



# NEW STUDENT SURVEY

## REPORT FOR FALL 2008 COHORT of NEW and TRANSFER STUDENTS



### Introduction

*The New Student Survey* has been administered to new and new transfer students in all twelve Connecticut Community Colleges since the fall 2002 semester. The purpose of the survey is to identify interests and preferences of students to improve services throughout the Connecticut Community College System.

For the first time in the history of Housatonic Community College, the student body exceeded 5,000 students in the fall 2008 semester. The official total student headcount was five-thousand-eighty-one (N=5,081), and the total of new and transfer students entering HCC for the first time was one-thousand-eight-hundred-forty-three (N=1,843).

The survey captures background information, service needs, and goals. There are thirteen questions presented, below are the results of the survey. Finally, a demographic summary of the students is included in this report.

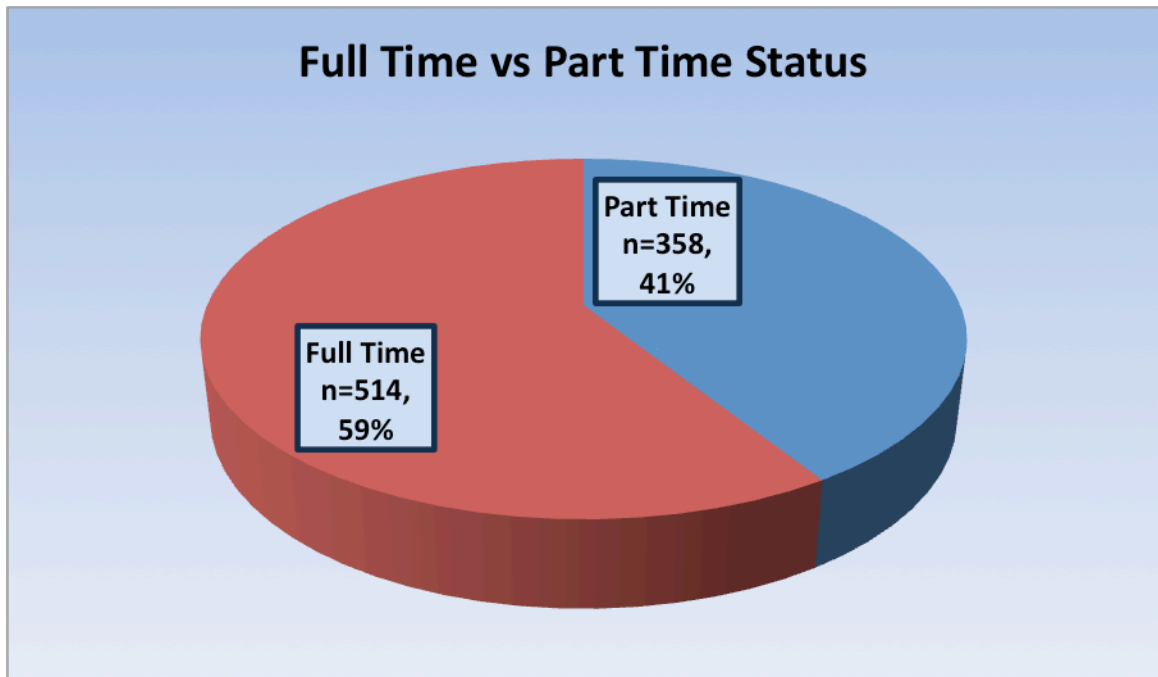
## **Methodology**

Surveys were administered in classrooms by HCC faculty as well as mailed to home addresses of our students by the HCC Office of Institutional Research. Classrooms chosen for survey administration were selected on the basis of the number and proportion of new students enrolled. One-thousand-seven-hundred-sixty-nine students (n=1,769) were reached via mail or in the classroom. The number of students who chose to respond to the survey was eight-hundred-seventy-two (n=872), a 49.3% response rate.

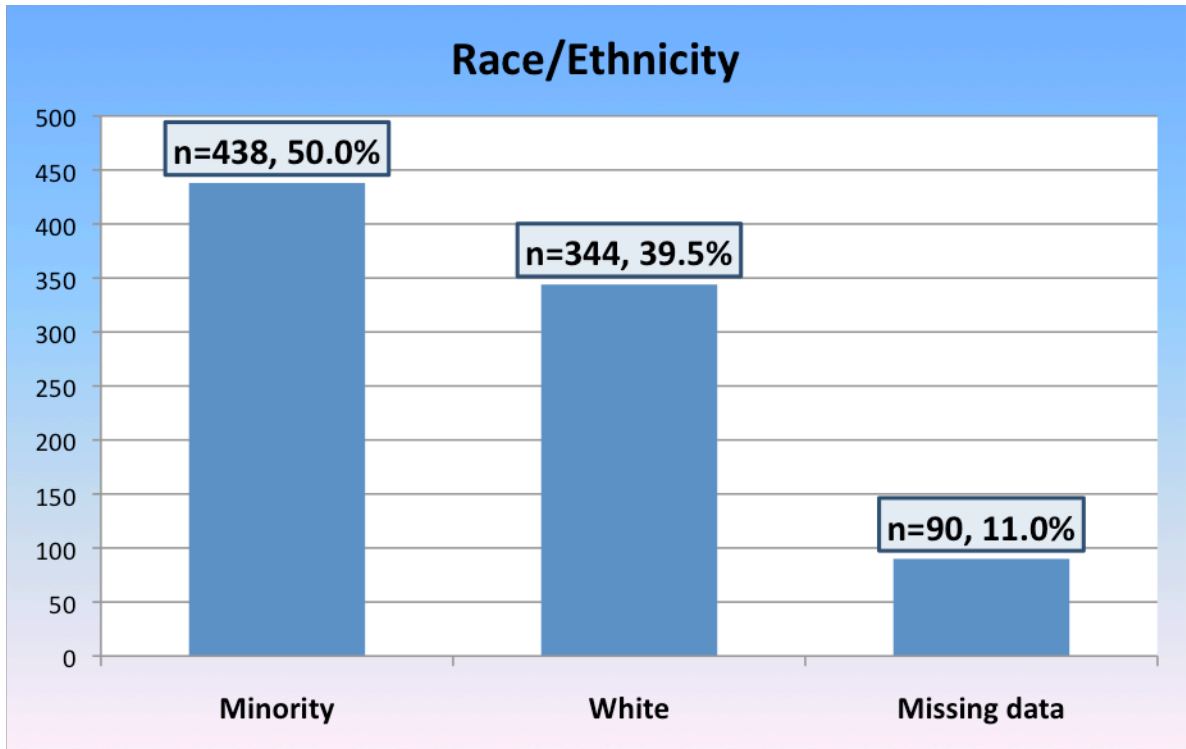
Completed surveys were collected in the classrooms and through the U. S. mail by the HCC Office of Institutional Research and sent to the Connecticut Community College System Office of Planning, Assessment, and Research for data input. The data was returned to the HCC Office of Institutional Research in an Access database for analysis.

