

Aiken Technical College

Student Achievement Data



Aiken Technical College's (ATC) mission is to serve as "a public, open-door, two-year, comprehensive institution of higher education established to provide citizens of greater Aiken County opportunities for educational and workforce development."

In adherence with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) guidelines and recommendations, ATC has identified nine measures to assess student success. These student achievement criteria are appropriate to open-door two-year institutions and provide data to evaluate ATC's progress towards achieving its mission. ATC's student achievement goals were developed based on ATC's long-standing critical success factors, evaluation standards established by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE), and South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) Performance Funding Indicators. The institution's goals and outcomes are publicly posted in compliance with SACSCOC guidelines. ATC's Student Achievement Data include:

| Student Achievement Criteria | Goals/Thresholds |
|---|--|
| Course Success Rate | Grade rates of A, B, and C will exceed 77% +/-5% |
| Fall Enrollment | Targeted at +/-10% when comparing Fall to Fall |
| Graduate Placement Rate | 80% graduate placement rate +/- 5% |
| Graduate Production Rate | Greater than or equal to 20% |
| Licensure Examination Pass Rate | 80% overall pass rate on first-time licensure exams +/- 5% |
| Persistence Indicator | 71% (+/- 5%) overall Fall to Spring persistence rate |
| Population Distribution | Race +/- 10% of service area population Gender +/- 10% of service area population |
| Student Success Rate | Equal to or greater than 27% |
| Student Completion Indicator - Traditional IPEDS 150% Graduation Rate | Benchmarked by the IPEDS 150% Graduation Rate Comparison Group Median +/-5% |

Course Success Rate

ATC's course success rate calculates the percentage of all ATC students who successfully complete their courses during the Fall term. Successful completion is defined as receiving a grade of A, B, or C. Unsuccessful completion is defined as receiving a grade of D, F, W (Withdrawal), WF (Withdrawal Failure) or I (Incomplete). ATC has established a target of 77% +/-5%, which aligns with long established success parameters for the College. RWR 032 and ENG 101 currently have the lowest success rates among ATC's developmental and gatekeeper courses. As a result, ATC's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) "READ, WRITE, ACHIEVE!" is targeting student success in RWR 032 and ENG 101 through enhanced Student Success Center intervention, open educational resources, and co-requisite labs (a mainstreaming approach).

Table 1: Course Success Rates

| Aiken Technical College – Course Success Rate | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Term | Total Completers | Successful Completers | Success % |
| Fall 2017 | 6,972 | 5,351 | 76.7% |
| Fall 2018 | 6,419 | 4,797 | 74.7% |
| Fall 2019 | 6,389 | 4,681 | 73.3% |
| Fall 2020 | 5,454 | 3,811 | 69.9% |
| Fall 2021 | 5,266 | 3,762 | 71.4% |
| Source: ATC Power BI Grade Distribution (by Course) | | | |

Fall Enrollment

ATC's Fall enrollment rate target is set at headcount neutral from the prior year, with a +/-10% threshold. This criterion indicates demand for and pursuit of higher education credentials on the part of our local population. ATC continues to promote an increase in overall student headcount at the College. As indicated from the chart below, the impact of COVID-19 had an impact on student enrollment. The College has dedicated significant resources to enhancing distance education access and resources in response.

Table 2: Fall Enrollment Rates

| Aiken Technical College – Fall Enrollment | | | |
|---|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Term | Prior Year | Current Year | Enrollment % |
| Fall 2017 | 2,459 | 2,399 | -2.4% |
| Fall 2018 | 2,399 | 2,267 | -5.5% |
| Fall 2019 | 2,267 | 2,236 | -1.4% |
| Fall 2020 | 2,236 | 1,925 | -13.9% |
| Fall 2021 | 1,925 | 1,873 | -2.7% |
| Source: South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) 1-1 Student Fall Headcount by College; EDSS-ST-ENR105 | | | |

Graduate Placement Rate

Graduate placement rates indicate the success of graduates regarding employment or the continuation of their education. ATC's graduate placement rate is defined as the number of reported graduates employed in their field of study or continuing their education divided by the total number of graduates for the reporting year. ATC has established a criterion target of 80%, with a +/-5% threshold for graduate placement in alignment with SCTCS Performance Indicator Data formulas and requirements.

