

Statement of Goals for Student Achievement

In its Policy “Institutional Obligations for Public Disclosure”, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) requires that institutions publish “statements of goals for student achievement and the success of students in achieving those goals.” Compliance with SACSCOC Core Requirement (CR) 8.1 (Student Achievement) includes the requirement that institutions publish goals and outcomes for student achievement appropriate to the institution’s mission, the nature of the students the institution serves, and the kinds of programs offered.

Concerning an appropriate achievement measure, Western Texas College (WTC) has selected the overall graduation rate at the 150% standard time as its “Key Completion Indicator.” The goals for student achievement (target levels of student performance) and outcomes (actual results) are reported. The actual outcomes are updated annually and provide evidence of compliance with the SACSCOC policy and the Core Requirement. Our target is to exceed the performance of our peers.

WTC measures student achievement annually as part of its ongoing, integrated, institutional effectiveness process for evaluating how well it is achieving its mission, vision, and values. These efforts result in measures of student achievement that demonstrate the institution’s compliance with SACSCOC CR 8.1, to achieving the Key Student Completion Indicator, and our commitment to meeting the goal stated in the WTC Mission Statement to “provide quality education for pre-professional, general, career, technical, workforce and foundational students.”

Graduation Rates

Graduation rates are standard metrics that WTC tracks and reports to federal and state governing entities each year. In 2017 and 2018, SACSCOC charged member institutions to select a “Key Completion Indicator” which best represented the institution’s mission, the type of students served, and the nature of the programs offered. As mentioned earlier, WTC selected the overall graduation rate at the 150% standard time.

Basically, this is a measure of overall student success. Thus, it is appropriate for the nature of the students served by WTC. For those students in a two-year degree program, the graduation rate is measured at the three-year (150%) point. In the following discussion, the 150% graduation rate will be disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic status. These are commonly used measures used to document the nature of the students served.

Since it is measured at the three-year point, there is a lag between the cohort year and the current year. In other words, for a student seeking a two-year degree, the value shows the percentage who graduated within three years. Thus, the value for the Fall 2017 cohort gives the percentage that graduated by May 2021. The average given in these tables is the weighted average of the four years. (The 2018 values have been reported to IPEDS and will be found in the 2023 Data Feedback Report.)

| Fall Cohort | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Gender | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | Average |
| Female | 34.7% | 36.0% | 48.2% | 45.6% | 41.5% |
| Male | 61.5% | 41.7% | 52.6% | 50.5% | 51.4% |
| Total | 50.7% | 39.6% | 50.7% | 48.5% | 47.4% |

For comparison, in the IPEDS DATA FEEDBACK REPORT 2021 (which reports on the 2018 cohort), the average graduation rate for the comparison group of institutions chosen by IPEDS was 29%. WTC's graduation rate exceeds that of the national comparison group provided by IPEDS. According to IPEDS, the comparison group (n=37) was selected using some of WTC's characteristics which include enrollment of a similar size.

Concerning ethnicity, the weighted average of the four years is provided. Some of the sample sizes for the individual cohorts are small. For example, in a sample of 5, each individual has a weight of 20%. This can greatly affect the overall value. So, the overall average provides a better overall value. The last column (IPEDS) provides the graduation percentage provided by IPEDS for the comparison group. Note that the WTC values do not include American Indian, Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Unknown because those groups generally include less than 2 individuals per year. Additionally, the IPEDS values were reported in the IPEDS DATA FEEDBACK REPORT 2021

| Fall Cohort | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Ethnicity | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | Average | IPEDS |
| International | 39.3% | 37.5% | 56.0% | 44.4% | 44.8% | 44.0% |
| African American | 50.0% | 27.8% | 44.4% | 47.8% | 41.4% | 17.0% |
| Hispanic | 47.8% | 42.5% | 40.8% | 49.5% | 44.7% | 24.0% |
| White | 57.5% | 43.3% | 61.5% | 49.5% | 53.1% | 33.0% |
| Two or more races | 37.5% | 22.2% | 66.7% | 25.0% | 40.0% | 21.0% |
| Total | 50.6% | 39.4% | 50.8% | 48.6% | 47.4% | 29.0% |

While the IPEDS percentages range from 21% to 44%, the overall average for WTC ranges from 40% to 53% which is a narrower range at a higher percentage.