This report was prepared by Cynthia A. Lidman, B.A. with the assistance of the Office of Institutional Research in November 2009.

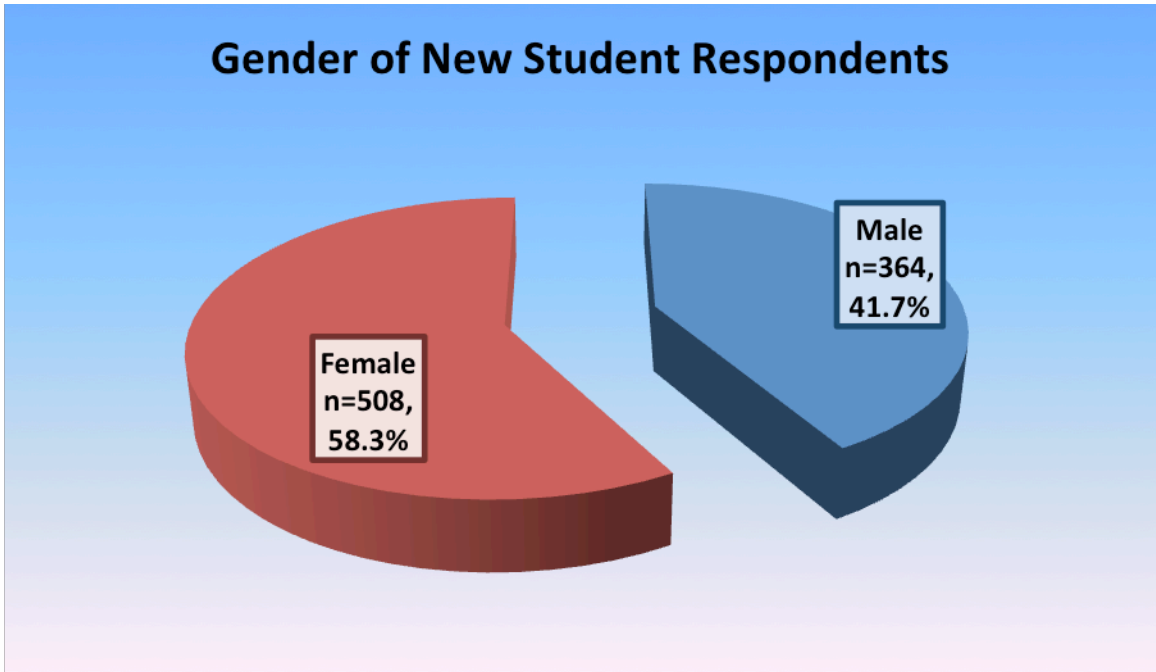
Demographic Summary  
Fall 2008 New Students  
Total Response = 872 students



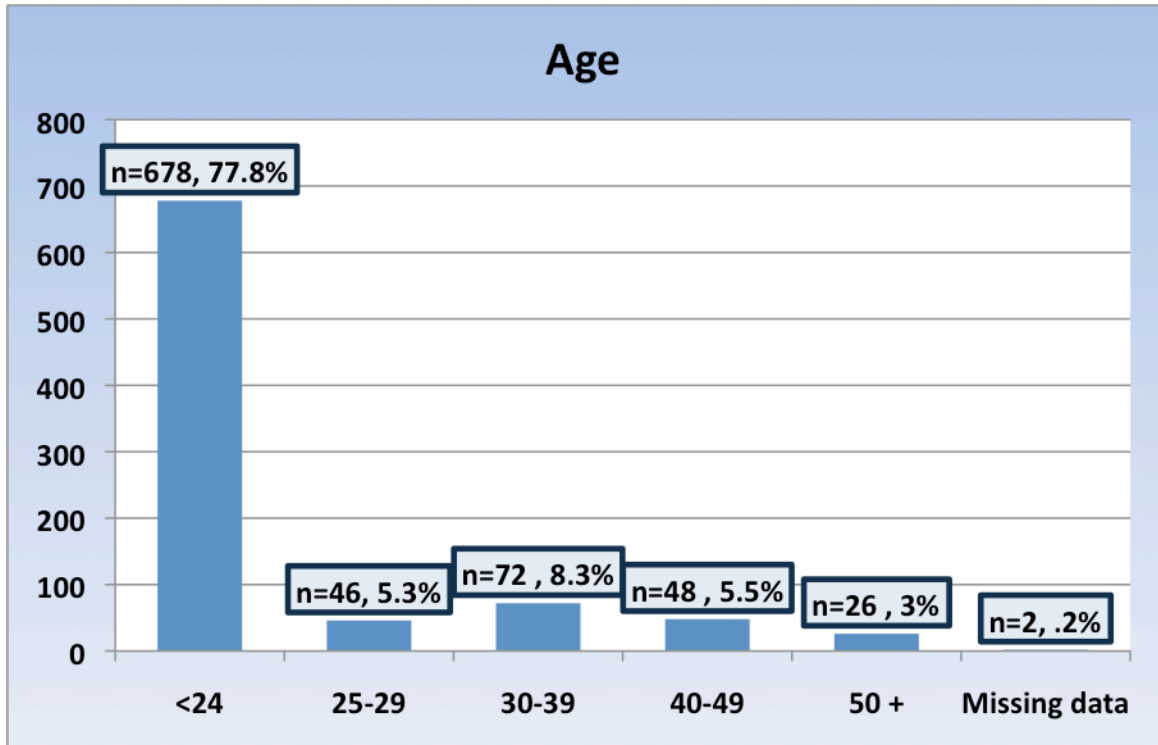
The total of new and transfer students who entered fall 2008 consisted of 47.6% full-time and 52.4% part-time. Full-time students are overrepresented in this survey. Of the eight-hundred-seventy-two (n=872) students that participated in this survey, five-hundred-fourteen (n=514, 59%) reported attending full-time and three-hundred-fifty-eight (n=358, 41%) reported attending college on a part-time basis.



