

Four-year Follow-up of Former College Now Students

A major component of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) program accreditation process is the assessment of impacts of concurrent enrollment programs. In the summer of 2005 the Office of Institutional Research surveyed College Now students approximately four years after their high school graduation. The results of this study provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of College Now courses in preparing students for college and helping them progress toward graduation.

Method

Questionnaires were mailed on June 20, 2005, to 3,243 College Now students who graduated from their high schools in spring of 2001. Follow-up questionnaires were mailed on July 15, 2005. Five surveys were returned as undeliverable. A total of 508 of the remaining students returned completed surveys, yielding an adjusted response rate of 16%.

The response rate is very low. While results summarize reactions and opinions of respondents, generalizations to the population of former College Now students should be made with caution.

Summaries of principal findings follow. Tables detailing survey results and verbatim comments are included as Appendix A. The questionnaire and cover letters are included in Appendix B.

Summary of Results

College Attendance after Graduation

- Virtually all (99.2%) of the respondents indicated they had attended college after graduating from high school, and three of the four high school students who had not gone to college after graduation indicated they planned to do so in the future.
- Most of the respondents (95.6%) who attended college after graduation sought a bachelor's degree.

Early and Late College Graduation

- Eighty-seven percent of the respondents who were graduating earlier than expected indicated that the credit earned through College Now was a contributing factor in that early graduation. In addition, over half (57.4%) indicated that taking additional courses during vacations and breaks contributed to their early graduation.
- Nearly half (48.6%) of the respondents who reported they were going to graduate later than expected indicated that the delay was a result of changing majors. Almost a quarter of respondents (24.3%) indicated that the delay was due to completing multiple majors or minors, and 23.7% indicated that delays were due to transferring to another college.

College Now Influence on Former Students

- Eighty-three percent of the respondents agreed that College Now had exposed them to higher education requirements and standards. More than three-fourths (78.9%) of the respondents indicated that they had gained more realistic expectations of college work, and 78.1% indicated that they had developed more realistic views of their academic abilities. Seventy-two percent indicated that they College Now courses had helped them to learn how to manage time more effectively.
- It is noteworthy that well over half of respondents (61.6%) *disagreed* that taking College Now courses helped them become better informed in the choice of a college major.

Satisfaction with College Now

- The great majority (93.2%) of respondents rated their overall College Now academic experience as good or excellent.
- Nearly all (98.6%) of the respondents indicated they would recommend JCCC College Now courses to other high school students.

Appendix A

Table 1

College Attendance

	Number of Responses	Percent
<hr/> <i>Attended College after Graduation</i>		
Yes	503	99.2%
No	4	0.8%
<i>Degree Sought¹</i>		
Bachelor's degree	480	95.6%
Associate's degree	22	4.4%
Unknown	1	1.2%
<i>Plan to attend College in the Future²</i>		
Yes	3	75.0%
No	1	25.0%
<i>College Now Experience Influenced Decision²</i>		
Yes	1	25.0%
No	3	75.0%

¹ Based on the number of students who indicated they had attended college after graduation.

² Based on the number of students indicated they had not attended college after graduation.

Table 2
Factors Contributing to Early and Late Graduation

	Number of Responses	Percent of Cases
<i>Factors Contributing to Earlier Graduation¹</i>		
My college recognized College NOW courses	94	87.0%
Additional courses taken in college during vacations/breaks	62	57.4
Extra course loads during regular terms	43	39.8
Credit based Advanced Placement scores	41	38.0
Credit from other college programs at my high school	25	23.1
<i>Factors Contributing to Later Graduation²</i>		
Change of major	86	48.6%
Completed multiple majors/minors	43	24.3
Transfer	42	23.7
Academic Performance	26	14.7
Leave of Absence	22	12.4
Illness	18	10.2
Participated in study abroad program	18	10.2
Financial problems	13	7.3
Military service	5	2.8
Other	41	23.2

¹ Multiple-response item; numbers and percentages are not additive. Unknowns have been excluded. Percentages are based on numbers indicating they had graduated earlier than expected.

² Multiple-response item; numbers and percentages are not additive. Unknowns have been excluded. Percentages are based on numbers indicating they had graduated later than expected.

Table 3

College Now Influences on Former Students

Influences of College Now	Responses	Responses	
		Agree	Disagree
Were exposed to higher academic requirements and standards	493	83.0%	17.0%
Gained more realistic expectations of college work	494	78.9	21.1
Developed more realistic views of academic abilities	493	78.1	21.9
Learned to manage their time more effectively	493	72.4	27.6
Developed better study habits	490	69.3	30.7
Expressed themselves better in writing	492	64.8	35.2
Expressed themselves better when speaking	490	50.0	50.0
Became better informed in the choice of college major	490	38.4	61.6

¹ The "agree" column includes "strongly agree" and "agree" responses; the "disagree" column includes "disagree" and "strongly disagree" responses.

