Transfer Student Survey, Spring 2008

Survey was administered to 1,242 students who transferred from community colleges to FAU without earning an associate’s degree. Students were asked why they did not complete their A.A. degree. There were 282 responses to the survey, for a response rate of 23%.

One hundred (100) students indicated they did complete their A.A. degree.

Reasons for not having completed the A.A. degree are indicated below.

1. Outstanding requirements for the degree (81 responses)
   A) CLAST related issues (37 responses)

   Many students cited inability to pass one or more sections of the CLAST as the reason for not earning their degree.

   Representative Comments:
   
   “I didn’t take or pass the clast test.”
   
   “I had to complete the math clast test first.”
   
   “I need to either take the math portion of the clast or take a liberal arts math class and pass with a B.”
   
   B) Course requirements (44 responses)

   Representative Comments:
   
   “I still have to take one math course which is Statistics. I have finished all other courses.”
   
   “I was in my last semester at the community college and had difficulty with a statistics class so I had to withdraw from it. Instead of staying stagnant at PBCC I transferred to FAU.”
   
   “I am in the process of finishing my degree from Broward Community College. I did not receive a degree because I had not completed my math courses.”
   
   “Did not complete foreign language credits yet.”
   
   “I am missing two classes that, because of work and financial situations, I was unable to attend. I am taking the final two classes this summer at BCC, and hope to have my AA finished before the fall term.”
2. No intent to complete A.A. degree (27 responses)

   A) Fulfilling pre-requisites (15 responses)

   B) Establishing residency (3 responses)

   C) Other reasons (9 responses)

   Representative comments:

   “I only went there for summer classes. I attended a University prior to that.”

   “I attended a four year college in Virginia (Longwood University), but never graduated. In order for me to be admitted into FAU I had to take a General Education class and get a “B” or above. So, PBCC was a stepping stone to get the opportunity to finish my four year degree.”

   “I was initially attending a four year university and went to a cc to complete different needed for my major. The cc was not my main school.”

   “I attended only to get in-state tuition.”

   “I did not attend for an A.A. I attended the Police Academy.”

   “I had to fulfill the intermediate algebra prerequisite before being admitted to FAU, so I had to go to BCC for that.”

   “The answer is simple. I had completed some schooling in Stony Brook University first, when I lived in NY. After moving here I had to wait for my residency in order to have an AFFORDABLE tuition. After I achieved residency status I transferred back to a four year school. Completing my AA could have delayed completing my Bachelors.”

3. Disappointment over academics at community colleges, college did not have major program. (20 responses)

   Representative comments:

   “Community college is beyond a joke. It’s awful and I was far too advanced in my academics to stay there. I think my elementary school teachers demanded more of their students.”

   “I was not pleased with the academic setting at the community college as well as had professors that seemed to not care about their work.”

   “The Community College Atmosphere was not to my taste and the
professors were not into teaching like the professors at the university level.”

“To be completely honest, the community college experience I had was sub-par. The learning pace and atmosphere was similar to a high school. The students there didn’t seem interested in learning. While being tested, I felt I wasn’t being challenged enough to absorb any of the material.”

“I was not satisfied with the level of education available at community college and instead chose to get a better education at a university (FAU).”

4. Gained admission to FAU and wanted to come as soon as possible. (46 responses)

Representative comments:

“I did not complete the A.A. degree because I was accepted to FAU before finishing, so I just started at FAU immediately, instead.”

“I didn’t want to be at the community college level any longer. They had me take all these unnecessary credits and I felt I wasn’t getting there being there for much longer. I had decent grades and enough credits to transfer so I transferred to FAU, my favorite university in the whole country! Go Owls!!”

“After a year, I decided I wanted to attend FAU rather than a community college.”

“I really wanted to come to FAU!”

“I didn’t finish my AA degree because I wanted to go to the FAU honors college as soon as possible and didn’t find out about it until a year into my AA degree. I applied and got in.”

“I will be finishing my degree at Broward Community soon. I transferred to FAU prematurely because I was excited about the experience. The experience at FAU had been great. I meet great professors and great students. Kudos to FAU!”
5. Other reasons (12 responses)

- Financial aid ran out, unable to continue receiving financial aid.
- Location. Desire to live in south Florida.
- Personal family reasons.
- Work responsibilities.
- Military service.
- Changed major, no need to complete A.A. degree.
- Sports.
- Dual enrollment (part-time at community college & part-time at FAU while completing A.A. degree)
- Error in records at community college, they said I was not eligible for A.A. degree)
- None of your business

Representative comments:

“I was unable to continue receiving financial aid at the community college and needed to transfer to a university to receive financial aid. I can not afford to attend school without the assistance of financial aid.”

“Part time student. Can’t go to school full time and work full time. Will take me a while to get a degree.”

“I originally started at University of Central Florida in Orlando then I transferred to Santa Fe Community College part-time while completing my cosmetology license. After obtaining my license, I wanted to finish my degree at a university and wanted to move back home to south Florida. FAU was my choice of school when transferring colleges.

“I joined the Army in 1998 and started to serve in the middle east in Kuwait, Jordan. After 9/11 I spent the next two years in Afghanistan. To me it was not very important at the time to focus on school or worry about an education.”

“I changed my major to pre-med and an A.A. degree was not required.”

“I transferred for sports.”