The race/ethnicity of the respondents closely represents the total population of new and transfer students entering in the fall 2008 semester. Most of the respondents are minority students (n=438, 50%), while three-hundred-forty-four students are white (n=344, 39.5%), and ninety respondents (n=90, 11%) chose not to respond to this question.



The gender of the participants in the survey closely represents the total population of the new and transfer students in the fall 2008 semester. Of the total new and transfer students in the fall 2008 semester fifty nine (58.5%) were female and forty-two (41.5%) were male students. Of the student respondents, five-hundred-eight (n=508, 58.3%) were female and three-hundred-sixty-four (n=364, 41.7%) were male.



Students twenty-four years of age and under are overrepresented in the survey, while students who are between the ages of twenty-five and twenty-nine years old are underrepresented. Of the total new and transfer students who entered the fall 2008 semester, seventy-three percent represent the students ages twenty-four years and under, while the students participating in the survey represented seventy-eight percent of that category. Participants between the ages of twenty-five and twenty-nine years old totaled five percent of the respondents, while the total number of new and transfer students entering in the fall 2008 semester were five percent of the cohort.

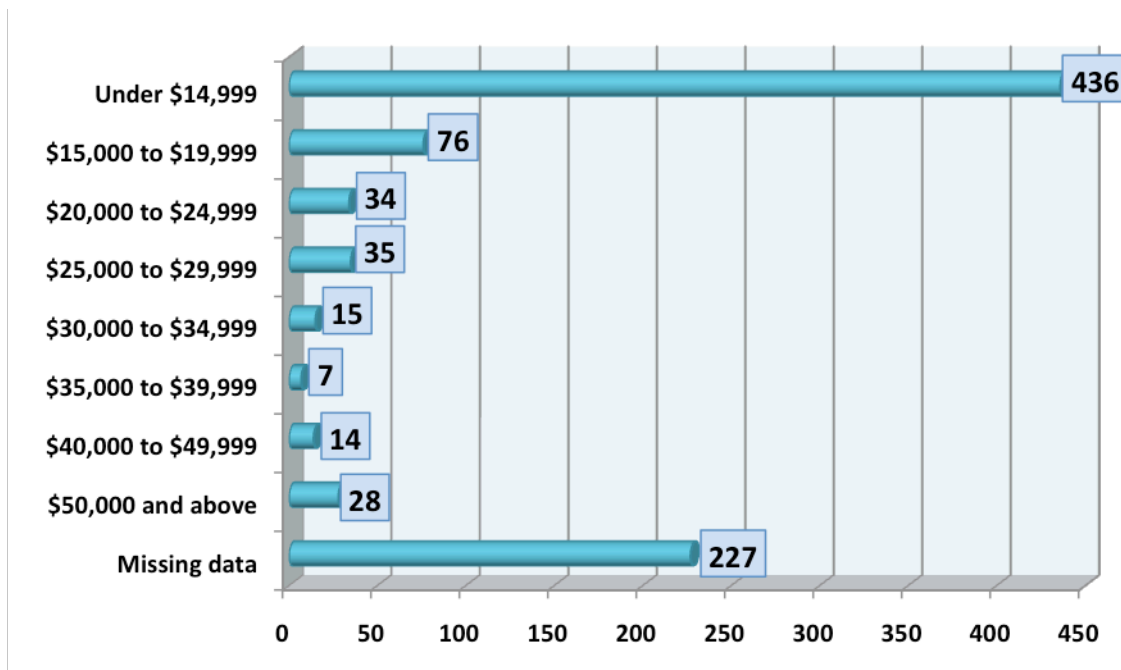
## SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

### 1. What is your current employment status?



Four hundred (n=400, 45.9%) of the participants in the survey reported they were employed part-time (less than 35 hours), while two-hundred fifteen (n=215, 24.7%) reported working 35 hours or more per week. Two-hundred-two students (n=202, 23.2%) participating in the survey reported that they were not employed at the time, but were seeking work.

