

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA

**Transfer Outcomes
Responses to the 2004 Annual Graduate Survey**

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

Report #152

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Introduction

A survey of Community College of Philadelphia's (CCP) 2004 graduates was undertaken starting during the late winter and extending through summer 2005. The survey questionnaire contained a variety of items related specifically to transfer experiences and this report provides a summary of these outcomes. As a point of comparison for the 2004 information, the experiences of CCP graduates from 1999 through 2003 are also presented in some of the subsequent graphs.

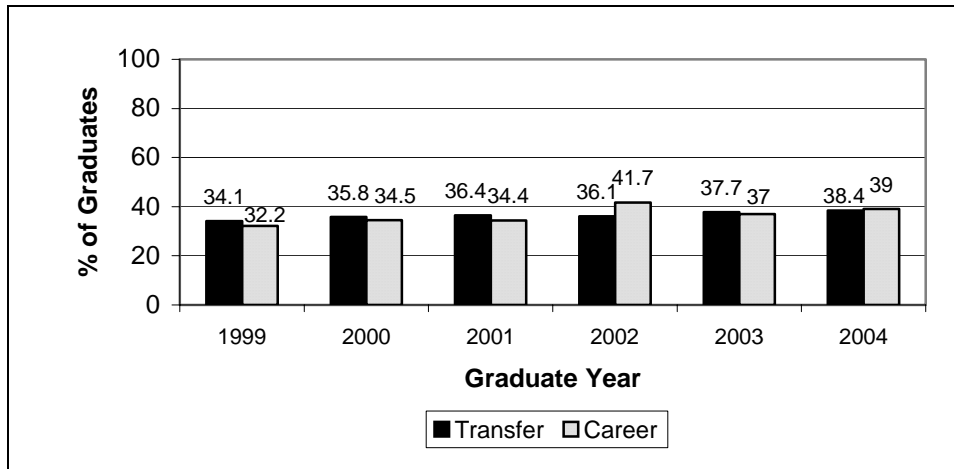
Prior College Attendance

Prior to data analysis, respondents were divided into two curricular clusters (career and transfer) based on their program of study at the College. In 2004, the College awarded a total of 1446 associate degrees. Of the total degrees awarded in 2004, 42.6% were awarded in career- programs; 54.8% were awarded in transfer- programs; and 2.6% were in General Studies.¹

Transfer and career program graduates were both as likely to have attended another institution prior to enrolling at CCP. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of career program graduates who responded to the survey indicated they were reverse-transfers and 38% of transfer program graduates were also reverse-transfers (Figure 1). Temple University was the institution graduates were most likely to have attended prior to CCP.

¹ See Tables 81 and 82 in the College Fact Book available on the Institutional Research website for the number of degrees and certificates awarded by program.

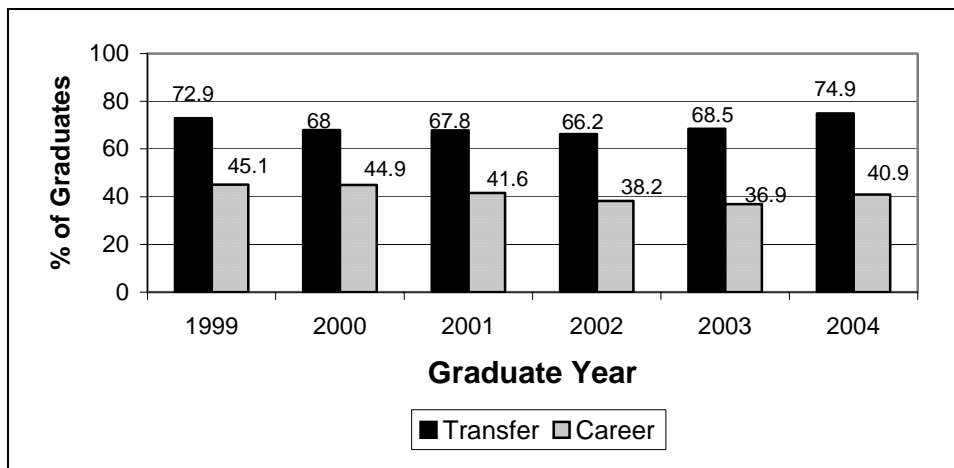
Figure 1
Graduates Who Attended Another College Prior to CCP



Subsequent College Experience

The transfer rate for CCP graduates within a year of graduation continues to be relatively high. As expected, the transfer rate for 2004 transfer program graduates (74.9%) was higher than the rate for career program graduates (40.9%) (Figure 2). The transfer rate for both transfer and career program graduates in 2004 were higher than the rate for 2003 graduates.

