

Statement of Goals for Student Achievement

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) has a policy known as the “Institutional Obligations for Public Disclosure,” which requires institutions to 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 *the institution identifies, evaluates, and publishes goals and outcomes for student achievement appropriate to the institution’s mission, the nature of the students it serves, and the kinds of programs offered.*

Concerning an appropriate achievement measure, Western Texas College (WTC) has selected the overall graduation rate at 150% standard time as its “Key Completion Indicator (KCI).” The KCI is a measure of overall student success. The graduation rate is measured at the three-year (150%) point for those students in a two-year program degree. 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 our peers' performance.

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, achieving the KCI, 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 WTC tracks and reports yearly to federal and state governing entities. In 2017, SACSCOC charged member institutions to select a “Key Completion Indicator” that 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.

The KCI is an appropriate measure 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. The standard requires that *the institution use multiple measures to document student success.* The following discussion disaggregates the 150% graduation rate by gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic status; these are standard measures used to document the characteristics of the students served.

Since the KCI 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 of students who graduated within three years. Thus, the value for the Fall 2018 cohort gives the percentage that graduated by May 2021.

	Fall Cohort			
<u>Gender</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Female	46%	41%	55%	45%
Male	51%	44%	45%	55%
Total	49%	43%	59%	53%

For comparison, in the latest IPEDS DATA FEEDBACK REPORT 2025 (which reports on the 2021 cohort), the average graduation rate for the comparison group of institutions chosen by IPEDS was 34%. WTC's graduation rate exceeds the national comparison group provided by IPEDS. According to IPEDS, the comparison group was selected based on some of WTC's characteristics, including enrollment size.

At WTC, one reason the male graduation rate is higher than the female rate is that the institution serves three male-populated prison units, and most students in those units graduate.

Regarding ethnic diversity, the small sample sizes for certain groups significantly impact the percentages. For instance, in a group of 5, each person represents 20%. As a result, WTC's data excludes categories such as American Indian, Asian, Native Hawaiian, individuals identifying with two or more races, and individuals of unknown ethnicity, typically because these categories often have fewer than 10 individuals annually. The final column labeled "IPEDS" displays the most recent graduation rate for the comparative group as reported by IPEDS.

	Fall Cohort					
Ethnicity	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	IPEDS
International	56%	44%	46%	76%	55%	39%
African American	44%	48%	30%	39%	0%	15%
Hispanic	41%	50%	44%	59%	55%	25%
White	62%	50%	47%	58%	57%	39%
Total	51%	49%	43%	59%	53%	34%

While the IPEDS percentages range from 0% to 39%, the 2021 WTC rates range from 0% to 57%; a broader range at higher levels indicates greater variation in the graduation rate across ethnic groups.

The effect of socioeconomic status will be determined by the graduation rate of those students who received Pell Grants or Stafford loans.

Status	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	IPEDS
Pell Grant	66%	72%	60%	53%	57%	33%
Stafford Loan	44%	43%	60%	33%	40%	33%
Neither Pell or Stafford	46%	40%	33%	64%	51%	34%

As with the other measures, the 150% graduation rate at WTC is higher than the IPEDS comparison group.

Graduation Rate by Program

Two main areas are defined as programs: Academic and Career/Technical Education (CTE). In the CTE area, several program concentrations are found. The graduation rates for each program are shown in the table below. The results presented in this table were locally calculated. The cohort is selected from first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students in the fall semester of the indicated year.

<u>Program</u>	Beginning Cohort		
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Academic Associate Degree	28%	32%	26%
Career and Technical Degree (Total)	56%	66%	64%
Computer Maintenance Technician	53%	74%	58%
Early Childhood Education	43%	50%	34%
Electrical Lineman	86%	68%	76%
Medical Information Technology	100%	40%	60%
Nursery and Landscape Mgmt	64%	78%	61%
Petroleum Technology	31%	33%	50%
Welding	38%	81%	60%
Total	43%	46%	39%

Additional Measures

Additional measures can be obtained from data compiled by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Selected values are presented in the table below. For comparison, the last column in the chart provides Peer Group Averages from Texas institutions of similar size for the most recent year for which data is provided.

These reports can be found at:

<https://www.txhighereddata.org/institution-overviews/institutional-online-resumes/>

					Peer Group Average
<u>Achievement Area: (published in year of)</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	
WTC Student Success					
Number of associate degrees awarded	174	204	203	187	279
Number of certificates awarded	117	128	157	126	172
WTC Student Graduation Rate					
3-year graduation rate	41%	48.2%	50.7%	51.4%	41.5%
4-year graduation rate	43.9%	46.8%	50.8%	53.0%	42.6%
6-year graduation rate	49.8%	46.2%	47.3%	52.1%	45.2%
WTC Student Persistence					
Two-year persistence	19.9%	22.4%	13.1%	21.5%	19.4%
Three-year graduation and persistence	47.9%	46.7%	50.8%	51.0%	41.5%
WTC Student Transfer to 4-Year Institution					
Students with less than 30 Credit Hours	5.0%	4.0%	1.6%	6.5%	5.1%
Students with 30 or more Credit Hours	18.5%	20.4%	19.7%	22.1%	17.1%

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 the KCI measure annually. The information is presented to all administrators and is available on the WTC website. As illustrated, WTC consistently exceeds the performance of both state (THECB) and national (IPEDS) peers in the selected KCI (Graduation rate at 150% standard time).

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

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