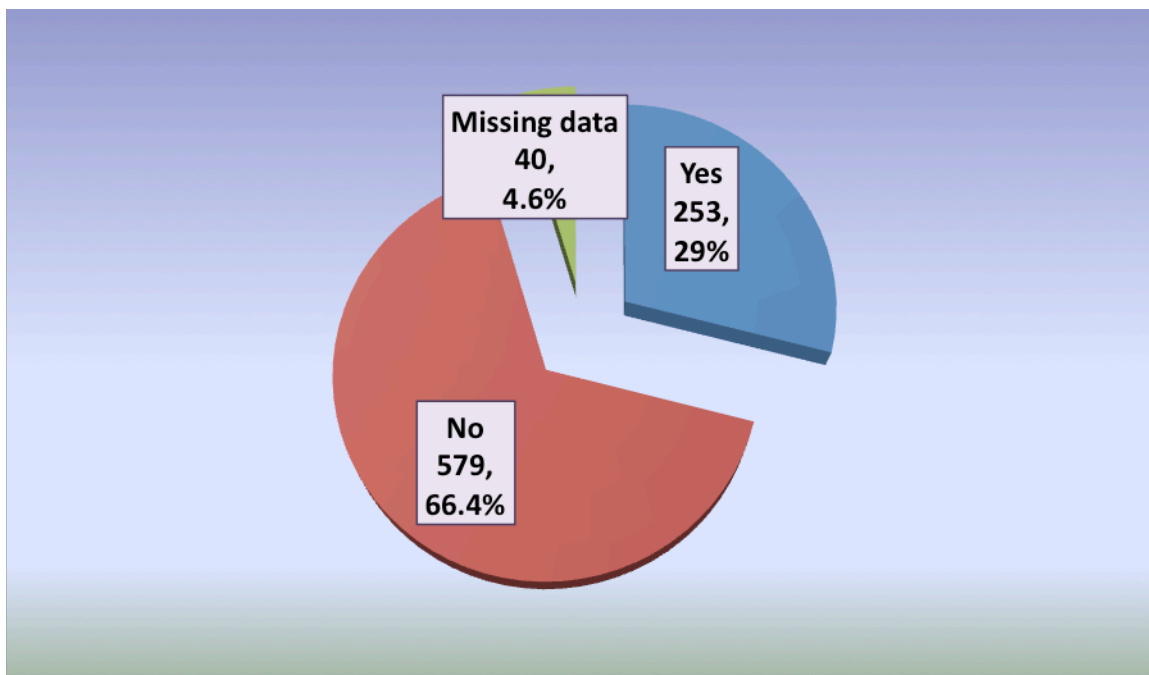
## 2. If you are employed, what is your current income level?



Although twenty-six percent (n=227) of the participants chose not to respond to the question on income, four-hundred-thirty-six students (n=436, 50.0%) reported earning under \$14,999 annually.

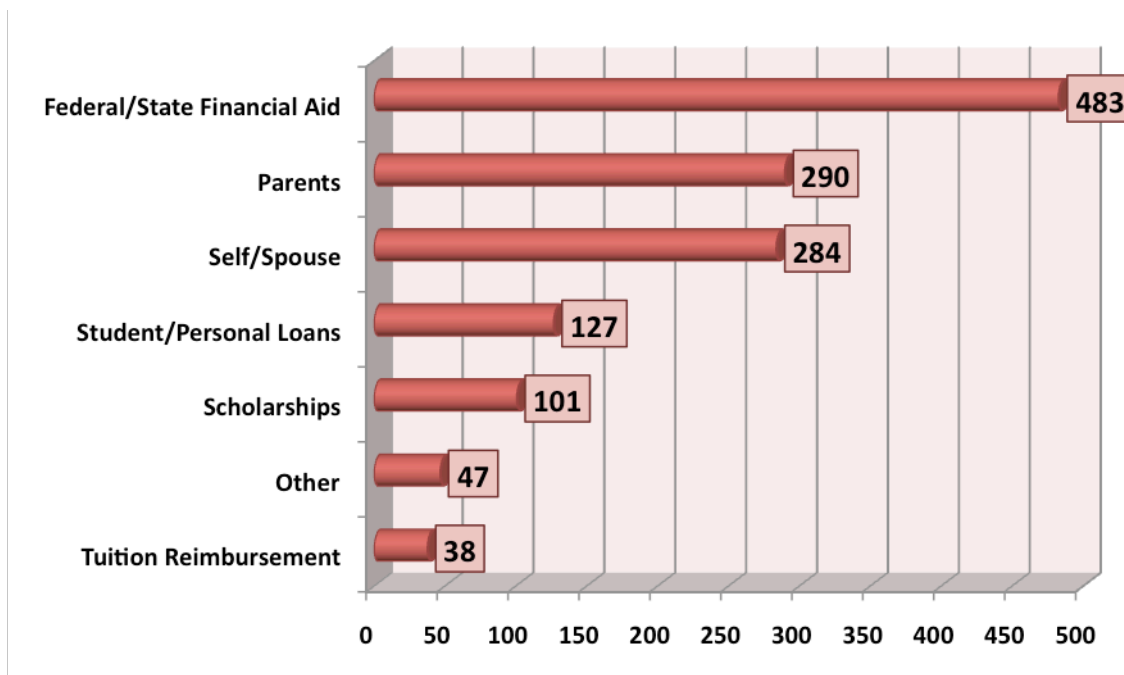


**3. Does either of your parents hold a Bachelor's degree (4 year college degree) or higher?**



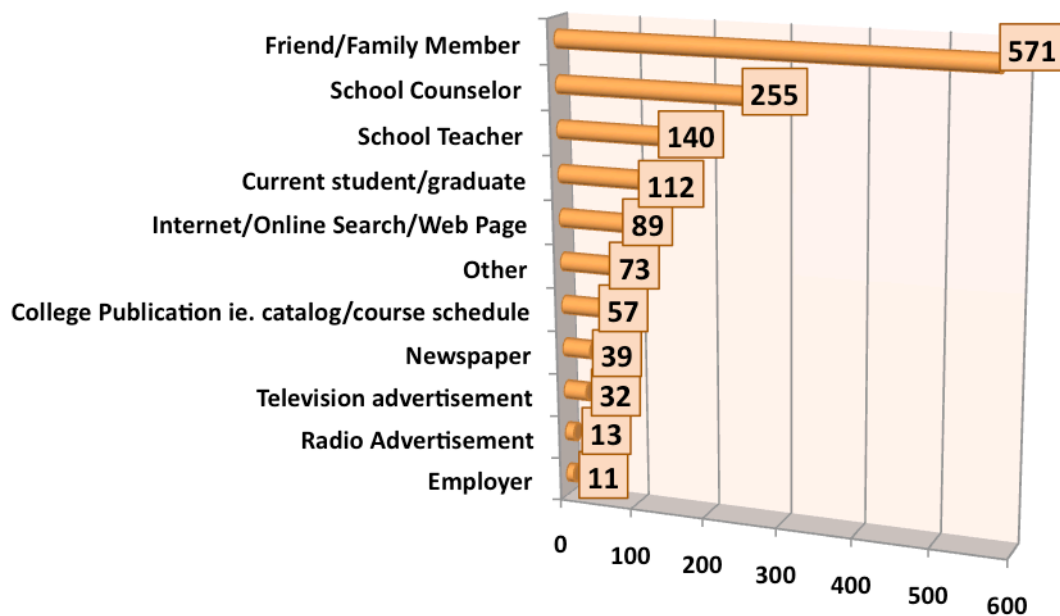
Approximately sixty-six percent (n=579, 66.4%) of the respondents reported that that at least one of their parents have earned at least a bachelor's degree. Twenty-nine percent (n=253) of the students reported at least one of their parents earned a Bachelor's degree or higher. Forty students (n=40, 4.6%) chose not to answer the question.

