Fall 2016 New Student Summary Report

Prepared by Steven W. Glogocheski, Ed.D.
Director of Institutional Research and Assessment
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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to introduce our incoming class of students to various School of Nursing stakeholders using the data collected from the New Student Questionnaire, which was administered to 478 newly admitted and enrolled students in the Fall 2016 semester. A total of 130 responses were received yielding a response rate of 27.2%. This is a slight decrease from the Fall 2015 semester, where the response rate for the incoming class was 36.9%. This decline can most likely be attributed to the timing of when the survey was administered – due to a transitional period within the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment where the department was restructured, the New Student Questionnaire was delayed several weeks to finalize other assessment initiatives. Going forward, the survey will be administered to incoming BSN, MSN, DNP, Ph.D., and Certificate students during the first three weeks of subsequent Fall semesters. Furthermore, a trend analysis will be performed after several years of data have been collected to determine if there are reoccurring issues/themes within the Rutgers School of Nursing.

Summary – Fast Facts

The following represents the most crucial findings of the New Student Questionnaire. Each individual question and corresponding responses can be viewed in their entirety in the subsequent "Charts and Analysis" section.

-The majority of students who responded to the survey were enrolled in BSN programs, followed by DNP, Certificate, MSN, and Ph.D.

Table 1 – Respondents by Program

Program	N	%
BSN	97	75
DNP	21	16
Certificate	6	5
MSN	4	3
Ph.D.	2	1

-The majority of respondents from the Generic 4-year program cited the Rutgers School of Nursing as their first choice:

Table 2 – Generic 4-year college choice option (first, second, third)

Choice	N	%
First	41	79
Second	8	15
Third	2	4
Less than third	1	2

-Undergraduate students listed a total of [1]43 other schools to which they applied for in addition to Rutgers School of Nursing. The following is a frequency distribution of the schools with at least 3 cross-applications and corresponding admitted/no answer/wait list numbers:

Table 3 – Generic 4-year Applications/Acceptance Rates to other Schools/Universities

School/University	Cross-Applicants	Admitted		Not admitted		No answer/wait list	
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%
The College of New Jersey	8	6	75	1	12.5	1	12.5
Seton Hall	8	8	100	-	-	-	-
Rutgers College of Arts & Sciences	7	7	100	-	-	-	-
Monmouth University	4	3	75	1	25	-	-
Ramapo	4	4	100	-	-	-	-
University of Pennsylvania	4	0	0	-	-	-	-
William Paterson University	4	4	100	-	-	-	-
Felician College	3	3	100	-	-	-	-
Northeastern University	3	1	33	1	33	1	33
New York University	3	0	0	2	66	1	33
Saint Peter's University	3	3	100	-	-	-	-
University of Delaware	3	3	100	-	-	-	-

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[1]Full-list of schools is available in Appendix A.

-Newly enrolled students were given a list of thirteen resources that commonly influence a prospective student's decisions on where to apply. When asked which of these factors most influenced their decision to apply to the Rutgers School of Nursing, new students across all programs consistently cited the School website and College Guides/Rankings as the most influential factors in their decision. Campus tours and information sessions were also influential resources for Generic respondents, while parents and Rutgers alumni were influential for 2nd degree and DNP students, respectively. The following table shows the data for all thirteen factors with red circles added to denote the top 3 factors for each program.

Table 4. Factors in Students' Decisions to Apply to the Rutgers School of Nursing

Factors	Percent Reporting "Very" or Somewhat" Influential in their decision to apply to the RU-SON:		
	Generic	2nd Degree	DNP
Parents	48	(30)	27
Current RU nursing student(s)	57	24	37
RU Nursing Alumni	28	18	(53)
Guidance counselor	20	-	-
Materials sent to you in the mail from RU-SN	24	18	26
Emails from the Rutgers School of Nursing	20	9	17
RU-SN brochures received from college fairs/counselors	35	6	26
Information about the Rutgers School of Nursing on social media	42	24	16
Advertisements about the Rutgers School of Nursing	33	12	28
Rutgers School of Nursing website	(61)	(69)	(89)
Printed or online college guides/rankings	(69)	(60)	(61)
Campus tour and information session	(60)	18	28
Open house visit	46	15	48

-Students were also asked how important the following 13 factors were in their decision to *attend* the Rutgers School of Nursing. The top 3 factors for each program are listed below:

Table 5. Factors in Students' Decisions to Attend the Rutgers School of Nursing

Factors	Percent Reporting "Very" or Somewhat" Important in their decision to attend the RU-SON:		
	Generic	2nd Degree	DNP
A challenging academic experience	(92)	90	85
Overall academic reputation of the RU School of Nursing	(100)	(100)	(89)
Geographic location of campus	83	(94)	(89)
Opportunities to attend campus events and co-curricular activities	70	28	23
Academic facilities	(91)	65	78
Price of tuition	90	(100)	(95)
Financial aid offered	70	54	72
Public safety record	73	56	63
Opportunities to work with faculty on research	62	41	53
Quality of on-campus housing	42	12	6
Opportunities to interact with students from different backgrounds	71	50	39
Campus computer facilities	54	34	45
Support services to help you succeed academically	89	56	72

-All programs found "Overall academic reputation of the RU School of Nursing" as important decisions to attend. Generic students found "a challenging academic experience" and "academic facilities" important while 2nd degree and DNP students found "geographic location of campus" and "price of tuition" important.

