

Cape Cod Community College Degree/Certificate Programs

By John Grant, Cape Cod Community College [1/2/06]

Cape Cod Community College (CCCC) is a major education and training resource for those seeking to improve their skills and acquire good paying jobs and mobility within the workforce. The College offers an Associate in Arts (AA) Degree, several Associate in Science (AS) Degrees, and numerous Certificate programs. Students who have earned an AA Degree from the Community College often transfer to a four-year college in pursuit of more advanced degrees. Some students who earn an AS Degree or a Certificate also pursue advanced degrees elsewhere, but more often they enter the workforce. A primary reason for this is that coursework within the AS Degree program area, as well as the Certificate programs, provide practical training for many technical jobs offered on the Cape such as nursing and criminal justice. Students who obtain either an AS Degree or a Certificate thus tend to seek employment immediately upon graduation.

Matriculation and graduation data for 2001 and 2005 for the two major degree areas and the Certificate programs provide insight into the types of skills that students in the College are acquiring. This information can tell us something about the quality and diversity of the existing workforce as well as the trends which will shape the workforce of the future.

In 2001, approximately 75% of those who enrolled in one or more concentrations falling under the AA Degree umbrella were in five areas: liberal arts, science/math and pre-engineering, business administration, psychology, and education – all broad subject areas that create a good foundation for students planning to continue studying elsewhere. In practice, however, many science/math and pre-engineering students plan to complete required science courses and then enroll in the College's selective-admissions nursing program, rather than transfer to a four-year institution. In 2005, approximately 72% of the AA Degree seekers were in these five transfer areas.

In 2001, close to 50% of those students pursuing an AA Degree had chosen what are generically referred to as knowledge-intensive areas of study.¹ These areas included mass communications, science/math/pre-engineering, business administration, accounting, education, engineering science, environmental studies, public relations, communication and graphic design. In 2005, approximately 45% of AA Degree-seekers were enrolled in the knowledge-intensive areas of study.

¹ Knowledge-intensive is a term used by economic and labor analysts to describe those industries where knowledge is the primary input and output. The Cape and Islands Workforce Investment Board posits that the knowledge-intensive cluster consists of three sub-clusters: educational services, high technology and professional services. The term is used somewhat loosely here to describe Community College program areas that can be reasonably assumed to fall within the knowledge-intensive arena.

Associate in Arts Degree Enrollees, 2001 and 2005

Transfer Area	Percentage of Students Enrolled 2001	Percentage of Students Enrolled 2005
Broad Foundation for Continued Studies (liberal arts, science/math and pre-engineering, business administration, psychology, and education)	75%	72%
Knowledge Intensive Areas of Study (mass communications, science/math/pre-engineering, business administration, accounting, education, engineering science, environmental studies, public relations, communication and graphic design)	50%	45%

In 2001, in the AS Degree area, students tended to be clustered around nursing, hospitality, criminal justice, and information technology (IT). Of the 863 students enrolled in Associate in Science Degree programs in Fall 2005, the top five programs by enrollment were criminal justice (171), nursing (124), management (89), information technology (82 in nine IT concentrations) and early childhood education (69). Associate in Science enrollments can reflect conditions in the job market. For example, 25% of all AS Degree-seekers in 2001 were in information technology. This represented a three-fold increase over 1998 enrollments in this area. In 2005, IT Degree-seekers were approximately 10% of all AS Degree-seekers.

Associate in Science Degree, Fall 2005

Program	Number of Students
Criminal Justice	171
Nursing	124
Management	89
Information Technology	82 (in nine IT concentrations)
Early Childhood Education	69
Total	863

Only a fraction of matriculated students graduate in any given year. In Fall 2000, for instance, there were 3,063 matriculated students enrolled in the College. By June of 2001, 307 matriculated students had received an AA or AS Degree. In

Fall 2004, there were 3,020 matriculated students enrolled in the College. By June 2005, 345 matriculated students had received an AA or AS Degree. This reflects the nature of the community college mission which is designed to offer a flexible academic menu to a socioeconomically diverse regional audience with multiple educational needs. Many students at the College are older and already employed and therefore interested only in the occasional course to boost their skills. Some are pursuing formal degrees but can only attend the College on a part-time basis due to their daytime work. Others are enrolled full-time.

Each Spring the College collects data for an educational and employment status report on AA, AS, and some certificate graduates from the previous academic year. Of the 333 selected graduates from the Class of 2001, 103 were enrolled one year later at twenty different four-year institutions of higher learning. The top five transfer institutions by enrollment of the Class of 2001 were the University of Massachusetts (50 enrolled at four campuses), Bridgewater State College (17), Suffolk University (8), Westfield State College (6) and Wellesley College (5). Of the 385 selected graduates from the Class of 2004, 104 were enrolled one year later at twenty-two different four-year institutions. The top five transfer institutions by enrollment of the Class of 2004 were the University of Massachusetts (41 enrolled at four campuses), Suffolk University (23), Bridgewater State College (16), Lesley University (5) and Salem State College (3).

Educational Status Report on AA, AS and Certificate Graduates

Institution	Number Enrolled from Class of 2001	Number Enrolled from Class of 2004
University of Massachusetts	50 (at four campuses)	41 (at four campuses)
Bridgewater State College	17	16
Suffolk University	8	23
Westfield State College	6	0
Wellesley College	5	0
Lesley University	0	5
Salem State College	0	3
Total Enrolled	103	104
Graduates	333	385

Cape Cod Community College is a publicly-assisted institution. The College's annual unrestricted appropriation from the Massachusetts state legislature is an important part of this assistance. In FY2001, the College's appropriation was \$14,040,479. In FY2004, the College's appropriation was \$10,789,358, a 23% decrease from FY2001.

(Sources: CCCC Office of Institutional Research and Development, CCCC 2001 and 2004 Graduation Reports.)

Advanced Degrees on Cape Cod through Cape Cod Community College

Through CCCC's Office of Advanced Studies, the College has partnership agreements with nine higher education institutions offering five Bachelor's Degree programs and nine Master's Degree programs at the CCCC West Barnstable campus and at the Hyannis Center. Through these programs students are able to receive an advanced degree without having to leave the Cape, saving the average student approximately 100 miles in travel per class. These degree programs are a key component in meeting the workforce development needs of the region.

Partnerships with Institutions of Higher Education

Bachelors Degree Programs	1998 Enrollment	2005 Enrollment	2001 Number of BA Degrees Issued	2005 Number of BA Degrees Issued
Business and Public Administration, Early Childhood Education, Nursing, Humanities, Communications	59	846	31	64
Masters Degree Programs	1998 Enrollment	2005 Enrollment	2001 Number of MA Degrees Issued	2005 Number of MA Degrees Issued
Reading, Counseling, Educational Administration, Social Work, Early Childhood Education, Business Administration, Communication, Special Education, Public Administration	185	880	34	57

Programs of study include business and public administration, early childhood education, nursing, humanities and communications at the bachelor's level. Master's Degrees are offered in reading, counseling, educational administration, social work, early childhood education, business administration, public administration, communication and special education.

Since 1998 the enrollment in baccalaureate programs has increased from 59 to 846 in FY 2005. In May 2001, 31 students received a Bachelor's Degree through these partnerships. In May 2005, 64 students had received a Bachelor's Degree.

Since 1998 the enrollment in graduate degree programs has increased from 185 students to 880 in FY2005. In May 2001, 34 students received a Master's Degree. In May 2005, 57 students received a Master's Degree.

(Source: CCCC Office of Advanced Studies.)