**4. How do you expect to pay for your college course(s)? Please mark all that apply.**



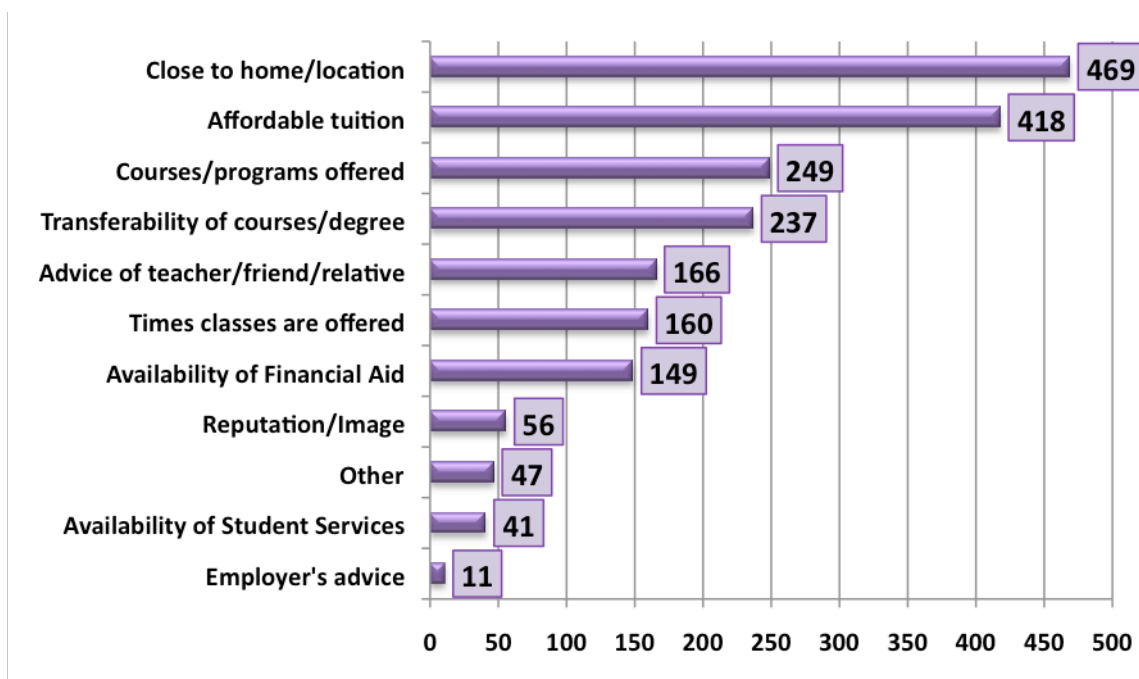
When asked “How do you expect to pay for college?” a majority (n=483) of responses pointed to Federal/State Financial Aid, Parents, and Self/Spouse. Participants were permitted to choose all the options that applied to them.

**5. How did you hear about this college? Please mark all that apply.**



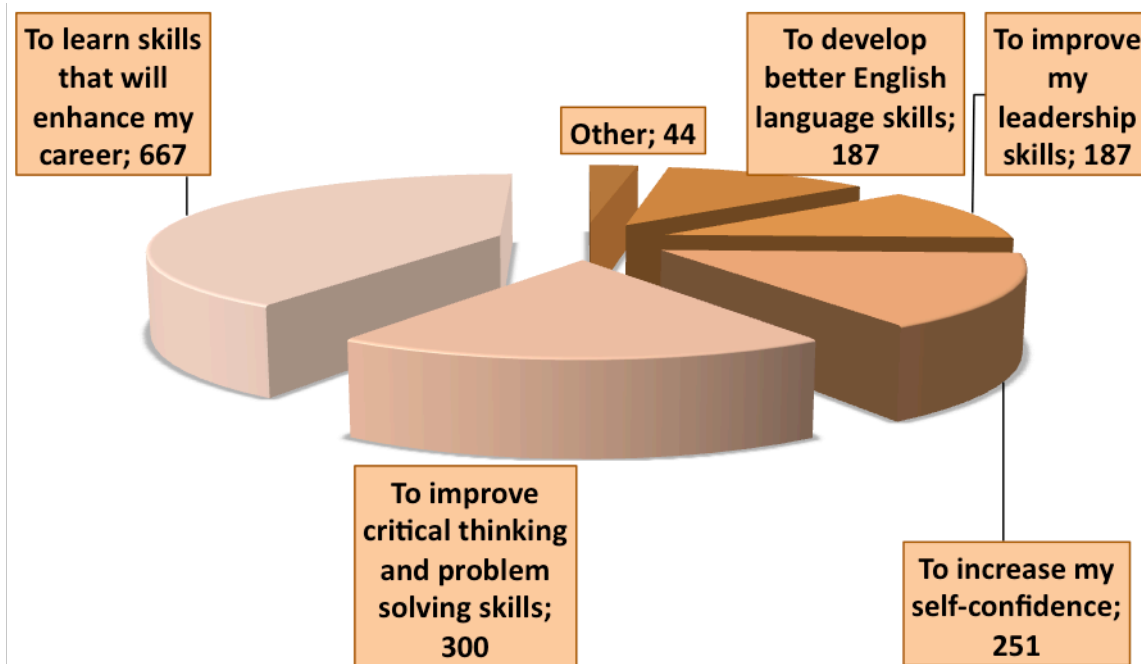
Although participants were allowed to choose all the options that applied to them, the majority (n=571) of students choose “Friend/Family Member” as the venue for learning about Housatonic Community College.

