

Effects of Baton Rouge Community College on Southeastern Louisiana University

Research Brief #17

Spring 2005

Baton Rouge Community College opened its doors in the fall of 1998. They received full accreditation from SACS in December 2004. This research brief examines the effect the community college had on Southeastern five years later.

Transfers from Southeastern to Baton Rouge Community College

- The number of students transferring from Southeastern to Baton Rouge Community College decreased 56.2% from Fall 1998 (n=121) to Fall 2002 (n=68).
- The percentage of White, non-Hispanic students transferring out decreased from 95.9% (n=116) in Fall 1998 to 83.0% (n=57) in Fall 2002.

Number of Transfers to Baton Rouge Community College by Ethnicity

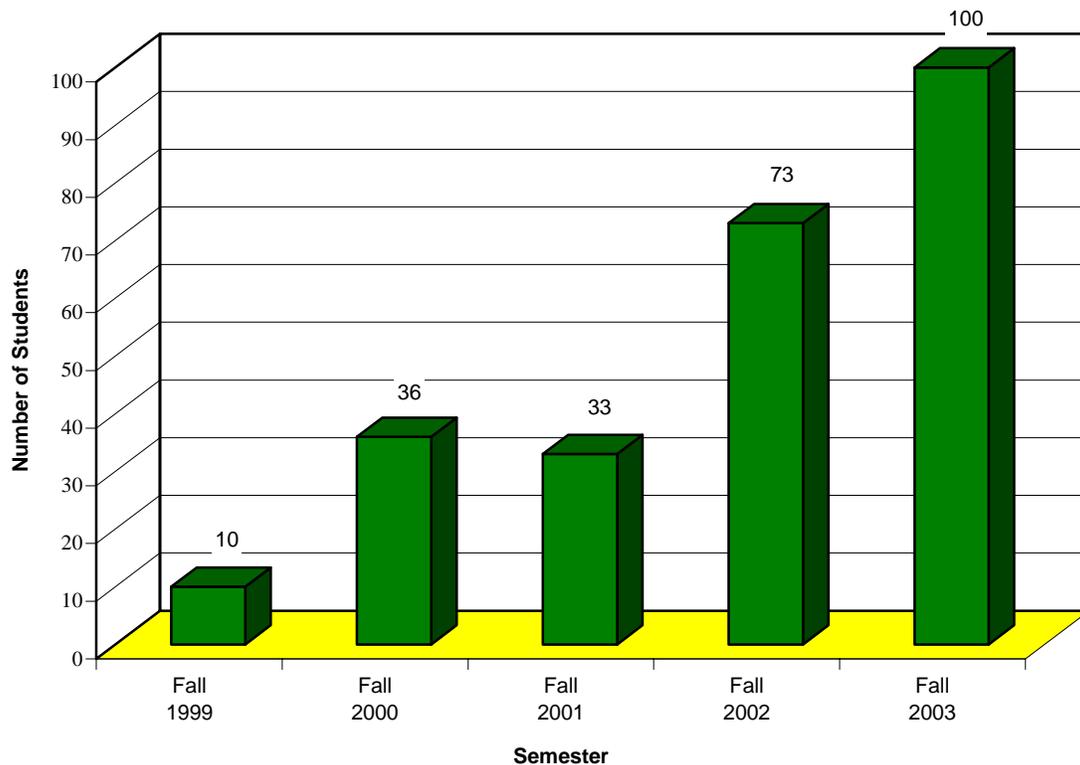
Fall 1998 to Fall 2002

Ethnicity	Semester									
	Fall 1998		Fall 1999		Fall 2000		Fall 2001		Fall 2002	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White, non-Hispanic	116	95.9%	68	88.3%	47	97.9%	71	94.7%	57	83.8%
Black, non-Hispanic	2	1.7%	9	11.7%	1	2.1%	3	4.0%	4	5.9%
Other Minority	3	2.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.3%	7	10.3%
Total	121	100.0%	77	100.0%	48	100.0%	75	100.0%	68	100.0%

- The average cumulative hours earned at Southeastern for the student's transferring to Baton Rouge Community College increased from 22.6 hours to 30.5 hours; the average cumulative Southeastern GPA increased from 1.439 to 1.716.

Transfers from Baton Rouge Community College to Southeastern

**Transfers From Baton Rouge Community College
Fall 1999 to Fall 2003**



- The number of students transferring in from the new community college has steadily increased from 10 students in Fall 1999 to 100 students in Fall 2003.
- The average cumulative hours transferred in from Baton Rouge Community College has risen from 24.9 hours to 49.0 hours during the same period.
- Sixty percent of all transfers have been female, 84.4% White, non-Hispanic and 10.4% Black, non-Hispanic.
- While the number of students transferring from Baton Rouge Community College has increased significantly during the period, the percentage of those transfer students entering as freshmen has decreased from 80.0% (n=8) to 37.6% (n=38).
- Seventy-seven percent of the students reside in two parishes; East Baton Rouge and Livingston.

Discussion

Past research has indicated student's reasons for enrolling in a community college were proximity to home, low tuition, convenient class times, instructional quality, job training opportunity, GPA improvement, and relatives' or friends' advice¹. The average student transferring to Baton Rouge Community College from Southeastern is a traditional college student 20-21 years of age with a cumulative GPA less than 2.000. It appears that these students left for academic reasons, since a majority of these students were either on probation or suspended from the university. Although the university is losing these students to the community college, it is better than having the students drop out of higher education altogether.

Out of the 663 students who left Southeastern and enrolled in Baton Rouge Community College over the five year period studied, 27% (n=179) had a GPA of 2.000 or greater. These are the students we need to take a closer look to determine why they have left the university. Did they leave for financial reasons, proximity to home, lower tuition, or some other reason?

Baton Rouge Community College seems to be having a positive effect in regards to the students that transferred to Southeastern. A majority of the transfer students are full-time and transfer in an average of 49 cumulative hours from the community college. The two-year institution accounts for the third most transfers Southeastern receives, behind LSU and Delgado.

The reality of Baton Rouge Community College receiving full SACS accreditation could have a positive impact on Southeastern. Academically unprepared student's who came to Southeastern because they could not receive financial aid from the community college may now choose to attend Baton Rouge Community College first. Then, after they are academically prepared, they may transfer to Southeastern.

¹ Kajstura, A., & Keim, M. (1992). Reverse Transfer Students in Illinois Community Colleges. Community College Review, 20, 39-44.