



Gator Stats

The Office of Institutional Research (OIR)

Inside this issue: Spring Semester Students—A Quick Look

Spring semester students	1
ECAR	2

During Dr. Valek's recent Information Session she discussed the current economic situation on a national, state and local level and how it affects Brazosport College. Often during downturns, community colleges experience a boost in enrollment which many Texas and national community colleges have encountered. Students seek community colleges as an affordable alternative to four year universities and a way for unemployed workers to gain new skills.

As our community's economic climate shifted downward, Brazosport College's Spring enrollment did not increase as much as other Gulf Coast colleges. In fact, enrollment was relatively flat (3460) as compared to Spring 2007 (3453). During these times it is especially important for Brazosport College faculty and staff to be assertive marketing agents for the college, promoting the college to current students, friends and the community.

During the session, Dr. Valek challenged each of us to engage students in conversations about their education and to encourage them to continue their education and take on additional classes. Not only will this help the college but it will assist students in reaching their educational goals. It has been proven that the more classes a student takes in a semester, the more likely they are to persist and complete their degree or certificate.

So, who are Brazosport College's Spring 2009 Students? They are:

- more likely to be female (52.9%) students than male (47.1%).
- very likely white (63.1%) but approximately one out of four students are Hispanic (27.2%).
- 21 years of age.
- part-time students who attend at night (53%).
- taking an average of two classes.
- taking twice as many academic credit hours (15,871) than technical / vocational credit hours (7,507).
- *not* receiving financial aid (76%).
- students who also attended BC in the Fall 2008 semester (81.9% retention).
- currently attending Brazoswood High School or, a graduate of Brazoswood High School. Four out of ten concurrent / dual credit students attend Brazoswood High School (38.9%) while one out of four BC students (26.2%) graduated from Brazoswood High School.



The Spring 2009 Enrollment Report, which will include data used to calculate the above stats plus more, will be completed and published for distribution in the next month. Previous enrollment reports can be found at <http://www.brazosport.edu/ir>.

ECAR Survey:

This Spring, Brazosport College will be participating in the ECAR research study which surveys students on information technology issues. The purpose of the study is to:

- provide information on technology behaviors, preferences, and attitudes of students, especially as it relates to their academic experience
- provide information to college and university administrators to help them implement campus technology for students.
- inform faculty who are incorporating IT into their curricula or who would like to and the impact technology has on their courses



Randomly selected students participating in the electronic survey will be asked questions ranging from their use and preference of technology in the classroom, to their use of social networking sites, and their frequency and use of handheld devices. To view all of this year's survey questions, go to: <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/SI/ESI08E.pdf>. Survey results will be available in the Fall 2009 semester.

Even though Brazosport College did not participate in the 2008 ECAR survey, key findings gleaned from the 2008 survey might be applicable to our students:

ECAR 2008 Key Findings (<http://www.educause.edu/ers0808>):

- Laptop use continues to be the platform of choice. Ownership significantly increased from 82.2% in 2008 compared to just 65.9% in 2006.
- Almost seven out of ten students (68.9%) own a computer (desktop or laptop) that is two years old or less, well within recommended equipment replacement cycles.
- Community college survey respondents spent an average of 14.8 hours per week online doing activities for work, school, or recreation. Even though this is significantly lower than four-year college students, it is not surprising since the majority of community college students are part-time students and divide their time between college, work and home life.
- Convenience is the most valued benefit of incorporating IT in course activities. Two thirds (65.6%) of survey respondents agreed "IT makes my course activities more convenient."
- Out of all 2008 survey respondents, only one in ten (11.9%) were taking one or more online courses at the time of the survey. Convenience and the ability to take courses that would otherwise be unavailable were cited as the reasons for taking an online course; however, from students comments four negative themes emerged "lack of face-to-face interaction detracts from learning, online courses facilitate cheating, technical problems still exist and online courses require students to "teach themselves," making the courses more demanding."
- Social Networking Site (SNS) usage has significantly increased over the past several years. More than eight out of ten (85.2%) survey respondents are now using SNS; however, daily usage increased substantially over this same time period (58.8 %, 2008 vs 32.8%, 2006).

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What can we do for you?

If you need our assistance to help design, construct, administer, or scan a survey or help in the analysis of the data collected by a survey, please feel free to call the OIR for assistance. If you would like to have the OIR produce a specialized study or report, please contact us. Presenting the results of analysis to an internal or external group is also something the OIR is more than happy to do.