Figure 2
Graduates Who Transferred After CCP



As in years past, more CCP graduates continued their education at Temple University than at any other institution (Figure 3). Drexel University, Alvernia College, La Salle University, Thomas Jefferson University, and St. Joseph's University were other receiving institutions that attracted a number of 2004 CCP graduates.

Figure 3
Colleges Attended After CCP as Reported by
Respondents to 2004 Graduate Survey

School	Frequency
Alvernia College	14
American Military University	1
Arcadia University	3
Bucks County Community College	1
Community College of Philadelphia	3
Chestnut Hill College	7
Cheyney University	1
Cittone Institute	1
Delaware State University	1
Drexel University	13
East Stroudsburg University	1
Eastern University	3
Francis Marion University	1
Holy Family University	7
Hunter College	1
Immaculata University	3
Jefferson University	3
Johnson & Wales University	1
Kaplan University	1
Kutztown University	1
Laboratory Institute of Merchandising	1
LaSalle University	10
Maryland Institute College of Art	1
PA Academy of Fine Arts	1
Peirce College	7
Pennco Tech	1
Philadelphia University	4
Rider University	1
Ridgewater College	1
Roxborough Memorial Hospital School of N	1
St. Joseph's University	8
St. Scholastica	1
Temple University	93
Thomas Jefferson University	8
Thompson Institute	1
University of Pennsylvania	1
University of Phoenix	1
West Chester University	1
Widner University	1

CCP graduates in 2004 enrolled in a broad range of programs of study at their transfer institutions. While Education, Nursing, Biology, and Finance were fields of study for a number of 2004 CCP graduates, there were also graduates who continued their studies in a variety of other business, allied health, technical, and social science programs (Figure 4).

Figure 4
Program of Study at Colleges Attended After CCP

Program	Frequency
AAS	1
Accounting	4
Advertising	1
American Studies	1
Anthropology	2
Architecture	1
Biochemistry	1
Biology	6
Biotechnology	1
Broadcasting Telecommunications/ Mass Med	1
Business	2
Business Administration	1
Business Finance	2
Business Management	2
Civil Engineering	2
Communications	1
Creative Writing	1
Criminal Justice	2
Criminology	1
Economics	1
Education	13
Education/ Secondary	1
Electrical Engineering	1
Electrician	1
Elementary Education	5
Engineering Technology	1
English	4
Fashion Merchandising	1
Finance	7
Fine Arts	1
Fire Science	1
General Studies	2
Glassblowing	1
Health Info. Management	1
History	1
Human Resources	3
Interactive Media	1
International Business	1

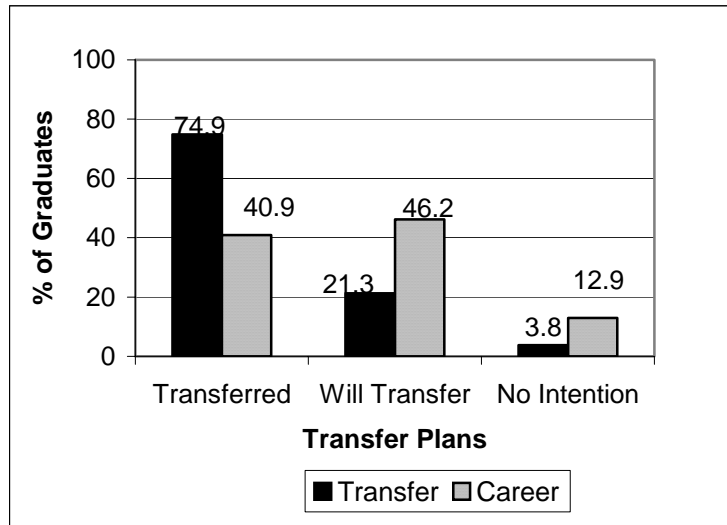
Figure 4 Continued
Programs in Colleges Attended After CCP

