



**Office of
Institutional
Research**

**A Description of
2008-2009
Opportunity Now Students**

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**Community
College
of Philadelphia**

Background Characteristics of Opportunity Now Students

Several years ago CCP introduced a tuition-free program for residents of Philadelphia who have been laid off from full-time employment. The Opportunity Now Program is designed as a next step towards future employment for laid-off workers by waiving tuition for up to 12 credits for participating students for one semester. Between the fall 2008 and fall 2009 semesters, the number of students enrolled under the aegis of Opportunity Now jumped from 27 to 235 (Table 1).

Table 1
Opportunity Now Enrollment

# of Students	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
	27	57	104	75	235

A relatively small percentage of Opportunity Now students reported having a Bachelors or Masters degree at the time they entered the College (Table 2). Ninety percent (90.2%) of Opportunity Now students in fall 2009 did not report having a degree compared the 77.8% of Opportunity Now students in the preceding fall semester.

Table 2
Prior Degrees Earned by Opportunity Now Students

Prior Degree	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
Bachelors Degree	18.5%	10.5%	19.2%	16.0%	9.8%
Masters Degree	3.7%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No Prior Degree	77.8%	87.7%	80.8%	84.0%	90.2%

Table 3 provides the number of credits Opportunity Now students transferred into CCP. Approximately 18% of Opportunity Now students in the spring and fall 2009 semesters transferred in credits from another higher education institution. This is a smaller percentage than the 27 students in the program during fall 2008.

Table 3
Credits Transferred Into CCP by Opportunity Now Students

Transfer Credits	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
No Transfer Credit	74.1%	82.5%	92.3%	89.3%	82.5%
1-6 Credits	3.7%	1.8%	1.0%	1.3%	1.8%
7-12 Credits	3.7%	1.8%	0.0%	1.3%	1.8%
13-18 Credits	0.0%	3.5%	1.9%	1.3%	3.5%
19-24 Credits	7.4%	1.8%	1.0%	1.3%	1.8%
24-36 Credits	7.4%	8.8%	3.8%	5.3%	8.8%
More Than 36 Credits	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

In recent semesters, females outnumbered males among Opportunity Now students (Table 4). Approximately two-thirds of students in the spring and fall 2009 semesters were women. During summer 2009 terms, nearly 75% of Opportunity Now students were females.

Table 4
Gender of Opportunity Now Students

Gender	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
Female	50.0%	63.2%	73.1%	74.7%	66.8%
Male	50.0%	33.3%	26.0%	25.3%	32.8%
Unknown	0.0%	3.5%	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%

Unfortunately, the web-based application has resulted in a large percentage of missing race and age information for Opportunity Now students (Tables 5 and 6). Consequently, it is impossible to know the true distribution of these characteristics among Opportunity Now students.

**Table 5
Race of Opportunity Now Students**

Race	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
American Indian	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%
Asian	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	1.3%	1.3%
Black	40.7%	61.4%	47.1%	40.0%	43.0%
Hispanic	7.4%	7.0%	3.8%	4.0%	3.0%
White	40.7%	22.8%	18.3%	20.0%	17.9%
Other/Unknown	11.1%	8.8%	28.8%	33.3%	34.9%

**Table 6
Age of Opportunity Now Students**

Age	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
16-21	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%
22-29	25.9%	17.5%	20.2%	18.7%	16.2%
30-39	14.8%	14.0%	19.2%	16.0%	17.9%
40 +	48.1%	21.1%	8.7%	12.0%	11.9%
Unknown	7.4%	47.4%	51.9%	53.3%	52.3%

CCP Characteristics of Opportunity Now Students

Most Opportunity Now students in 2009 had no history of credit courses at CCP prior to enrolling in the Opportunity Now program (Table 7). Eighty-six percent (86%) of fall 2009 students and 80.7% of spring 2009 students were new to the College during their Opportunity Now semester. This compares to one-third of the students in fall 2008.

Table 7
CCP Earned Credits at Start of Opportunity Now Semester

Earn Credits at Start of Term	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
0	33.3%	80.7%	83.7%	74.7%	86.0%
1-12	18.5%	10.5%	8.7%	21.3%	9.8%
13-24	7.4%	0.0%	2.9%	2.7%	1.3%
25-36	3.7%	3.5%	2.9%	0.0%	0.4%
37-48	33.3%	3.5%	1.9%	1.3%	1.7%
More Than 48	3.7%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%

Approximately three-quarters of Opportunity Now students entered CCP college-ready (Table 8). Only 3.8% of students in fall 2009 were enrolled in all developmental courses and 19.1% were enrolled in a combination of developmental and college-level courses during their Opportunity Now semester.

Table 8
Nature of Courses Taken by Students During Opportunity Now Semester

Status	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
All Developmental	0.0%	8.9%	17.3%	16.0%	3.8%
Some Developmental	37.0%	21.4%	13.5%	9.3%	19.1%
All College Level	63.0%	69.6%	69.2%	74.7%	77.0%

While students in the program qualify for up to 12 tuition-free credits, few took full advantage (Table 9). Only 40.4% of students in fall 2009 and 21.1% in spring 2009 took a full-time course load.

