A prototype plan for increasing access to higher education in Southern New Jersey

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Taking steps toward increasing access and excellence in N.J. higher education

Rowan University is rethinking “business as usual”, seeking to give a greater number of Southern New Jersey residents the opportunity to earn a 4-year college degree.

Rowan University is embarking on the next steps toward significantly increasing access to a university education—and the degree of excellence of that education—for all Southern New Jersey residents.

The proposed partnership between Rowan University and Gloucester County College (GCC) outlined in this document plans to offer area high school graduates a new way of realizing their educational and career goals.

Students previously only matriculated into Rowan’s undergraduate ranks through one of three major avenues:

- As **traditional freshmen**, enrolling at the conclusion of their high school studies. Although long considered to be the “ideal” way to embark on a college education, this scenario may not be feasible for some students for a variety of reasons.

- As **transfer students**, earning their associate’s degree at any one of a number of county colleges. Unless students were enrolled in a program that permitted them to transfer all of the credits earned at the county college, many end up needing to re-take courses not accepted by the four-year institution of their choice. This obstacle is a significant consideration for those exploring the possibility of a bachelor’s degree.

- As **Saturday-only, online, or hybrid students** through Rowan’s College of Graduate & Continuing Education. Although a convenient option toward an undergraduate—and even graduate—degree, not all areas of study are represented via these non-traditional channels.

In short, if a student did not meet the precise academic and scheduling availability requirements, odds were that their educational ambitions would be derailed. Rowan aims to remedy this.

In response to these and other unmet needs, Rowan University is working closely with GCC to offer new options for students who, for any reason, are unable to matriculate via traditional channels to earn the degrees they seek—thus expanding access to a university education like never before.

Rowan University’s dual enrollment model serves several deserving purposes simultaneously:

- It better streamlines the main campus population for Rowan and future participating 4-year institutions, allowing for increased selectivity and an enhanced student profile.

- It increases area students’ access to a 4-year, university-caliber education through credit sharing and county college-based university-advised academies.

The pages that follow provide an overview of the proposed dual enrollment initiative and illustrate the duplicable nature of this opportunistic venture.

Welcome to the beginning of the future of access to higher education in Southern New Jersey.
Overview of the Proposed GCC/Rowan Dual Enrollment Program

Through their innovative new partnership, Gloucester County College and Rowan University will reshape higher education quality and access here in Southern New Jersey.

The dual enrollment model offers regional students a variety of potential paths toward the future that is right for them. The concept is simple and is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1cr</td>
<td>1cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A student enrolls in Gloucester County College. They are simultaneously also enrolled as a Rowan University student.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within their first year, students take two 1-credit Rowan University courses at GCC’s current tuition rate—alongside the prescribed coursework toward their GCC associate’s degree.

The primary focus of these two courses is to expose students to the wide variety of career choices—and associated college majors—available to them at Rowan University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3cr</td>
<td>3cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowan recognizes that not everyone leaves high school with a firm career path in mind. This introduction to the possibilities that lay before students is designed to help them make an informed decision about their future.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within their second year at GCC, students take two 3-credit, fully transferrable, Rowan University courses, focused on a specific major, while they complete the remainder of their course requirements for their GCC associate’s degree. These courses will be offered at a discount of the current Rowan University College of Graduate & Continuing Education tuition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years 3 &amp; 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🔥 To seamlessly enroll into their desired baccalaureate program at Rowan University—without any additional application procedure—provided they have taken the two 3-credit courses and met the appropriate GPA requirements for their program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years 3 &amp; 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🔥 To continue on to a Rowan University bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies—with two certificates of specialization—through the GCC-Rowan Academy, provided they have taken the appropriate two 3-credit courses while at GCC and met the minimum 2.0 GPA entrance requirement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years 3 &amp; 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>❌ To enter the workforce or other option and not pursue any further education at this time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years 3 &amp; 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>❌ To choose to apply, be admitted, and enroll at another 4-year institution.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This bachelor’s degree will be conveniently offered on the GCC campus. As with the first choice available to GCC graduates, enrollment into Rowan University is seamless when the prerequisite conditions have been met.
Together we must divide in order to conquer the educational gap

Appropriate attention to students with similar educational backgrounds and unique needs boost retention rates, graduation rates, and students’ confidence in their ability to succeed at the college level.