Program	Frequency
Journalism	1
Legal Studies	1
Liberal Arts	1
Management	2
Marketing	1
Math Education	1
Medical Office Management	1
Microsoft Office I/II	1
Nursing	8
Organizational Development	1
Organizational Management	1
OT	1
Pharmacy Tech	1
Political Science	2
Prof. Studies	1
Psychology	3
Risk Management & HRM	1
Secondary Education	2
Social Administration	1
Social Work	2
Special Education	1
Sports and Exercise Science	1
Teacher Education	1
Theatre	2

The preceding transfer rates are based on transfer activities shortly after graduation (6 to 12 months), and therefore do not capture the longer- term transfer activities of CCP graduates. In order to better understand these activities, graduates in 2004 who were not enrolled in higher education at the time of the survey were asked about their future transfer plans. While 25.1% of transfer program graduates had not transferred in the short run, approximately 21% of them intended to do so at some point in the future (Figure 5). It is interesting to note the large percentage of career program graduates (46%) who also expressed future transfer plans.

Figure 5

2004 Graduates Who Intend to Transfer

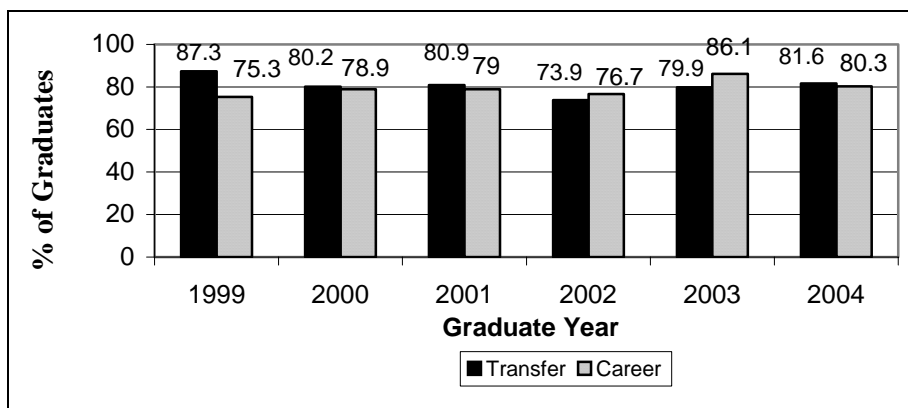


Preparation For Transfer

Most graduates who transferred were very satisfied with the preparation for transfer they received while at the College. Most transfer and career program graduates felt they received appropriate and helpful information for transfer while at the College (Figure 6).