**6. Why did you choose to attend this college? Please mark all that apply.**



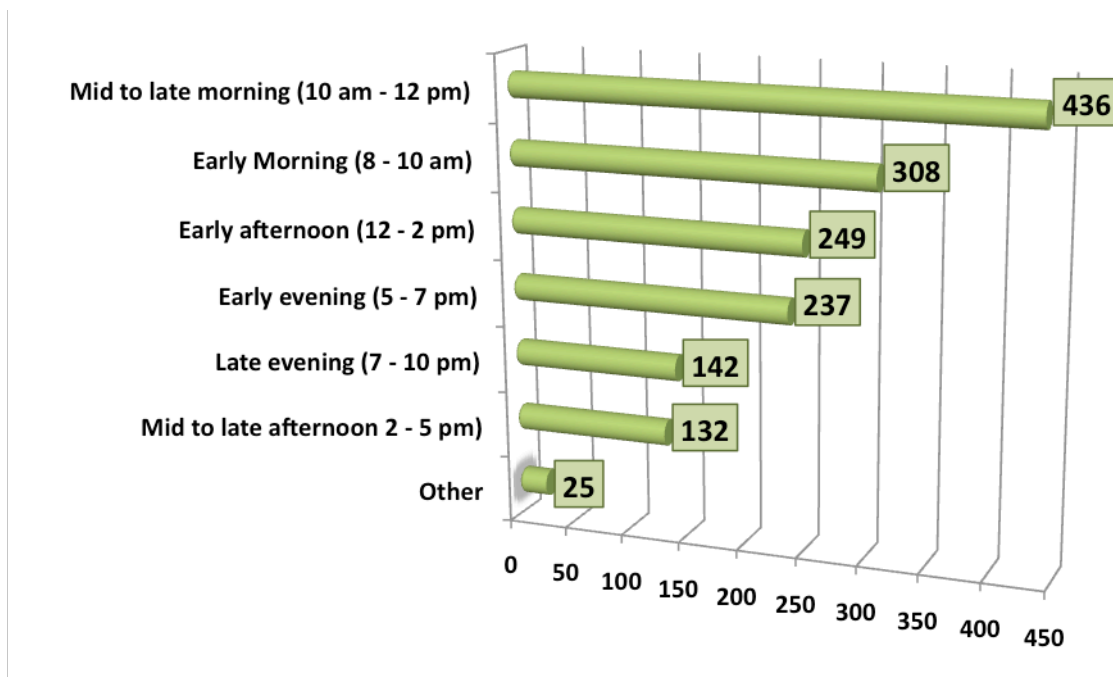
Students chose all the options that applied to them when asked the question “Why did you choose to attend this college?” The majority of students chose the responses “Close to home/location” and “Affordable tuition.”

7. What personal skills do you want to improve while attending college? Please mark all that apply.



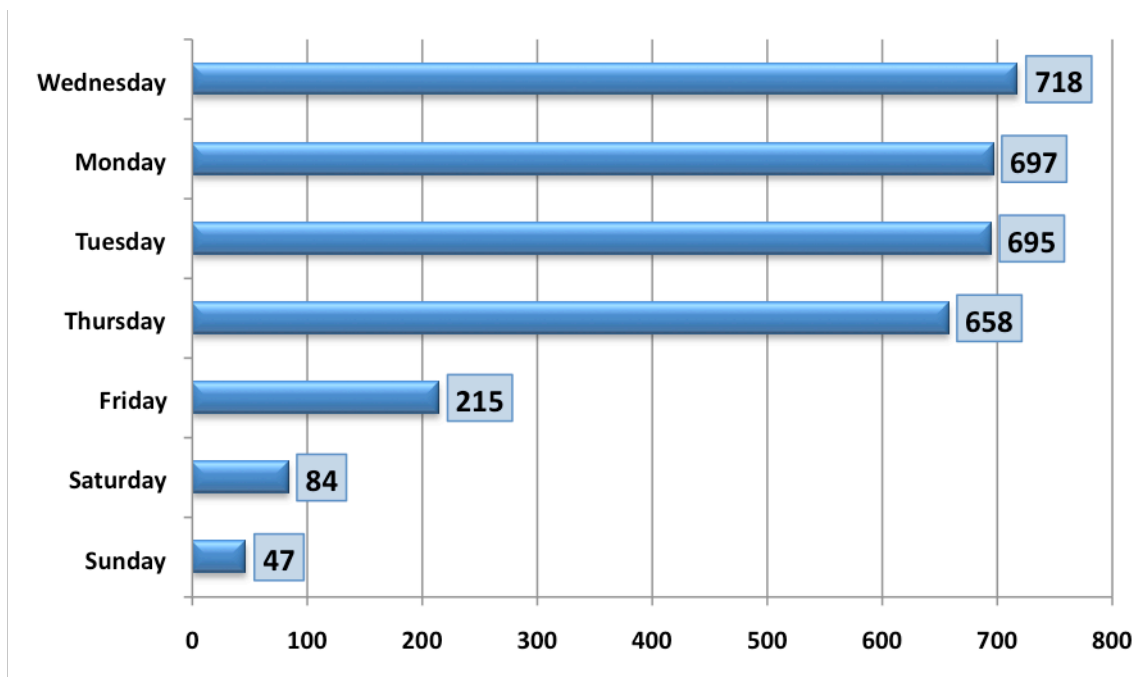
Participants were allowed to choose all that applied when asked the question "What personal skills do you want to improve while attending college?" most students chose the option "To learn skills that will enhance my career"

