Annually the Office of Research surveys transfer program alumni with at least 30 Oakton credits or an associate’s degree, and who were last enrolled one or three years ago. In 2004, 522 alumni responded to the survey, which was conducted by telephone during the summer of 2004. The survey required 10 to 15 minutes to complete, and the College very much appreciates these alumni giving their time to this project. The 30-credit criterion (about half an associate’s degree program) ensures that the alumni surveyed were sufficiently experienced at Oakton to be fairly knowledgeable about the College. Survey findings include the following:

Profile of the Population Selected for the Baccalaureate Alumni Survey

- At the median, baccalaureate program alumni enroll at age 19 and leave at age 24. Slightly more than half are women. Sixty percent are white and the largest minority group is of Asian or Pacific Island ancestry.
- At the median, these alumni earned 53 credits at Oakton and a GPA of 2.84. Thirteen percent of these alumni completed associate’s degrees at Oakton.
- Fifty-nine percent of survey respondents came to Oakton with no prior college enrollment. Thirty-four percent had some college elsewhere before coming to Oakton, and another seven percent had already earned a bachelor’s degree before their last enrollment at Oakton. Students with the bachelor’s degree may have taken most of their Oakton courses before earning that degree, but returned to Oakton for just a course or two afterwards.

Educational Experience at Other Colleges and Universities

- Of the 522 survey respondents, 378 (72%) report they attended another college or university after Oakton, and 181 (48%) of the transfers say they earned a bachelor’s or associate degree after transfer.
- Most alumni transferred to schools in the Chicago area. Northeastern Illinois University and University of Illinois at Chicago drew 33 percent of the transfers.
- Of students who did not already have a bachelor’s degree and who transferred, 73 percent who last attended Oakton in 2000-2001 had earned their bachelor’s degree since leaving Oakton, compared to 34 percent of those who last attended in 2002-03.
• The most popular majors for Oakton alumni are in business, education, social and behavioral sciences, and humanities, fine arts.

• Respondents who transferred rated the utility of skills learned at Oakton for their courses after transfer. The percent who said each skill was useful were: speech 72%, writing 66%, problem-solving 65%, teamwork 69%, mathematics 62%, and computer skills 59%.

Experience at Oakton

• Respondents who transferred rated the extent to which, while at Oakton, they improved skills in several areas. The percent who said they improved in each skill was speech 67%, writing 65%, problem-solving 58%, teamwork 64%, mathematics 62%, and computer skills 51%.

• Fewer than half the alumni who transferred took courses in the same social science discipline both at Oakton and at the transfer institution. The percentage who did so was 45% in psychology, 44% in economics, 38% in history, 32% in political science, 29% in sociology, and 21% in anthropology. Most (74-86%) of the respondents did feel prepared for continuing their studies in these disciplines after transfer.

• Alumni perceive that, overall, Oakton is living up to its core values of fairness, integrity, responsibility, tolerance and compassion.

General Assessments

• Eighty-seven percent of respondents report that had they to do it over, they would again choose to attend Oakton.

• More than 100 Oakton faculty and staff members received positive comments in response to a question about there being an especially outstanding person, course or event at Oakton.