[2]*Table 5. Open-Ended Responses by Degree*

[3]Question: Please let us know of any concerns, suggestions, or comments you may have.

BSN Comments
1. Overall, I am very statisfy with the program. I don't have any concerns about the program because this is one of the best nursing programs that I am taking at this moment.
2. The 2nd degree program is very unorganized, and there is no communication between the teachers, faculty and students.
3. The program is very disorganized from an administrative perspective. It is difficult to get a response, as instructors do not always receive emails. Also, emails from faculty/staff can be very informal, unprofessional, and not direct in addressing student questions or concerns. The instructors are excellent in that they are very knowledgeable. Also, Rutgers' use of online supplemental education tools such as CoursePoint, PrepU, VSim, and HESI are excellent and really give students an opportunity to apply what they are learning and practice.
4. I was accepted as a school to school transfer and as much as i love it, it is very frustrating that the SON is very small not allowing a lot of resources, faculty, etc. Needs to be more staffed and expansion of the school.
5. The second semester is smoother. In the future, you may wish to consider presenting a united front to incoming students. For example, I received multiple book-lists and had a very challenging time getting information once admitted. When I did have a question during the first semester. Once the first semester started, I was often told that my questions had been covered during the Orientation, which I didn't attend... because I had been wait listed! I'm happy with my decision to attend RSON and pleased with my education to date. Thank you.
6. Tutoring sessions at the school of nursing should be advertised more and made more available to students who need assistance.   I would like very much like recitation times for intensive nursing/science classes (anatomy, microbiology, phatho, pharm, etc). It can be difficult for students who commute to create group study times. Recitation sessions would help with students managing and allocating study time, as well as bond with peers.   Paying for college and getting the right work experience as a nursing student is also quite a challenge. I wished that the school could send out emails for job openings for medical assistants, lab technicians, research, or shadow opportunities open in the area. Here's an idea that may be used: a certain number of Rutgers nursing students (freshman and sophomores) can be selected to go to the hospital or clinic to shadow. The earlier we can expose students to the environment they will work in as a nurse, the better. It can be argued that as first or second year students do not "need" to worry about this. But, experiences are invaluable, no matter the year of education or of age - especially if they are hands-on experiences. This will make our Nursing Program much much better.
7. This school is amazing. I appreciate all the help the faculty and staff has to offer.
8. I feel honored to have this opportunity and I look forward to being a great nurse from what I'm learning at Rutgers University!! the staff at Blackwood is AWESOME!!!
9. After asking for the entire semester, why is there still not a whiteboard or chalkboard in the 3rd floor classroom at 104 Bayard Street???
10. I love RUSON!

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[2] No comments were recoded for students enrolled in Certificate or Ph.D. programs.
[3] All comments were transcribed as-written by students. Therefore, grammatical errors may exist.

| 11. Would like for the program to be more organized in terms of scheduling clinicals, lectures, and other related nursing activities |
| 12. The amount of time that it takes to get clinical, and class schedules is extensive. It's impossible to coordinate a work schedule with the tardiness of the notifications students receive. |
| 13. It is evident the communication between Rutgers University and Rutgers School of Nursing is not great. For the NB campus, it also felt like the school increased the class size before they had resourced proper infrastructure and planned for staff and space, resulting in several missteps and communication errors among staff, faculty and students. |
| 14. The tutoring is not well advertised. |

DNP Comments
1. Changing cousre schedule after registration was awesome move which could have left me out of course. This was done without any prior notice.
2. I was unaware of the multiple email addresses and servers and I literally missed a semester of emails, during the semester I thought no one was replying due to using SunCoast instead of outlook this should have been pointed out during orientation

MSN Comments
1. Please fix email issues prior to the beginning of the semester. They are an important means of communication. Thank you!

Appendix A: Other Generic 4-year Applications/Acceptance Rates

School/University	Cross-Applicants	Admitted		Not admitted		No answer/wait list	
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%
Bergen County Community College	2	2	100	-	-	-	-
Binghamton University	2	2	100	-	-	-	-
Bloomfield College	2	2	100	-	-	-	-
CUNY Hunter	2	2	100	-	-	-	-
Drexel University	2	2	100	-	-	-	-
Essex County College	2	2	100	-	-	-	-
Fairleigh Dickinson University	2	2	100	-	-	-	-
Fordham	2	1	50	1	50	-	-
La Salle University	2	2	100	-	-	-	-
Penn State University	2	2	100	-	-	-	-
UMASS	2	-	-	1	50	1	50
University of Pittsburgh	2	2	100	-	-	-	-
Arcadia University	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
Barnard	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
Boston College	1	-	-	-	-	1	100
Caldwell University	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
CUNY Queens	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
DeSales University	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
Hartwick College	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
Macaulay	1	-	-	1	100	-	-
Moravian College	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
Pace	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
Quinnipiac University	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
Rowan	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
Simmons College	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
Temple University	1	-	-	-	-	1	100
Tulane University	1	-	-	1	100	-	-
UConn	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
University of Michigan	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
UNC – Wilmington	1	1	100	-	-	-	-
Villanova	1	-	-	-	-	1	100