

Entering Students in Fall 1999: Their Lives and Times at Oakton

In order to increase our understanding of the ways in which Oakton students attend, earn credits, and move on from Oakton, the Office of Research has begun looking at the records of the 3210 students who first entered the College in fall 1999. We selected that term because five years have elapsed since then, giving students ample time to have earned Oakton degrees or certificates, stopped out from and re-entered the College multiple times, and transferred. In this *In the Abstract* we present the first of what will be a series of short reports about this cohort. As we proceed with our investigation, we invite members of the Oakton community to ask questions about the cohort. Please email them to research@oakton.edu. We may not be able to respond to all questions, but as we build our research agenda, questions raised will help to inform subsequent research projects.

Gender

- 51% female, 49% male

Age at entry (fall 1999)

- 37% below 20, 20% 20-24, 10% 25-29, 30% 30-59, 2% 60 or older.

Highest degree upon entry to Oakton (based on students' self-reports)

- 53% high school or below, 18% some college, 18% bachelor's degree or higher, 11% other or no information

Number of terms at Oakton, including summer sessions

- 32% spent only the fall 1999 term at Oakton, another 30% spent 2-3 terms at Oakton, and the remaining 38% spent from 4 to 15 terms at Oakton. Only 3 students attended in all 15 terms between fall 1999 and summer 2004. Of the 3210 students in the cohort, 12% were at Oakton in the last year (fall 2003 through summer 2004), nearly all of them had stopped out at some point.

College-level credits earned at Oakton

- Eleven percent earned no college-credits at Oakton, 38% earned 1-10 credits, 25% earned 11-29 credits, 15% earned 30-59 credits, and 11% earned 60 or more credits.

Number of students who earned *at least* one associate degree or certificate

- 177 (6%) earned an associate degree and another 105 (3%) earned a certificate but no degree; put another way, 91% earned neither a degree nor a certificate.

Transfer

- Of the 2618 members of the cohort who did not have a bachelor's degree or higher when they entered Oakton in fall 1999, including those for whom we have no information, 955 (36%) transferred to another postsecondary institution after leaving Oakton. Of the schools to which they transferred, 60% were four-year colleges or universities and 40% were other community colleges or sub-baccalaureate institutions. (Transfer data are from the National Student Clearinghouse.)

Remember, email your questions to research@oakton.edu.