**8. What times of day are better for you to take classes? Please mark all that apply.**



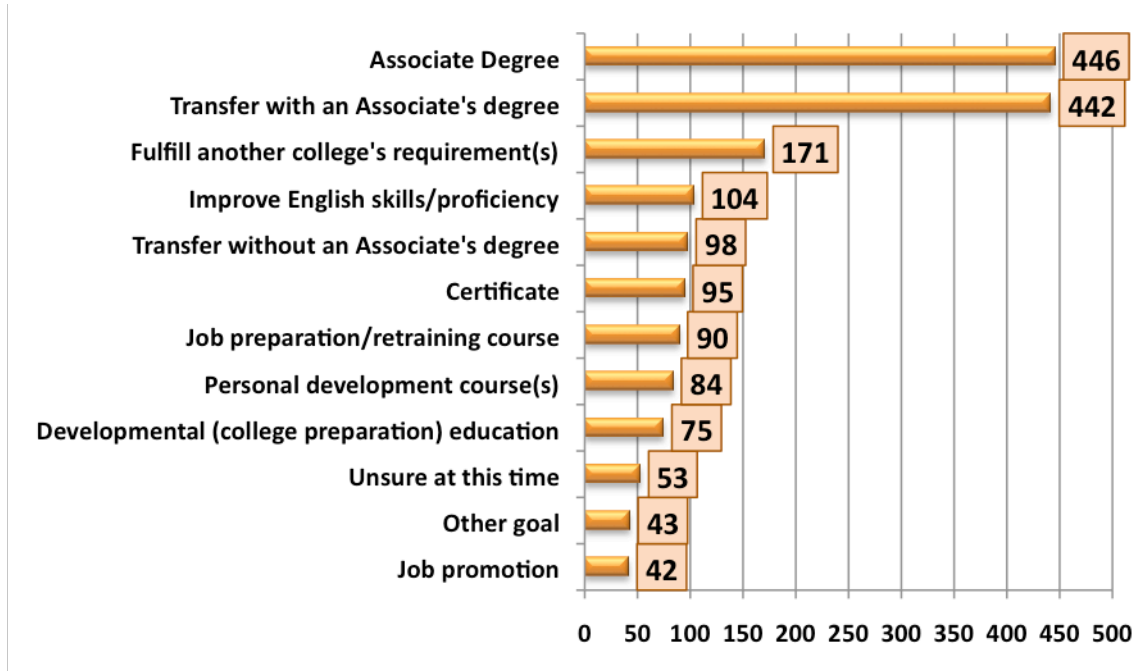
Mid to late morning class times are the most popular answer when asked “**What times of day are better for you to take classes?.**”

**9. Which days are better for you to take classes? Please mark all that apply.**



Of the students who were surveyed, Monday through Thursday were chosen as the best days to offer classes to students.

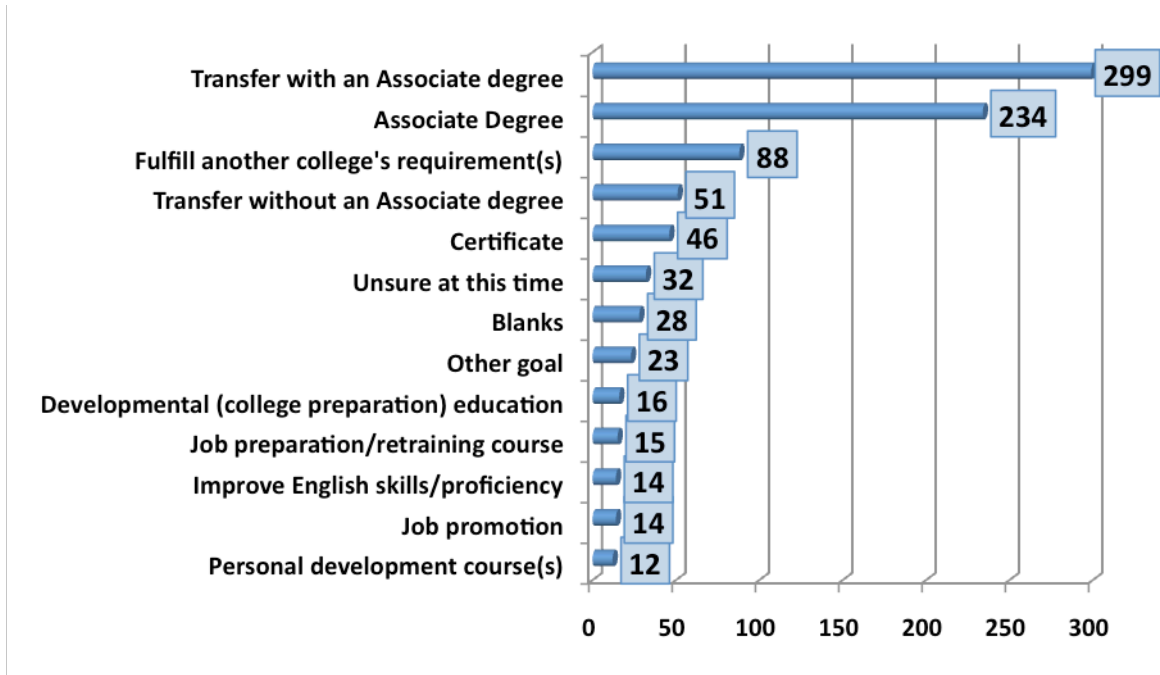
**10. What are your goals while attending college? Please mark all that apply.**