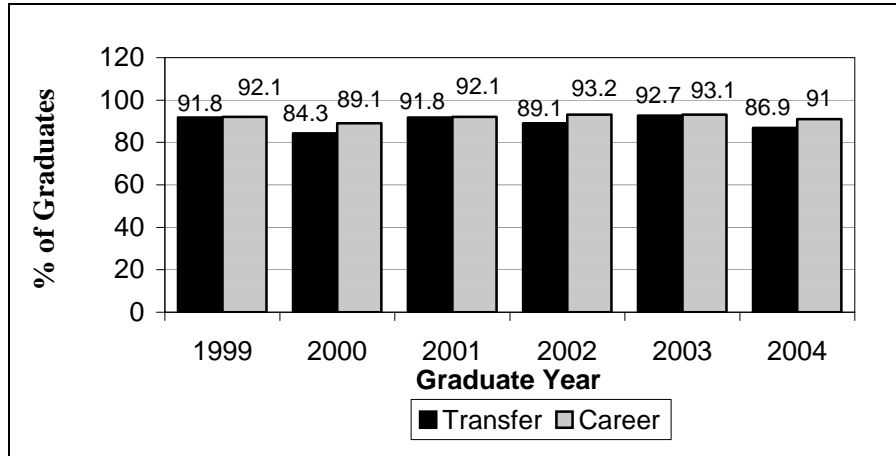
Figure 6

Graduates Who Felt Transfer Information Received was Excellent or Good



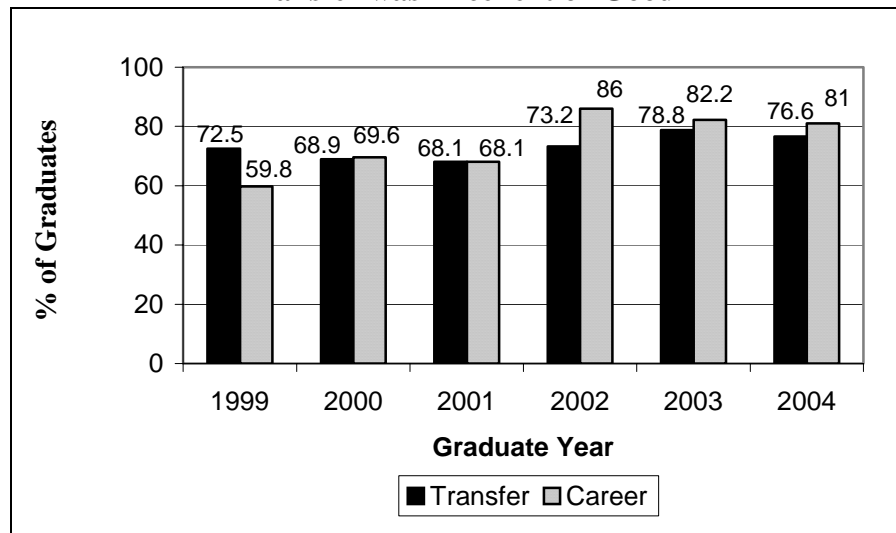
Mostly all 2004 graduates who transferred, regardless of their program of study at CCP, felt the College did an excellent or good job of preparing them for transfer. There were slight declines in the assessments provided by both 2004 transfer and career program graduates (Figure 7).

Figure 7
Graduates Who Felt Preparation for Transfer
was Excellent or Good



Transfer and career program graduates in 2004 were slightly less satisfied than their counterparts in 2003 with the computer technology preparation they received at the College. Eighty-one percent (81%) of career program graduates and 77% of transfer program graduates in 2004 rated their preparation as excellent or good (Figure 8).

Figure 8
Graduates Who Felt Technological Preparation for
Transfer was Excellent or Good



Summary

The rate of transfer of CCP graduates shortly after graduation, regardless of program of study, remains high. Most graduates who subsequently continued their education were pleased with the staff support and course preparation for transfer they received at the College. To some extent, this may be due to institutional partnership efforts over the last few years that have focused on enhancing articulation with four-year colleges/universities.

Several graduates provided thoughtful suggestions for improving the transfer preparation experience for future students. These comments, which appear in the Appendix, can be categorized into eight clusters: 1) affirmation of the College's efforts in the area of transfer preparation; 2) suggestions related to counseling and advising; 3) suggestions related to curricular or course improvements; 4) comments regarding difficulty level of CCP; 5) suggestions related to improving skills in writing, research, technology, or resume development; 6) comments regarding registration and the financial aid office; 7) comments related to ESL classes; and 8) other, miscellaneous comments.

The majority of the comments were positive. The graduates generally felt that CCP prepared them for their present college studies. Two comments that summed up the majority of positive comments are: "My CCP education is a great asset to me in my present college studies" and "As far as education is concerned, I believe it is excellent. It's just as good as any other college. They have wonderful professors". In the rest of the comment categories graduates offered constructive criticisms of CCP.

In terms of counseling and advising suggestions, they generally felt there was a need for more information on programs like dual-admissions and better advice on which courses will transfer. Two comments that express the feelings of the majority of the comments in this category are: "I would have liked more transfer information when I first started. I didn't find out about certain programs until it was too late" and "CCP could have more up to date information on which credits are transferable to other colleges". The comments regarding the curriculum at CCP were similar to those of the advising category; graduates wanted CCP to make their requirements similar to their present colleges'. "A chemistry course is a necessary part of the Education Curriculum at Drexel. It would help if CCP would require it" and "Offered ENGR class and mechanical solids as it was a prerequisite for almost all junior classes in both civil and mechanical engineering programs at Temple" were two

suggestions that show specifically what classes the students felt was missing from CCP's curriculum.

There were a few students who felt that the college is not challenging enough. These comments reflect this sentiment: "I value my education from CCP; however the classes were not challenging enough to prepare me for the University that I'm currently attending. Students need to become more independent at CCP to prepare them for University level work" and "CCP could have been a little more fast-paced. There is more information to be learned in the allotted time".

Some graduates felt that CCP did not give them the skills they need, in terms of writing, research and computer software skills. "CCP needs to introduce more business writing intensive classes in order to prepare for the writing challenges of a four year college" and "More information with regards to technology (i.e. computer aided instruction for searches like Nexis/Lexis). Also, more resume development information" were two suggestions that expressed the general feeling of the need for more skills.

