ANALYSIS OF RUTGERS-CAMDEN DATA 2005

With respect to Selection of College (Items A1-A5), Rutgers-Camden first-time full-time students view their institution as their first choice less frequently than students in other public universities of medium selectivity (56% vs. 69%). Rutgers-Camden students and students attending peer institutions are most likely to cite “to learn more about things that interest me” as very important in deciding to go to college (75% for both). Rutgers-Camden and the peer institution students are also as likely to note the following reasons for their decision to go to college: “being able to make more money” (75% and 74%, respectively), “to get a better job” (72% and 73%), “to get training in a specific career” (71% and 74%), and “to gain a general education” (61% for both). Rutgers-Camden students are slightly more likely than their peers to report going to college to prepare for graduate and professional school (60% vs. 53%).

Rutgers-Camden students report a more positive view of their institution than do peer institution students. Fifty-five percent of Rutgers-Camden students compared to forty-seven percent of their peers report selecting their college because of its good academic reputation. Rutgers-Camden students are also more likely to cite that graduates from this college get good jobs, the cost of college, being offered financial assistance, and wanting to live near home as reasons for choosing their current college (51% vs. 41%, 49% vs. 40 %, 36% vs. 25%, and 36% vs. 25% for peer institution students, respectively).

Rutgers-Camden students and peer institution students are equally concerned about financing college. More than half express some concern (56% and 55%), and one in eight indicate major concern (13% for Rutgers-Camden and 14% for peer institutions). In terms
of financial resources for their college education, 61% of Rutgers-Camden students and 58% students at peer institutions are receiving financial aid that needs not be repaid such as grants or scholarships and Rutgers-Camden students are less likely to rely on family resources (69% vs. 77% for peer institutions). Compared to students at peer institutions, Rutgers-Camden students are more likely to take financial aid that must be repaid such as loans (54% vs. 47% for peer institutions), but are less likely to rely on their own resources (51% vs. 57% for peer institutions). Nevertheless, more than half of the students (53%) from both groups indicate it is very likely they will get a job to help pay for college expenses (see question C2).

With regard to **Educational and Career Plans** (Items B1-B4), approximately three in four Rutgers-Camden students and their peers at comparable institutions are planning to obtain a post baccalaureate degree (75% and 71%). More than half of Rutgers-Camden students (52%) plan to remain at their university for a post baccalaureate degree, while only about one-third (32%) students at peer institutions plan to do so. Rutgers-Camden students have similar career plans as students in peer institutions. The most expected career for both groups of students is Business Executive; a similar proportion of students from Rutgers-Camden and peer institutions expect a career as a Physician (5% and 3%), Engineer (5% for both), although students at Rutgers-Camden are more likely want to be Pharmacist (7% vs. 2% for peer institutions). Approximately one in seven students at Rutgers-Camden and peer institutions is undecided about their probable occupation (14% and 13%). Students’ probable undergraduate major fields of study at both Rutgers-Camden and peer institutions reflect their career goals. Professional fields and Business are cited as
the most probable field of undergraduate studies among Rutgers-Camden students (23% and 19%) while Education and Business are the most probable majors for the peer institution students (18% and 17%).

In responding to questions developed for Rutgers students only (Items B5 through B9), two-thirds of Rutgers-Camden students believe that it is extremely important to achieve their career goals while pursuing an undergraduate degree. Furthermore, more than 40 percent of them believe it is extremely important to achieve “personal interests and talents goals”, “intellectual growth goals”, “critical thinking and communication skills goals” as well as “social interaction and personal growth goals” (43%, 42%, 42% and 40%, respectively). Altogether, ninety or close to 90 percent of Rutgers-Camden students cited it important or extremely important to achieve each of the five goals while pursuing their undergraduate degree.

With respect to Student Attitudes and Background (Items C1-C15), Rutgers-Camden students and their peers at medium selective public universities are most interested in financial success (81% and 77%). Students at Rutgers-Camden are slightly more likely than their peers at comparable institutions to hold the life goal of helping others in difficulty (69% vs. 64%), but are less likely to have the life goal of raising a family (70% vs. 77%). The two groups have similar expectations about their college experience in the areas of socializing with students from other racial/ethnic groups (61% and 62%), and being satisfied with their college (46% for both). While more Rutgers-Camden students believe they will attain at least a "B" average (65% vs. 55%), fewer Rutgers-Camden students than peer institution students expect to participate in student
clubs (29% vs. 36%).