*Attaining an Associate Degree and Transfer with an Associate's degree are the most popular options chosen when asked "What are your goals while attending college?"*

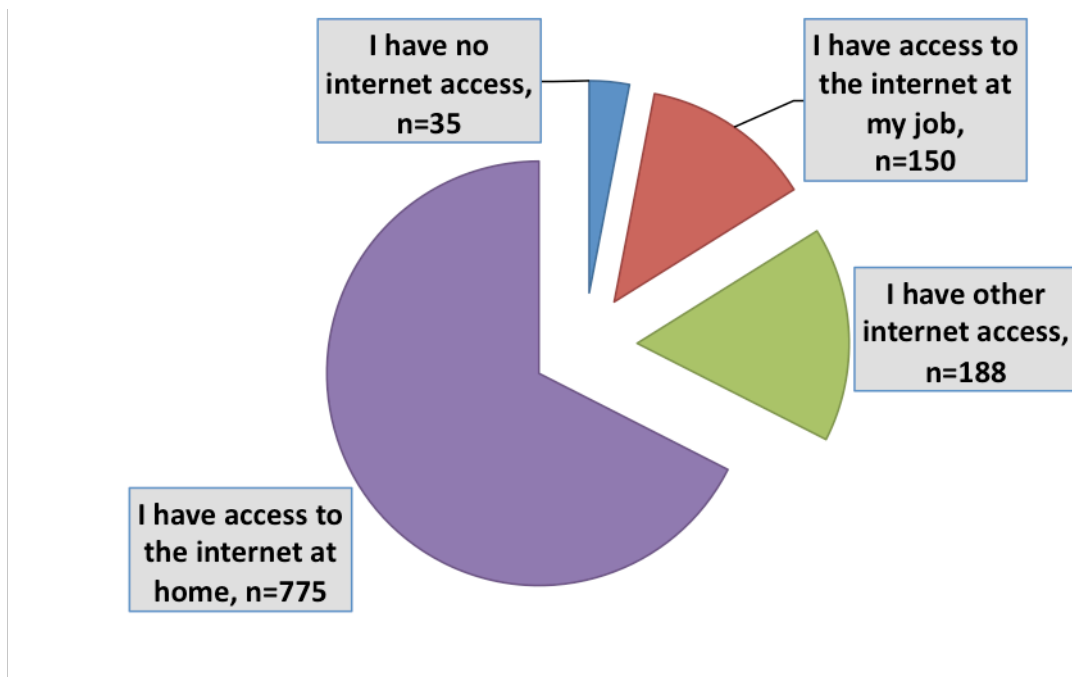


**11. Using the goals listed above, which is your one (1) primary goal?**



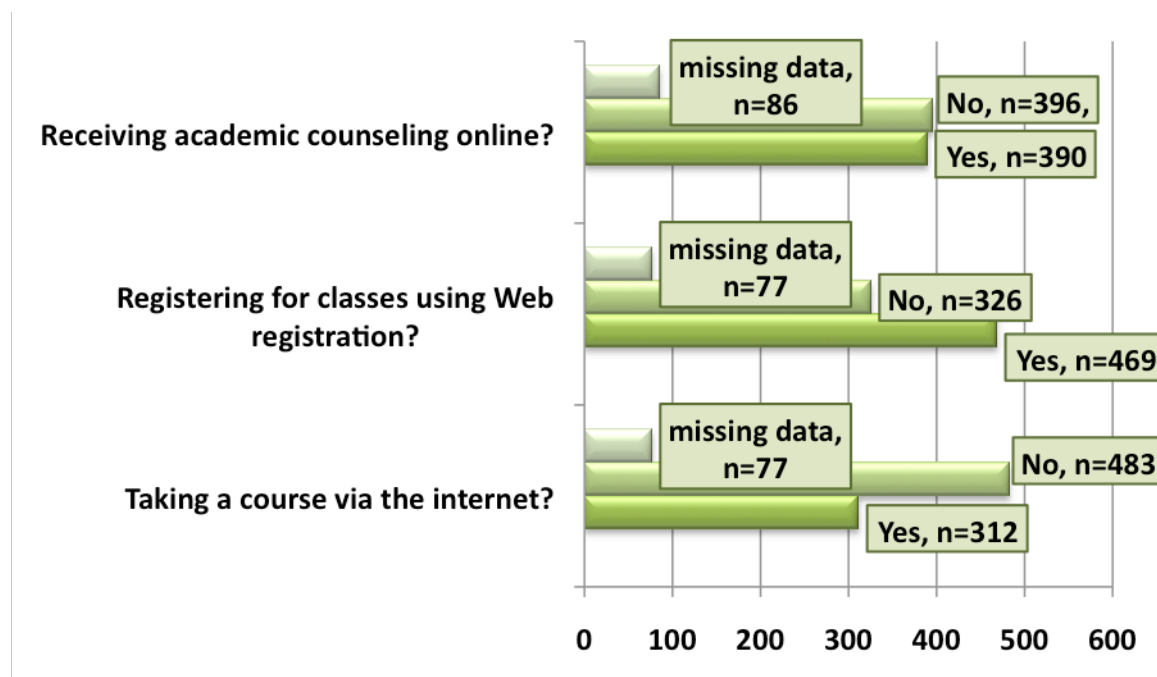
Of the students responding to this survey, two-hundred-ninety-nine (n=299, 34.2%) chose “*transferring with an Associate Degree*” and two-hundred-thirty-four students (n=234, 27%) chose “*Associate degree*” as their primary goal.

**12. What is your computer access? Please mark all that apply.**



Although students were allowed to choose all answers that apply, most (n=775) of Housatonic Community College’s participants reported they had internet access at home.

**13. Are you interested in:**



Responses were split as to whether students preferred to receive academic counseling online.

The majority of students (n=469, 53.8%) reported that they would prefer to register for classes online.

Most of the student respondents (n=483, 55.4%) preferred not taking courses via the internet.