ANALYSIS OF RUTGERS-CAMDEN DATA 2004

With respect to Selection of College (Items A1-A5), Rutgers-Camden students view their institution as their first choice less frequently than students in other public universities of medium selectivity (55% vs. 69%). Rutgers-Camden students and students attending peer institutions are most likely to cite “to get training in a specific career” as very important in deciding to go to college (77% and 78%). Rutgers-Camden and the peer institution students are also likely to note the following reasons for their decision to go to college: “being able to make more money” (75% and 73%, respectively), “to get a better job” (70% and 73%), and “to gain a general education” (62% and 61%). Rutgers-Camden students are slightly more likely than their peers to report going to college for preparation for graduate and professional school (59% vs. 52%), while students at peer institutions are slightly more likely to indicate going to college to learn more about things that interest them (74% vs. 66% for Rutgers-Camden students).

Rutgers-Camden students report a more positive view of their institution than the peer institution students. Fifty-five percent of Rutgers-Camden students compared to forty-four percent of their peers report selecting their college because of its good academic reputation. Rutgers-Camden students are also more likely to cite cost of college, being offered financial assistance, and wanting to live near home as reasons for choosing their current college (62% vs. 39 %, 39% vs. 26%, and 31% vs. 25% for peer institution students, respectively).

Rutgers-Camden students and peer institution students are equally concerned about financing college. More than half of them express some concern (54%), and one in ten indicate major concern (10% for Rutgers-Camden and 14% for peer institutions). In terms of financial resources for college education, sixty-one percent of Rutgers-Camden students and students at
peer institutions are taking financial aid that needs not be repaid such as grants or scholarships although they are even more likely to rely on family resources (72% for Rutgers-Camden and 80% for peer institutions). Approximately half of these students plan to take financial aid that must be repaid such as loans (51% for Rutgers-Camden and 47% for peer institutions). Compared to students at peer institutions, Rutgers-Camden students are slightly less likely to rely on their own resources (53% vs. 63%). More than half of the students (53%) at Rutgers-Camden and peer institutions 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), more than two-thirds of Rutgers-Camden students and their peers at comparable institutions are planning to obtain a post baccalaureate degree (72% and 67%). Approximately one in three (34%) students at Rutgers-Camden versus one in four (27%) students at peer institutions plan to remain at their university for a post baccalaureate degree. Rutgers-Camden students have different career plans from students in peer institutions. The most expected career for Rutgers-Camden students is Pharmacist (11% vs. 2% for peer institutions), while the most commonly expected career for peer institution students is elementary and secondary teacher or administrator (16% vs. 6% Rutgers-Camden). About the same proportion of Rutgers-Camden students and peer institution students expect a career of business executive (8% and 7%) and an accountant or actuary (3% and 2%). Slightly fewer Rutgers-Camden students than students at peer institutions are undecided about their future occupation (8% vs. 13%). Students’ probable undergraduate major field of study at both Rutgers-Camden and peer institutions seems to reflect their career goals. Professional fields and Business are cited as the most probable field of undergraduate studies.
among Rutgers-Camden students (33% and 16%) while Education and Business are the most probable majors for the peer institution students (17% in both).

In responding to questions developed for Rutgers students only (Items B5 through B9), more than 60 percent 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”, “social interaction and personal growth goals”, “intellectual growth goals” as well as “critical thinking and communication skills goals” (49%, 44%, 41% and 41%, respectively). Altogether, ninety or close to 90 percent of Rutgers-Camden students cite 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 are slightly more interested in financial success than their peers at medium selective public universities (82% vs. 76%), but are similar in other life goals such as to “raise a family” and to “help others in difficulty” (78% and 75%; 62% and 61%, respectively). The two groups have somewhat similar expectations about their college experience in the areas of socializing with students from other racial/ethnic groups (62% for both) and participation in student clubs (33% for both). While more Rutgers-Camden students believe they will attain at least a "B" average (71% vs. 56%), slightly fewer Rutgers-Camden students than peer institution students expect to be satisfied with their college (39% vs. 45%).

In terms of political issues, Rutgers-Camden students are similar to their peers at medium selective public universities. More than half of them consider themselves politically "middle-of-the-road" (54% and 52%). Similar percentages are reported for their responses to statements
related to personal freedom, such as legalizing same sex marriage (55% and 59%) and abortion (53% and 54%). However, Rutgers-Camden students take a stronger stand on gun control with 84% agreeing that “Federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns”, on which 79% of students in peer institutions agree. Rutgers-Camden students are also slightly more likely to agree that “There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals” (66% vs. 60% for peer institution students), and “Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now” (62% vs. 56%).

In terms of demographic characteristics, there are some differences between the two groups. They are similar in age. Seventy percent of the first-time fulltime students at Rutgers-Camden are 18 years old, so are sixty-seven 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 (77%). A substantial proportion of Rutgers-Camden students indicate that they are of an ethnic minority background: twelve percent are African American, fourteen percent are Asian American, and eight percent are Latino. The corresponding percentage of each ethnic group among the peer institution students are nine percent, six percent, and nine percent, respectively. Most of Rutgers-Camden and peer institution students are American citizens (95% and 97%), while fewer Rutgers-Camden students are native English speakers (85% vs. 94%). 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 bachelors or advanced degree (39% and 42% for fathers, 36% and 40% for mothers).

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1 In answering the question about racial background, students may have selected more than one category.
Almost 100 percent of Rutgers-Camden students and students at peer institutions met or exceeded recommended years of high school study in English (4 years), Mathematics (3 years) and History/American Government (1 year). Ninety-eight percent of Rutgers-Camden students fulfilled their two-year high school study in Foreign Language, while only 90% of peer institution students did so. However, Rutgers-Camden students are less likely to finish their one-year high school study in Arts or Music compared to their peers (65% vs. 79%). In the subject areas of Computer Science (1 year), Physical Science (2 years) and Biological Science (2 years), a similar percent of students from both groups fulfilled their requirements (66% for both, 53% for both, 45% for Rutgers-Camden and 40% for peer institutions, respectively).

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% and 69%), understanding of others (63% and 62%) and intellectual self-confidence (57% and 53%). 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 (79% vs. 62%) and drive to achieve (75% 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 (84% for both), performed volunteer work (78% and 77%) and attended a religious service (76% and 78%). Rutgers-Camden students are very similar to their peers with regard to their weekly activities in the previous year. Forty-eight percent of Rutgers-Camden students spent six to fifteen hours socializing with friends, while forty-two percent of peer

Consequently, the percentages may add to more than one hundred percent when the total percentage of minority
institution students did so. Two out of five students at Rutgers-Camden and peer institutions 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 close to eighty percent frequently used the internet for research or homework (76% for both). While two-thirds of students in both groups report they frequently socialized with people of different racial/ethnic groups in the past year, only about one-third report “frequently” maintaining a healthy diet (32% and 30%) during that period of time.

students is added to the percentage of white students. This is true for both Rutgers-Camden and its peer institutions.