In terms of political issues, Rutgers-Camden students are similar to their peers at medium selective public universities. More than half consider themselves politically "middle-of-the-road" (54% for Rutgers-Camden and 51% for peer institutions), and another one-fourth describe themselves as liberal (29% and 24%). Similar percentages of agreement are reported for both groups on social issues: the “Federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns” (81% for Rutgers-Camden students and 79% for peer institution students), “There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals” (64% and 62%), and “Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now” (60% for both). In their responses to statements related to personal freedom, Rutgers-Camden students are similar to their peers in agreeing with legalizing abortion (56% and 55%), but are slightly more likely to agree with legalizing same sex marriage (65% vs. 59% for peer institution students).

In terms of demographic characteristics, there are both similarities and differences between the two groups. They are similar in age. Sixty-five percent of the first-time fulltime students at Rutgers-Camden are 18 years old, as are seventy-one percent of those at comparable peer institutions. Although two-thirds (65%) of Rutgers-Camden students indicate they are White or Caucasian, peer institutions have a higher percentage (78%). A substantial proportion of Rutgers-Camden students indicate that they are of an ethnic minority background: fifteen percent are African American, eleven percent is Asian, and

1 In answering the question about racial background, students may have selected more than one category. Consequently, the percentages may add to more than one hundred percent when the total percentage of minority students is added to the percentage of white students. This is true for both Rutgers-Camden and its peer institutions.
ten percent are Latino. The corresponding percentage of each ethnic group among the peer institution students are nine percent African American, six percent Asian, and nine percent Latino. Most of Rutgers-Camden and peer institution students are American citizens (96% and 97%), while fewer Rutgers-Camden students are native English speakers (88% vs. 93%). Parent’s educations for Rutgers-Camden students and students at peer institutions are similar. Forty percent of Rutgers-Camden and peer institution students report their parents having a bachelor’s or advanced degree (40% and 41% for fathers, 40% in both for mothers).

Rutgers-Camden students are similar to their peers in self-reported needs for remedial work in writing (10% for Rutgers-Camden students and 11% for peer institution students), foreign language (10% and 12%, respectively) and English (8% and 10%). The most needed subject of remedial work is, however, in mathematics. Eighteen percent of Rutgers-Camden students indicate they need remedial work in mathematics, while 28% peer institution students indicate the same need.

Many Rutgers-Camden and the peer institution students rate themselves as above average or in the highest 10 percent compared to others of their same age in cooperativeness (72% for both), understanding of others (65% for both) and intellectual self-confidence (58% and 54%). However, Rutgers-Camden students are more likely than their peers to place themselves in the highest 10 percent or above average categories when asked about their academic ability (66% vs. 58%) and drive to achieve (71% vs. 66%).

Rutgers-Camden students report a number of ways they spent their time during the previous year. Like students at peer institutions, most had “frequently” or “occasionally” studied with other students (79% for Rutgers-Camden students and 83% for peer
institution students), and attended a religious service (74% and 77%). However, fewer Rutgers-Camden students report performing volunteer work compared to their peers in the previous year (70% vs. 78%).

Rutgers-Camden students are slightly different from their peers with regard to their weekly activities in the previous year. Only thirty-seven percent of Rutgers-Camden students spent six to fifteen hours socializing with friends, while forty-two percent of peer institution students did so. During the same period, about two out of five students at Rutgers-Camden (42%) and peer institutions (37%) spent sixteen or more hours per week working for pay.

Like their peers, more than eighty percent of Rutgers-Camden frequently used a personal computer in the previous year (86% and 83% for peer institution students), and three in four frequently used the internet for research or homework (75% and 78%, respectively). Rutgers-Camden students are slightly more likely than students in peer institutions (79% vs. 70%) to report frequent socialization with people from different racial/ethnic groups in the past year.