Table 4
Satisfaction with College Now

	Number of Responses	Percent
<i>Rating of Overall Academic Experience through College Now</i>		
Excellent	231	46.6%
Good	231	46.6
Fair	30	6.0
Poor	4	0.8
<i>Would Recommend College Now to High School Students</i>		
Yes	492	98.6%
No	7	1.4

Appendix B

Cover Letters and Questionnaire

June 20, 2005

«RespFName» «RespLName»
«RespStreet1»
«RespCity1», «RespState1» «RespZIP1»

Dear «RespFName»:

The College Now program and Johnson County Community College need your help!

As part of the college's continuing commitment to improving its programs and services, I have asked the Office of Institutional Research to survey former College Now students who completed College Now courses during the 2000-2001 academic year. Your input and that of other former College Now students will be used as a basis for judging the effectiveness of the program and recommending any needed changes.

Please take a few minutes now to complete the enclosed survey. Naturally, all responses will be kept strictly confidential and will be reported in summary form only. A postage-paid return address envelope is enclosed for your convenience in returning the completed survey to us.

We would appreciate receiving the completed survey by **Friday, July 8, 2005**, if at all possible. Thank you for your assistance in providing JCCC with this valuable information.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this questionnaire, please contact Larry Bunce at (913) 469-8500, ext. 3443. or lbunce@jccc.edu.

Sincerely,

Bill Osborn

Bill Osborn
Dean, Community Outreach for Credit Instruction

Enclosures

July 15, 2005

«RespFName» «RespLName»
«RespStreet1»
«RespCity1», «RespState1» «RespZIP1»

Dear «RespFName»:

A few weeks ago we asked you to complete a survey about your experiences with the College Now program offered at your high school during the 2000-2001 academic year. We are pleased with the response thus far, but would like to make it even better. If you have already completed the survey, thank you very much. Your responses will help us make important decisions affecting the College Now program.

In the event you have not as yet completed the survey and returned it to us, we are enclosing a second copy. Your responses are extremely important to us and will be used, together with those of other former College Now students, as a basis for judging the effectiveness of the program and recommending any needed changes.

Please take a few minutes right now to answer the questions and return the survey to us in the stamped preaddressed envelope provided by **Friday, July 29, 2005**. Naturally, your responses will be kept strictly confidential and reported as group data only.

Thank you for your help, and every good wish for a pleasant and relaxing summer.

Sincerely,

Bill Osborn

Bill Osborn
Dean, Community Outreach for Credit Instruction

Enclosures

Survey of Former College Now Students



SPRING 2005

We at JCCC are interested in learning about your academic and career accomplishments since you were enrolled in College Now classes at your high school. We are particularly interested in your opinion of the College Now program and how the courses you took may have contributed to your experiences.

Please take a few minutes to answer each of the questions on this brief survey by filling in the bubbles or writing in your answers where indicated. A preaddressed, postage-paid envelope is enclosed for your convenience in returning the completed questionnaire to us. Your responses are extremely valuable to us. Thank you for your participation!

1. Following graduation from high school, did you go on to attend a college, university or professional school?

Yes (Skip to question 5)

No

2. If you are not attending college, describe briefly what you are doing now. _____

3. Are you planning on attending college in the future?

Yes

No

4. Did your experience with College Now have an influence on your decision to not go to college?

Yes

No

Please explain _____

If you are not attending college, after you answer question 4, please skip to question 10.

5. When did you start your undergraduate program?

Month _____ Year _____

6. When you started this program, what degree were you seeking?

Associate's Degree

Bachelor's Degree

7. When you started your program, when did you expect to complete your degree?

Month _____ Year _____

8. If the date you completed or will complete your degree, is later than the date listed above in question 7, please indicate the contributing factors below. **(Mark all that apply)**

Leave of absence

Illness

Academic performance

Completed multiple majors/minors

Transfer

Change of major

Financial problems

Participated in study abroad programs

Military service

Other (please specify):

9. If the date you completed or will complete your degree is earlier than the date listed above in question 7, please indicate the contributing factors below. **(Mark all that apply)**

My college recognized my JCCC course taken through College Now

I received credit based on an acceptable score on an Advanced Placement exam

My college accepted credit from other college programs offered in my high school

I took additional courses during vacations or breaks (e.g., summer)

I carried extra course loads during regular terms (e.g., fall or spring)

10. Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements.

<i>As a result of taking JCCC College Now courses, I:</i>	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
developed better study habits	0	0	0	0
learned to manage time more effectively	0	0	0	0
had more realistic expectations of college work	0	0	0	0
became better informed in my choice of college major . .	0	0	0	0
developed a more realistic view of my academic skills . .	0	0	0	0
express myself better when writing	0	0	0	0
express myself better when speaking	0	0	0	0
was exposed to higher academic requirements and standards	0	0	0	0

11. Overall, how would you rate your academic experience in JCCC courses taken through College Now?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

12. Would you recommend JCCC courses offered through College Now to high school students?

- Yes
- No

13. Please provide us with any additional comments or suggestions you may have in the space below that will assist us in meeting the needs of future College Now students. Thank you for your help and good luck with your future endeavors!