The effect of socio-economic status will be determined by the graduation rate of those students that received Pell grants or Stafford loans.

| Status | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | Average | IPEDS |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| Pell Grant | 35.0% | 33.0% | 66.0% | 71.6% | 51.4% | 25.0% |
| Stafford Loan | 40.0% | 25.0% | 44.0% | 42.9% | 38.0% | 20.0% |
| Neither Pell nor Stafford | 66.0% | 45.0% | 46.0% | 40.3% | 49.3% | 37.0% |

As with the other measures, the average of the 150% graduation rate is higher than found in the IPEDS comparison group.

Graduation Rate by Program

Two main areas are defined as programs: Academic and Career/Technical. In the Career/Technical Education (CTE) area, several program concentrations are found. Graduation rates for each program are given in the table below:

| Program | Beginning Cohort | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| | 2017-2018 | 2018-19 |
| Academic Associate Degree Students | 32.0% | 37.1% |
| Career and Technical Degrees Students | 80.3% | 63.2% |
| Computer Maintenance Technician | 96.2% | 61.5% |
| Early Childhood Education | 100.0% | 80.0% |
| Electrical Lineman | 100.0% | 90.0% |
| Medical Information Technology | 55.6% | 50.0% |
| Nursery and Landscape Management | 79.1% | 66.7% |
| Petroleum Technology | 75.0% | 55.6% |
| Welding | 46.2% | 51.5% |
| Total | 50.3% | 47.3% |

Additional Measures

Additional measures can be obtained from data compiled by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). For comparison, the last column in the chart provides Peer Group Averages (2020 report year) from institutions of similar size for the most recent year for which data is provided. The first column shows the baseline values from 2009. To reduce the number of columns and provide longitudinal data, earlier years were combined.

| Achievement Area | Baseline 2009 | Year | | | | Peer Group Average |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|-------|--------------------------|
| | | 2010- 2015 | 2016- 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | |
| WTC Student Success | | | | | | |
| Number of associate degrees awarded | 125 | 213 | 193 | 211 | 199 | 270 |
| Number of certificates awarded | 147 | 175 | 190 | 164 | 99 | 148 |
| WTC Student Graduation Rate | | | | | | |
| 3-year graduation rate | 26.9% | 35.5% | 34.5% | 36.0% | 41.8% | 33.8% |
| 4-year graduation rate | 30.2% | 39.7% | 37.2% | 41.2% | 39.9% | 36.9% |
| 6-year graduation rate | 40.6% | 39.8% | 38.4% | 44.5% | 50.8% | 42.0% |
| WTC Student Persistence | | | | | | |
| Two-year persistence | 15.3% | 12.4% | 12.2% | 14.8% | 8.8% | 22.6% |

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Three-year graduation and persistence | 40.3% | 39.5% | 36.6% | 34.7% | 40.5% | 22.2% |
| WTC Student Transfer to 4 Year Institution | | | | | | |
| Students with less than 30 Credit Hours | 42.3% | 11.1% | 13.5% | 11.9% | 10.9% | 6.0% |
| Students with 30 or more Credit Hours | 13.7% | 14.6% | 14.5% | 15.4% | 19.7% | 17.3% |

As with the information presented earlier, the percentages obtained by WTC exceed those of our small college peer group.

Conclusion

WTC documents and updates its achievement of this measure annually. The information is specifically presented to all administrators and is also published on this website for the public.

As can be seen, WTC consistently exceeds the performance of both state (THECB) and national (IPEDS) peers in the selected Key Completion Indicator (Graduation rate at the 150% standard time).

It is also important to note that these results were obtained during the COVID-19 pandemic that began in December 2019. The pandemic had an adverse effect on those students that attended college during that time.

However, these results do not mean that we are satisfied with our overall performance. We believe that an even higher graduation rate is attainable.