The Two-Year College Advantage

Kensey Balzer
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Newark Campus
• No one successful attends a two-year college.
Myth
Ohio’s 23 state-assisted technical and community colleges
Two-Year College Opportunities

• College Credit Plus and Articulation Agreements

• Technical Associate Degrees – an exceptional path to employment and/or a bachelor’s degree

• Transient (guest) enrollment for students who are pursuing higher education out of the area

• Credit obtained for purpose of transferring

• Associate of Arts or Associate of Science – general education coursework towards a bachelor’s degree
Myth or Fact?

- Obtaining a community college degree is not as useful as a university degree.
Myth

- More associate degree holders have their dream jobs.
- Associate degrees vs Bachelors.
- Associate degree holders exceed the salaries of Bachelors.
- 30% vs 26%.
- More advised to find their passions at a 2 year school.
- Experience at a 4 year vs a 2 year.
General Facts

• 9 million undergraduates are enrolled in credit courses at community colleges in the United States. CCRC 2017

• Courses taken at a community colleges are of the same rigor as their comparable courses at four-year schools.

• Annual average salary for 2017 Ohio associate degree graduates six months past graduation was $41,496. Smartasset 2017
General Facts

• Employment for associate degree graduates is expected to grow by 23% over the next decade.  

• 60% of registered nurses graduated from an associate degree nursing program. 87% of these graduates passed the licensure exam on the first try.

• 40% of engineers earning a bachelors degree attended a community college.
Myth or Fact?

• Students go to a two-year college, because they were not able to get into a four-year institution or cannot make it at a four year school.
Myth

• 36% of all undergraduate students begin their studies at a two-year college. CCRC 2017

• According to Community College Review, students who begin at community colleges “tend to earn a higher GPA than students who begin their academic careers at a four-year university”.

• There are multiply pathways for students to consider and some choose two-year colleges.
Average Annual Tuition

Community College (public, in-district): $3,260
4-Year College (public, in-state): $8,890
Why students choose 2-year colleges

- Want to save money and reduce debt
- Want to complete a career & technical certificate or degree
- Want an environment where they get more personal attention and access to support services and resources
- Want smaller class sizes with more instructor interaction
- Haven’t decided if they want a 4-yr degree
- Want to live at home or locally
- Want to complete a career & technical certificate or degree
Reasons for Transfer

- Want to build their academic skills before transferring
- Haven’t decided on a major & want to explore options
- Not sure where they want to transfer
- Want to complete general education courses before transferring
- Want to be sure institution is accredited & credits transfer
Transfer Hints

• Work closely with four-year destination

• Understand major requirements

• Use Ohio Board of Regents Transfer and Articulation Guide (TAGs) system

  http://www.cotc.edu/cotc/atransfer_guides.asp
Questions?
Our Mission:

At Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) our mission is to meet the technical education and training needs of students and employers in the area.
Why COTC?

13:1 student to teacher ratio

Local campuses for easier access to courses

Over 400 full-time and part-time faculty

The Gateway at COTC

Open admissions
Over 40 Programs

- Business & Information Technology
- Engineering Technology
- Health Care
- Public Services & Safety
- One Year Certificates
Outstanding Support Services

Disability Support Services
Math & Writing Labs
Personal Counseling
Resume and Interview Skills Assistance
Study Skills Development
Tutoring
Affordability

$179/credit hour  
$2,148/semester  
$10,740/degree

Next Generation Challenge  
$21 million scholarship campaign  
48 new scholarships created

Students can save, on average, 33% in tuition for a four-year degree when beginning at COTC.
Community colleges are one of Americas great social inventions a gateway to the future for first time students looking for an affordable college education, and for mid-career students looking to get ahead in the workplace.

-Barbara Mikulski
Thank you!

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