

## One in Three: Commuter Students at RIT | 2014

The Association for Commuter Engagement (ACE) estimates at least one third of the RIT undergraduate student body commutes. Currently, no system exists to accurately identify which of our non-residential students are “traditional”, “non-traditional” so this estimate attempts to account for the numerous continuing education programs RIT offers to non-traditional adult students. ACE was developed in the summer of 2012 to create improved connections with historically less-involved commuter students. This preliminary study, conducted by the Association for Commuter Engagement, is the first of its kind on campus. Over five hundred students voluntarily submitted their local address, colleges, graduation year, and type of residence. Participants were asked to provide this information via an online form as registration to participate in the first ever Commuter Spirit Week, in March 2013.

Full-Time Undergraduate Students	15,085
On-Campus Residents	7,059
<b>Off-Campus Residents</b>	<b>8,026</b>

- 53% of RIT full-time undergraduate students live off campus<sup>1</sup>. Our sample represents roughly 5% of those students.

College	% of RIT Population	% of Commuters by college
KGCOE	17%	17%
CIAS	13%	14%
CAST	13%	12%
SCB	7%	11%
GCCIS	18%	11%
No Response	--	9%
CHST	3%	7%
COS	6%	7%
COLA	4%	7%
NTID	5%	5%
Non-Degree	14%	--

<sup>1</sup> These numbers do not account for non-traditional off-campus students enrolled in non-degree programs. The “one-in-three” estimate attempts to account for those students.

RIT Commuters by Graduation Year	n=556	%
2012	8	1
2013	186	33
2014	164	30
2015	85	16
2016	55	10
2017	12	2
No response	14	8
TOTAL	556	100

#### Commuter Students in the United States:

- campuses typically define “**commuter**” as a student who doesn’t live in university housing, and who lives outside of walking distance of campus, and “**off-campus**” as a student who doesn’t live in campus housing but lives within walking distance of the campus.
- More than 75% of college students in the US commute (J. Newbold et al, 2006).
- Commuter students tend to be **older, come from blue-collar backgrounds, be first generation students, minority students, and working while in college.** (J Newbold et al, 2006 & Jacoby, 2003).
- 70% of commuter students work while in college, and work more hours on average than their residential peers (J. Newbold et al, 2006).

#### Sources:

- Newbold, J et al. Commuter students: Involvement and identification with an institution of higher education. Academy of Educational Leadership Journal, 15(2), 141-153. 2011
- Reynolds, M. “The Commuter Snapshot: a student affairs perspective on commuter student populations”, Kent State University.
- Rochester Institute of Technology website, “Fast Facts”, <http://www.rit.edu/overview/at-a-glance>
- Rochester Institute of Technology, Institutional Research and Policy Studies, 21-Day Enrollment Summary, Fall 2012. <http://www.rit.edu/fa/irps/content/enrollment-count-report>