There were a few positive comments about the college's ESL program, one example is: "I completed the ESL program at CCP and really helped me at my present college studies".

APPENDIX

How could CCP education be more helpful in preparation for studies after transfer?

Positive comments with no suggestions for change

All was great. I was undecided about my major but I had three choices: Language, Paralegal, and Criminal Justice. The internship in CJ and Language has set me on a CJS future.
As far as education is concerned, I believe it is excellent. It's just as good as any other college. They have wonderful professors.
Can't think of anything.
CCP could not have been more helpful. They were excellent, they prepared me.
CCP education has given me the opportunity to look toward a brighter future. I plan on starting a small business.
CCP has prepared me for any college of my choice.
CCP prepared me completely for my transfer
CCP was a great jumpstart to my college career.
CCP was great and couldn't have been any better.
CCP was very helpful.
CCP was very helpful with my future education plans.
CCP was very helpful. I changed my course of study once I graduated to Legal Studies.
Could not have been better.
Couldn't have prepared me any better than I am.
Everything was very helpful in the preparation of furthering my education.
Everything went well.
Excellent courses; No complaints.
CCP helped me fulfill the prerequisite courses and also, because of the biomedical training program offered at CCP, I finally found my interest of study, which is biotechnology.
I am fully satisfied.
I believe CCP prepared me well for the school I currently attend.
I believe the curriculum was well thought out and serves the students very well as is.
I don't think that anything else could have been done. I think sometimes CCP is underestimated as being a college for the poor. I've tried to tell those people that if you want to learn, you will no matter where you go. CCP has great faculty, keep it up!
I found everything to be great and informative.
I had no problems.
I learned so many things at CCP that prepared me for a four year college, especially English classes.
I thank God for the professors at CCP. I felt so good in my writing classes and I am completely prepared for Chestnut Hill College.
I think CCP did an excellent job preparing me for the real world. I really enjoyed the college experience. Also, this experience was needed for my personal growth. I know that one day soon I will turn my life around and become a solid member of the community.
I think CCP prepared me fully for continuing my education.
I was fully prepared.
It couldn't have been better.
It enabled me to do more advanced courses towards my bachelor's degree in science.
It helped me to be more prepared and more advanced at a university level.
It prepared me very well. My CIS credits transferred into the Science part of my courses.
It was adequate in helping me prepare for Temple.
It was excellent. I cannot think of anything right now that could have been done better.
It was more than adequate. In fact I believe that CCP's quality of education is better than Alvernia's.
It gave me the courage to work on my bachelors at this present time.
My CCP education is a great asset to me in my present college studies.
My CCP education was helpful. I didn't think I could have been prepared any better.
My CCP education was very sufficient for my present college studies.
My experience with CCP was fine, and I wouldn't change any of it.
It was extremely helpful in preparing me for Temple.

No complaints. I was happier with my professors at CCP. I miss having professors who are there for you.
No other way.
Nothing, CCP prepares all of their students well.
Nothing, it has been a great experience.
Preparation was excellent.
Taught me how to write essays in English.
The 7 week summer courses prepared me for Peirce's 7 week courses.
The education at CCP was the best.
They were always helpful.
Universities are a lot different than Colleges, it's not as personal. In CCP, there was more one on one.
Very helpful.
Very well.
Was helpful.
Yes, CCP has provided me the excellent background in Medical Technology, which helps me study successfully at Thomas Jefferson. Thank you very much CCP.

