged from 21 to 26. Fewer than 4 percent over the five years reported a grade point average of less than 2.0 at their transfer institution. Between 59 and 72 percent reported an average at their transfer campus of at least 3.0.

The median number of credits earned at HCC and not accepted at the transfer institution has fluctuated, but has generally been equivalent to one or two courses. Two principal reasons that credits were not accepted included graduates earning more than 60 credits at HCC and comparable courses being offered at the transfer institution.

Over the five years, transfer graduates rated their preparation for transfer between 4.1 and 4.3 on a five-point scale, where 1 was "very poor" and 5 was "very good."

Summary

The average transfer graduate at HCC between 1992 and 1996 was a 25 - year old female who earned an associate degree. She achieved her most important entry goal of preparing for transfer and completed her studies at HCC within four years, graduating with a cumulative grade point average of 3.25. Of the 65 credits earned at HCC, 59 were accepted at the Maryland public four-year institution to which she transferred. When credit was lost in the transfer, it was most likely to be because she had earned more than 60 credits while at HCC.

One year after graduating from HCC, she has completed 24 credits at the transfer campus with a grade point average of 3.2, majoring in the same or related field as her major at HCC. After completing almost a full year at her transfer institution, she rated the preparation for transfer that she received at HCC as "good" (4.2 on a five-point scale where 1 is "very poor" and 5 is "very good").
### Characteristics of Respondents Who Transferred
#### Howard Community College Graduates
**FY 1992 - 1996**

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<td>Prepare for Career Entry</td>
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<td>Prepare for Different Career</td>
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<tr>
<td>Update Skills</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare for Transfer</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>47</td>
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<td>Obtain Promotion</td>
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<td>Earn a Certificate or Degree</td>
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<td>12%</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Achieved Most Important Goal</td>
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<td>65</td>
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<td>Average Credits Earned</td>
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<td>32%</td>
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<td>60 - 80</td>
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<td>Years to Degree Completion at HCC</td>
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*Note: Data were compiled from the HCC graduation files and Graduate Follow-Up Survey Results.*
## Transfer Respondents' Programs of Study
### While Attending Howard Community College
#### FY 1992 - 1996

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<td>Total</td>
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### Program Type

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<td>81%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>77%</td>
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**BEST COPY AVAILABLE**
### CHARACTERISTICS OF TRANSFER RESPONDENTS
ONE YEAR AFTER GRADUATING FROM HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FY 1992 - 1996

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#### Academic/Occupational Status'

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#### Type of Transfer Institution

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maryland Public</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>Maryland Private</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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#### Intend to Earn Bachelor's Degree

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's Degree</td>
<td>81</td>
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#### Major at Transfer Campus

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<tr>
<td>Same Field as HCC</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
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#### Credit Hours Completed at Transfer Campus

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<td>Average</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 or Fewer</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 - 15</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 - 30</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;30</td>
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#### Mean GPA at Transfer Campus

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#### Credits Lost In Transfer

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<td>No Comparable Course Offered</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>No Credits Lost In Transfer</td>
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#### Mean Rating of Transfer Preparation

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>on a five-point scale</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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Median Credits Not Accepted in Transfer

Reasons Credits Not Accepted in Transfer
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