Pertaining to Rowan University’s present student population at the main campus, first and second year course learning is suffering from the vast spectrum of students pouring into the University year after year.

Students on the lower end of the SAT scale coming into Rowan are at risk of lagging behind their peers. Large numbers of these students enroll in today’s Exploratory Studies program—formerly, and more commonly, known as undeclared students. Conversely, students entering Rowan on the upper end of the SAT scale feel held back by lower-performing peers. Such mixed conditions are ultimately detrimental to students’ retention and graduation rates.

By separating these two distinct segments of Rowan’s student population, each can be nurtured appropriately and given the right tools and attention to ensure long term academic success in a collegiate environment.

All students who meet Rowan’s various undergraduate program requirements by the conclusion of year two—regardless of whether they studied at Rowan or at GCC—would then be reunited in year three to successfully complete the requirements toward a baccalaureate degree. With a more homogenous student population on the main campus, Rowan will have greater ability to enroll and retain those higher caliber students who have demonstrated enough interest to apply to Rowan—but not enough to actually enroll.

Every year, Rowan University turns down approximately 3,000 students (out of 7,500 applicants) due to capacity restrictions. The chart below illustrates this point and showcases the potential for boosting college-level education across the region.

2010 AVERAGE SAT SCORES: APPLIED, ADMITTED, ENROLLED ROWAN STUDENTS

Rowan University is pursuing reclassification as a research institution in tandem with ongoing preparation for its medical school’s launch.

The resulting boost in research funding and activity throughout the University will serve to greatly enhance curricular offerings at Rowan, resulting in an elevated institutional profile.

All student populations stand to benefit from Rowan’s reclassification, regardless of which avenue they pursued to earn their 4-year degree from Rowan University.

Rowan can now effectively now tell these students “maybe” instead of “no” by guiding them through this county college dual admission program, thereby increasing the region’s total number of available seats in higher education for a 4-year degree.

Simply put, every student who enrolls in GCC has an opportunity to earn a bachelor’s degree from Rowan University. It is theirs to earn or to lose.
Looking ahead at a future of greater access for all

Most ideal of all, is the ability of this model to be duplicated again and again until all 2-year and 4-year state institutions participate.

With all of Southern New Jersey’s institutions of higher education participating, the floodgates for access to baccalaureate, master’s, and even doctorate degrees are going to open for area residents like never before:

- Rowan University
- Rutgers-Camden
- Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
- Atlantic Cape Community College
- Cumberland County College
- Salem County College
- Gloucester County College
- Camden County College
- Burlington County College
- Ocean County College

The Academy Model: Offering 4-Year Degrees at Local County College Campuses

This illustration features the academy system: the core delivery vehicle of the 4-year Liberal Studies degree on each county college campus. Rowan and GCC are creating the prototype together. From this template, other institutions can also integrate greater access to their present curricular offerings.
Overview of the multi-institution university system in Southern New Jersey

Using four separate institutions, we illustrate the great potential this model has to unlock real opportunity for area students.

When realized, the multi-institution university system for Southern New Jersey envisioned by Rowan University could offer two hypothetical students—who begin their academic journey at an area county college—the following opportunities for lifelong success through accelerated programs and shared credits:

**Sample Student #1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIGH SCHOOL</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Camden County College</strong></td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rutgers-Camden</strong></td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

△ Students, where offered, may take college-level courses during their final years of high school—counting toward that first year at their area county college.

△ The dual enrollment program outlined in this document effectively allows students to earn the first two years of their four-year degree closer to home and while paying the less expensive county college tuition.

△ Future accelerated credit sharing programs could allow students finishing their baccalaureate degree to earn graduate credits toward advanced studies.

**Sample Student #2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIGH SCHOOL</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gloucester County College</strong></td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rowan University</strong></td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rutgers School of Law - Camden</strong></td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

△ The same scenario applies to numerous combinations of baccalaureate and graduate programs such as Stockton’s Doctor of Physical Therapy or Rutgers-Camden’s Juris Doctorate, and others.

All of the above can be achieved through agreements among all of Southern New Jersey’s county colleges and state colleges and universities. Through this type of innovative inter-collegiate collaboration, we can, together, offer deserving area residents opportunities to boost their education. The proposed multi-institution university system will serve to guide aspiring students along a path toward lifelong learning and stronger earnings potential.
Welcome to the beginning of the future of access to higher education in Southern New Jersey

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