Table 3: Graduate Placement Rates

| Aiken Technical College – Graduate Placement Rates | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Year | Graduates Reported | Graduates on Job | Graduates in School | Total Placed | % Placed |
| 2015 – 2016 | 466 | 288 | 113 | 401 | 86.1% |
| 2016 – 2017 | 437 | 244 | 106 | 350 | 80.1% |
| 2017 – 2018 | 440 | 289 | 80 | 369 | 83.9% |
| 2018 – 2019 | 442 | 328 | 52 | 380 | 86.0% |
| 2019 – 2020 | 381 | 213 | 138 | 351 | 92.1% |
| Source: South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS): Program Evaluation Reports, College Exhibits (ATC) Note: Total Placed is total graduates reporting they are either on job (working in their field) or in school. | | | | | |

Graduate Production Rate

Graduate production rates reflects ATC's fulfillment of its educational and workforce development mission. The rate includes all unduplicated graduate awards for degrees, diplomas, and certificates. The graduate production rate is defined as the unduplicated graduate headcount divided by the Fall term unadjusted full-time equivalence (FTE). ATC has established a graduate production target of greater than or equal to 20%, as established by SCTCS Performance Funding Indicators. This goal has been exceeded every year since 2011.

Table 4: Graduate Production Rates

| Aiken Technical College – Graduate Production Rate | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Year | Unadjusted Fall FTE | Unduplicated Annual Graduate Headcount | Graduate Production Rate |
| 2016 - 2017 | 1511.7 | 431 | 28.5% |
| 2017 - 2018 | 1471.9 | 434 | 29.5% |
| 2018 - 2019 | 1363.5 | 413 | 30.3% |
| 2019 - 2020 | 1355.7 | 357 | 26.3% |
| 2020 - 2021 | 1166.8 | 329 | 28.2% |
| Sources: CERS opening extract. CERS graduate extract Fall, Spring and Summer; South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS): EDSS-ST-ENR102 & EDSS-ST-IPD308 (SCTCS Completers) | | | |

Licensure Examination Pass Rate

Licensure examination pass rates are evaluated annually by the College for all programs with graduates who are required to successfully pass licensure exams. ATC defines the licensure examination pass rate as the percentage of first-time examinees who take and pass one of the listed licensure exams noted in the chart below on their first attempt. ATC has established a licensure examination pass-rate goal of 80% (+/-5%) on first-time licensure exams across all programs. EMT was recently restructured into an AAS degree and practicums were delayed due to COVID-19's onset in 2020. However, the restructure is demonstrating improvement in Basic EMT testing. The abbreviation NLR indicates that an exam is no longer required in SCTCS and South Carolina Commission on Higher Education reporting.

Table 5: Licensure Examination Pass Rates

| Aiken Technical College – Licensure Examination Pass Rates | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Exam | First-Time Examinee Pass Rates | | | | |
| | 2016 - 17 | 2017 - 18 | 2018 - 19 | 2019 - 20 | 2020 – 21 |
| National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) - Practical Nurse | 95% | 96% | 100% | 95% | 100% |
| National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) - Registered Nurse (ADN) | 96% | 96% | 77% | 98% | 92% |
| Radiography Exam, ARRT | 100% | 100% | 89% | 82% | 75% |
| Surgical Technologist National Certifying Examination | 100% | 100% | 100% | 90% | 83% |
| Certified Medical Assistant | - | 72% | 87% | 69% | - |
| EMT – NREMT Basic | - | 57% | 79% | 80% | 90% |
| EMT – NREMT Inter/Advanced | - | 0% | 67% | 91% | 50% |
| EMT – NREMT Paramedic | - | 33% | 0% | 67% | 71% |
| Pharmacy Technician Certifying Board | - | 100% | 100% | 75% | NLR |
| Certified Dental Assistant – Infection Control Exam | - | 91% | - | 90% | NLR |
| Certified Dental Assistant – Radiation Health and Safety Exam | - | 78% | 90% | 90% | NLR |
| Certified Dental Assistant – General Chairside Exam | - | 89% | 67% | 78% | NLR |
| NNAAP – Patient Care Assisting (CNA) | 84% | 75% | 100% | 67% | NLR |
| NHA – Phlebotomy Technician Certification (CPT) | 94% | 75% | - | 100% | NLR |
| NHA – Certified EKG Technician (CET) | 93% | 100% | - | - | NLR |
| | | | | | |