Table 9
Full-time/Part-time Status During Opportunity Now Semester

Full-time/ Part-time Status	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
Full-time	37.0%	21.1%	0.0%	0.0%	40.4%
Part-time	63.0%	78.9%	100.0%	100.0%	59.6%

Half of the fall 2009 students were enrolled in either the Liberal Arts-General option or Culture Science and Technology curricula during their Opportunity Now term (Table 10). Another 5.1% were Non-Matriculated and 8.5% were enrolled in the Business curriculum.

Table 10
Curriculum During Opportunity Now Semester

Curriculum	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
AAS Facility Mngt-Construct	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Accounting	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	4.0%	2.6%
Addiction Studies Certificate	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Art and Design	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.3%	0.4%
Art/Photography Option	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.3%	0.0%
Applied Studies	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Architecture	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Auto Tech-Auto Svc Tech Op	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Behavior Health/Human Serv	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	2.1%
Business	11.1%	7.0%	7.7%	8.0%	8.5%
Business Administration	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%
Chemical Technology	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Communication Arts/Speech	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Comp Into Sys/Information Tech	3.7%	3.5%	0.0%	2.7%	3.0%
Comp Info Sys/PC App	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.3%	0.0%
Comp Info Sys/Website Devel	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	1.3%	0.0%
Computer Assisted Des Tech	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Computer Forensics	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Construction Technology	0.0%	1.8%	1.9%	0.0%	0.4%
Creative Writing Cert	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
CST	25.9%	22.8%	23.1%	22.7%	20.9%
Diagnostic Medical Imaging	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Early Childhood Edu	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	0.9%
Education - Elementary	3.7%	1.8%	3.8%	4.0%	3.0%
Education-Sec Hum/Citizen	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%
Engineering Science	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Finance	0.0%	1.8%	1.0%	1.3%	0.0%
General Studies	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	2.7%	0.9%
Health Services Management	7.40%	1.8%	1.0%	2.7%	0.9%
Hospitality Tech/Hotel Mngmt	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Human Services Certificate	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
International Studies	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%

Curriculum	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
Justice	0.0%	1.8%	1.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Lib Arts/Afr Amer, Diaspora Std	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Lib Arts/Humanities Option	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Lib Arts/International Studies	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Lib Arts/Soc & Behav Sci Opt	3.70%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%
Liberal Arts - General Option	22.2%	36.8%	25.0%	24.0%	31.1%
Management	3.70%	1.8%	1.0%	1.3%	1.3%
Management Cert	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%
Mngt of Comp Info Tech	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%
Management/Entrepreneurship	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Management/Human Resources	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Management/International Bus	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Management/Real Estate Mngt	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Marketing	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	1.7%
Marketing Certificate	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Non-matriculated	0.0%	1.8%	9.6%	8.0%	5.1%
Nursing	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Paralegal Studies	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Patient Service Representative	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Photographic Imaging	0.0%	1.8%	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Respiratory Care Technology	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.3%	0.0%
Science	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%
Senior Citizen	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Youth Work Certificate	0.0%	1.8%	1.0%	1.3%	0.0%

Academic and Persistence Outcomes of Opportunity Now Students

The next series of tables reflect the academic success of students during the semester in which they were enrolled in the Opportunity Now Program. Taken as a whole, the information indicates students in the program were academically successful. Their average semester GPA ranged from 2.77 to 3.23 (Table 11). Opportunity Now students successfully completed most of their courses (Table 12). The average completion rate ranged from 0.905 to 0.952.

Table 11
Average GPA Earned During Opportunity Now Semester

Average Semester GPA	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
Average GPA	2.77	2.95	3.19	3.23	Not Available

Table 12
Average Proportion of Courses Successfully Completed During Opportunity Now Semester

Average Completion Proportion	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
Completion Proportion	0.951	0.905	0.928	0.952	Not Available

Most students were in good standing by the end of their Opportunity Now semester (Table 13). Eighty-six to 96% of students sailed through the semester without academic difficulty.

Table 13
Academic Standing at End of Opportunity Now Semester

Academic Standing	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
Good Standing	92.6%	86.0%	96.2%	96.0%	Not Available
Dropped Insufficient Progress	3.7%	1.8%	1.0%	0.0%	Not Available
Dropped Poor Scholarship	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	Not Available
Probation Full-time Status	0.0%	5.3%	1.9%	2.7%	Not Available
Provisional Full-time Status	3.7%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	Not Available
Provisional Part-time Status	0.0%	1.8%	1.0%	1.3%	Not Available

Opportunity Now student persistence to the next non-Opportunity Now semester ranged from 36.8% of spring 2009 students who returned in fall 2009 to 51.8% of fall 2008 students who enrolled at CCP in spring 2009 (Table 14).

Table 14
CCP Enrollment After Opportunity Now Semester

Persistence to Next Semester	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Summer 1 2009	Summer 2 2009	Fall 2009
Returned	51.8%	36.8%	45.2%	50.7%	Not Available
Did Not Return	48.2%	63.2%	54.8%	49.3%	Not Available