**Upshot Changing Majors**

April 2016

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**BMCC OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND ANALYTICS**

**Liberal Arts**

About 1/3 of BMCC students enroll in Liberal Arts, the largest program at BMCC. Looking at fall 2010-2012 cohorts, about 22% of new Liberal Arts students changed majors by their second year, somewhat lower than the average rate for changing majors. Changing majors does not have a significant impact on 3-year graduation rates when we control for remedial need as determined by the initial CUNY placement tests. In the past few years, BMCC has created several new smaller majors with a goal of guiding Liberal Arts students into more focused majors. Communication Studies was one of the first of these, but Business Administration and Criminal Justice attract more of these majors.

**Business Management**

Shifting from Business Management (AAS) to Business Administration (AA) has been encouraged by the Business Department. Students who make this switch will earn a degree where their credits more readily transfer to a Baccalaureate program in a 4-year college, and may lead to a higher paying job.

As the chart on the right shows, students who started in Business Management and changed to Business Administration within one year did not experience delays and in fact graduated at a higher rate than those who stayed with the Business Management program.

**Changing Majors May Help in Some Cases**

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**3-Year Graduation Rates among BMCC Students Returning for the 2nd Year.**

- Changed Major by Year 2
  - Changed Major: 25%
  - Same Major: 25%

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**Moving out of Liberal Arts**

**Graduation within 3 Years**

- Graduated
- Not graduated

Bars show headcount for each Second Year Major for students who started BMCC as new freshmen in Liberal Arts. Color highlights those who graduated within 3 years. Only students who changed majors from Liberal Arts and returned to BMCC in the second year are included.
An average of 23% of new, full-time Business Management freshmen transferred by Year 2 into the Business Administration Program. In contrast, only 16% of new, full-time freshmen in Business Administration switched majors in Year 2 at BMCC.

**FAST FACTS**

32%

% of BMCC 2014-15 graduates finishing within **three** years started BMCC in a different major.

18%

% of BMCC 2014-15 graduates finishing within **TWO** years started BMCC in a different major.

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**Undeclared Health Majors in Year 3**

Students coming into BMCC with Undeclared Health majors are typically hoping to enroll in the Nursing program. Of the 842 Undeclared Health students in fall freshmen full-time cohorts from 2010-2012 who were still enrolled three years later in CUNY, only 44 students were enrolled in the BMCC Nursing program while 107 remained as Undeclared Health majors.

Several students in these cohorts found other health-related fields at BMCC: 11 in Emergency Medical Technology, 5 in Respiratory Therapy, 4 in Health Information Technology, and 1 in the new Community Health program. Another 12 students by year 3 had transferred to health-related programs at other CUNY colleges and 144 remained in Undeclared Health majors at BMCC or at other CUNY schools.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

CONTACT: BMCC OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND ANALYTICS
ins@bmcc.cuny.edu