Counseling/Advising/ Transfer Information suggestions

A better counseling arrangement for future colleges.
Advisors could have had better transfer information and specifics about my major.
All of my academic advisors were very unhelpful. No one ever made me aware of the dual admissions program and as a result I am still struggling to get into a Nursing program a year after graduation.
Being informed of which classes to take that would have easily transferred to Peirce.
Being informed with the right information about transfer credit.
Better advising system and counselors.
Better concentration and information on importance of transfer courses.
Better counseling please!
CCP could have been more helpful in the beginning of school.
CCP could have more up to date information on which credits are transferable to other colleges.
Counselors giving you the right info for the program of study I am in.
Guarantee that the dual admissions program with Temple takes the credits that you have earned at CCP, rather than repeating classes.
Gear it more toward getting my credits to transfer. I feel lost some times because of it.
I could have taken more English courses-But I wasn't advised to do that.
I should have been introduced to the core-to-core program sooner.
I would have felt more prepared if someone had explained the importance of science with labs, 2 lab languages and 1 H requirement.
I would have liked more transfer info when I first started. I didn't find out about certain programs until it was too late.
If I received more advising. I felt there was no help for night students.
If I was not given classes I didn't need- Leaving me in college for more than four years.
If I would have received guidance from a nurse educator or program guidance counselor. Took classes that we geared toward either a Baccalaureate or Associate program.
If the counselors were more involved and helpful as well as the department heads and vice presidents. I felt very excluded and tossed around at CCP based on my color. So maybe CCP should help ALL of their students. CCP should be more strict with academic programs.
If transfer agreements between other colleges were updated as changes occurred. Also if a working relationship was established between prospective college and student for advising.
More credits could have transferred.
More information on other college level.
More intervention from advisors.
More transfer information and more availability of advisors.
The academic advisors were not helpful. I had to figure everything out myself. They never seemed to know what they were doing.
The staff could have been more knowledgeable about the transfers.

Curriculum and Course suggestions

A chemistry course is a necessary part of the Education Curriculum at Drexel. It would help if CCP would require it.
Better instructors.
Biology department should be more organized and have Curriculum for your nursing studies.
By having a figure painting course.
CCP could have offered more communication related courses to prepare me for my present college studies.
Continuing education courses, IT courses.
I am taking some courses that I need now that I could have taken at CCP. I feel like I could have saved more time and money.
I feel they should push more required painting courses.
I wish that CCP had an actual theatre space.
More medical surgery clinicals.
More finance courses.
Offered ENGR class mechanics of solids as it was a prerequisite for almost all junior classes in both civil & mechanical engineering programs at Temple.
Possibly more encouragement and reinforcement from the professors.
Saturday & evening classes are needed for those of us that work.
Smaller classes.
Take more classes related to major.
They could have offered courses and not cancelled without notice.
To offer more programs such as advertising.
Would like to have had a larger variety of humanities courses to choose from.

More Challenging

CCP could have been a little more fast-paced. There is more information to be learned in the allotted time.
Could have been a bit more challenging.
I believe I could have been challenged more.
I could have been challenged more as far as vocabulary, public speaking, and self-thinking.
I value my education from CCP; however the classes were not challenging enough to prepare me for the University that I'm currently attending. Students need to become more independent at CCP to prepare them for University level work.
It prepared me fine. The work was a little easier at CCP.
More challenging classes.
More intense studies.
Some could have been more demanding.
Teachers should expect more from students, CCP is too easy.

Skills in Writing/Research/Computer/Resume

CCP needs to introduce more business writing intensive classes in order to prepare for the writing challenges of a four year college.
I believe my research skills could have been improved with better requirements through CCP.
I think more intensive writing courses would have been helpful.
More computer oriented classes.
More information with regards to technology (i.e. computer aided instruction for searches like Nexis/Lexis). Also, more resume development information.
More writing intensive courses.
More writing skills.
Preparing research in MLA format. It wasn't required much at CCP, but it is a definite requirement at Peirce.
Teach students how to use Auto Desk VIZ 4 (software program).
The use of information technology could have been more helpful.

Registration/Financial Aid

I think that CCP could be more organized as far as offices are concerned. I always had a problem with financial aid.
Better registration times.
Financial aid and the sign up center was horrible. I gave my new address to S.A. three times, but no one changed it; as a result I was late getting grad info.
If I had more financial aid to pay for the extra classes I wanted.

ESL

By improving my oral communication skills in English Language at ESL classes.
I completed the ESL program at CCP and really helped me at my present college studies.
Improved my English.

Other

I did not like my CCP experience and I would not recommend anyone to attend this institution.
It could have been tied into the real world, what's out there and why some of the courses are needed; and how they can be used to improve our real world experience.
It was fine. I just think the math classes at CCP are hard because of the language barriers between a lot of the students and foreign teachers.
It would be more helpful if I better planned my program of study.
It would have been better if CCP had an agreement with Holy Family.
Study habits.
To have better teachers who can speak English clearly and teachers who have better teaching skills.
Tougher teachers who aren't there just to get a paycheck.