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**Nursing Graduates Subsequent Degrees Study
1995 - 2005**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to explore from where Oakland Community College's (OCC) Nursing graduates obtained additional education. Students who graduated between 1995 and 2005 were studied. Data were provided by the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to examine graduates' subsequent higher education activity.

- Nine percent of the NSC Nursing graduates sample obtained additional awards beyond their Nursing degrees. Most OCC Nursing graduates (91%) did not continue their education once they obtained their Nursing degree.
- In general, most graduates were white females and in their early or mid-thirties when they obtained their degree. Graduates' average age of 24 years is similar to those respondents to the Nursing Graduate Follow-Up Survey.
- Nursing graduates took on average four (4) years to obtain an additional degree. However for those who obtained an additional degree from OCC, they took on average one (1) year to obtain their additional degree. In fact, several students received their second degree concurrently with their first degree from OCC.
- Of the graduates who obtained additional awards, OCC received the most Nursing graduates. The University of Phoenix received the second highest number of OCC Nursing graduates who continued their education.
- A majority of OCC Nursing graduates who obtained additional degrees obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (58%).
- Regional institutions that do not participate in the National Student Clearinghouse program include: Baker College; Davenport University; Oakland University; Monroe County Community College. Therefore, some graduates' subsequent degree attainment could be absent from this study.

PURPOSE OF STUDY

The purpose of this study was to explore whether Oakland Community College's (OCC) Nursing graduates continue their education. Of those graduates who did continue their education, award attainment, from what institution, and general demographics were examined.

METHOD

OCC Nursing graduates data were obtained from official college records via Colleague. Information regarding Nursing graduates between 1995 and 2005 was forwarded to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to obtain subsequent higher education activity for this cohort.

ANALYSIS

A total of 1,654 students graduated with Nursing Associate Degrees from OCC between 1995 and 2005. Listed below are the three Associate Degree programs, along with total number of degrees conferred per degree type. Please note that a few graduates obtained more than one degree.

Associate Degrees	Total Number of Degrees
Associate in Applied Science (NUR.AASX)	1,510
Second Year Nursing Completion Option (NUR.RNE.AASX)	28
Transitional LPN to AND Track (NUR.TPN.AASX)	121
Total:	1,659

When referencing the 1,654 OCC Nursing graduates' records, data for 880 graduates (53%) were obtained from the NSC. Graduation data for these 880 graduates included:

- 1) Degree activity from OCC
 - Comprising of their original Nursing degree, or
 - Other degrees, if applicable

- 2) Degree activity from other institutions

A total of 963 OCC degrees were recorded from the 880 graduates. From this sample, these Nursing graduates possessed 962 NUR.AASX and one (1) NUR.TPN.AASX degree(s) from OCC. When looking at all institutions from where degrees were obtained, OCC was the institution with the highest number of degrees (897) (See Appendix A), and an Associates in Applied Science was the most frequent degree (877) (See Appendix B).

In addition to the graduates' program of study, age, gender, and ethnicity were studied. The age of graduates at the time they received their degree ranged from 21 years to 60 years. The average age was 32 years, with the median age of 31 years. The most frequent age was 24 years. Most Nursing graduates who obtained degrees were White (89%), and Female (91%). Moreover, most of the 880 graduates (91%) did not go on to furthering their education from 1995 to 2005, according to the NSC data.

Nursing Graduates Who Obtained Additional Degrees beyond Their Original OCC Nursing Degree:

Of the 880 graduates for whom degree data were obtained from NSC, a total of 78 OCC graduates (9%) went on to obtain additional degrees beyond their original OCC Nursing degree. This number includes:

- 1) Additional degrees from OCC on the same graduation date as original degree date, or future date(s) since the original Nursing degree

- 2) Future degrees from other institutions

A total of 83 additional degrees were obtained by these 78 graduates. From this sample, all of these Nursing graduates possessed a NUR.AASX degree from OCC. The most frequent additional degree listed was a Bachelors of Science in Nursing (48) (See Appendix C). Also, a large number of Nursing graduates obtained additional awards from OCC or the University of Phoenix (See Appendix D).

In addition to the graduates' program of study, age, gender, ethnicity, and time to degree were studied. The age of graduates at the time they received their additional degree ranged from 21 years to 60 years. The average age was 36 years, with the median age of 34 years. The most frequent ages were 26 years and 38 years (both had an n=7). Most Nursing graduates who obtained additional degrees were White (86%), and Female (91%). Furthermore, it took OCC graduates on average 4 years to obtain another award, although 18% of OCC Nursing graduates obtained another degree at the same time they received their original degree (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Time to Degree from Original Nursing Degree to Additional Degree(s):

	Frequency	Percent
No additional time	15	18%
Less than 2 years	8	10%
2 – 4 years	16	19%
4 – 6 years	17	21%
6 – 8 years	17	21%
8 – 10 years	10	12%

**Percents do not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

Nursing Graduates Who Obtained Additional OCC Degrees beyond Their Original OCC Nursing Degree:

Graduate degree records were further analyzed to show OCC degree activity beyond graduates' original Nursing degree. A total of 24 additional OCC degrees were obtained by 23 OCC graduates, all of whom originally possessed NUR.AASX degrees from OCC. Many degrees were Associates in Liberal Arts or Associates in General Studies; however, some were additional Science degrees (See Appendix E). It is interesting to note that most OCC graduates obtained their additional OCC degrees at the same time as their original Nursing degrees (63%).

In addition to the graduates' program of study, age, gender, ethnicity and time to degree were studied. The age of graduates at the time they received their additional OCC degree ranged from 21 years to 45 years. The average age was 31 years, with the median age of 29 years. The most frequent age was 24 years. Most Nursing graduates who obtained additional OCC degrees were White (83%) (followed by 9% African American), and Female (87%). Moreover, it took OCC graduates on average one (1) year to obtain another award, although 63% of OCC Nursing graduates obtained another degree at the same time they received their original degree (See Figure 2).

Figure 2: Time to Degree from Original OCC Nursing Degree to Additional OCC Degree(s):

	Frequency	Percent
No additional time	15	63%
Less than 2 years	6	25%
2 – 4 years	1	4%
4 – 6 years	2	8%

LIMITATIONS

Some higher educational institutions do not participate in the National Student Clearinghouse program. As a result, subsequent degree data was not available if OCC Nursing graduates attended one of these non-participating schools. Regional institutions not included in this study include:

- Baker College
- Davenport University
- Oakland University
- Monroe County Community College

Another important factor when reviewing the data is that the data reference degree attainment between 1995 and 2005. If graduates are continuing their education, but have not graduated within the 10-year period, this information is not captured in this report.

FUTURE ANALYSIS

Possible future research could include studying subsequent enrollment data of OCC Nursing Graduates enrolled in regional institutions that do not participate in the National Student Clearinghouse program. Moreover, it could be interesting to continue tracking higher education activity of the OCC Nursing graduates to see where recent graduates are turning for additional awards. Finally, it could be interesting to uncover why some graduates continued their education, after they obtained a Nursing degree from OCC.

APPENDIX