| Aiken Technical College – Licensure Examination Pass Rates | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Exam | First-Time Examinee Pass Rates | | | | |
| | 2016 - 17 | 2017 - 18 | 2018 - 19 | 2019 - 20 | 2020 – 21 |
| ATC Overall Average | 93.3% | 85.9% | 87.0% | 86.3% | 86.0% |
| Source: Institutional Effectiveness Reporting – Commission on Higher Education (CHE) Licensure Exam Reports | | | | | |

Persistence Indicator

The persistence indicator is used by all programs to monitor Fall-to-Spring persistence. The persistence rate numerator is the number of enrolled Spring students who were also enrolled in the prior Fall semester. The denominator is the number of students in the Fall cohort, excluding any graduates prior to the start of Spring term. Following guidelines established by the South Carolina Technical College System's (SCTCS) Performance Funding Indicators, ATC adheres to a target of 71% Fall-Spring persistence and ATC's threshold is +/-5%. Persistence has not dropped below the action threshold over the past six years.

Table 6: Fall to Spring Persistence Rates

| Aiken Technical College – Fall to Spring Persistence Rates | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Term | Fall Cohort | Fall Graduates | Adjusted Fall Cohort | Spring Persistence | |
| | | | | Returned Spring | % |
| Fall 2016 – Spring 2017 | 2,345 | 105 | 2,240 | 1,624 | 73.7% |
| Fall 2017 – Spring 2018 | 2,261 | 129 | 2,132 | 1,514 | 72.7% |
| Fall 2018 – Spring 2019 | 2,091 | 126 | 1,965 | 1,378 | 71.9% |
| Fall 2019 – Spring 2020 | 2,088 | 95 | 1,993 | 1,356 | 69.5% |
| Fall 2020 – Spring 2021 | 1,748 | 77 | 1,671 | 1,166 | 71.1% |
| Source: Fall data was derived from CERS closing extract. Spring data was derived from CERS opening extract. Graduate data was derived from the CERS graduate extract. South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS): EDSS – ST – ENR115PI Fall to Spring Student Retention Performance Indicator (Total Fall Enrollment, Graduates, Returned Spring) | | | | | |
| Note: Data excludes High School Students | | | | | |

Population Distribution – Race and Gender

ATC's goal is to align enrollment within +/-10% of the population demographics of the College's service area. In comparing ATC's race and gender percentages to the demographics of Aiken County, the College reflects the demographics of the community that it serves overall with strong minority and female presences, which also reflects national trends for community/technical colleges.

Table 7: Undergraduate Students by

| Race/Ethnicity | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 0.8% | 0.9% | 0.7% | 0.7% |
| Asian | 1.3% | 1.3% | 1.0% | 1.0% |
| Black or African American | 33.0% | 33.6% | 33.0% | 34.3% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 5.1% | 6.0% | 7.8% | 8.2% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0.3% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.3% |
| White | 56.6% | 56.1% | 55.3% | 54.1% |
| Two or More Races | 1.2% | 1.0% | 1.1% | 0.7% |
| Race and Ethnicity Unknown | 1.8% | 1.0% | 0.7% | 0.7% |

| Aiken Technical College – Service Area Population by Race | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Race/Ethnicity | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| Asian | 1.0% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.2% | 1.2% |
| Black or African American | 24.8% | 24.8% | 24.8% | 24.8% | 24.8% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 5.8% | 5.9% | 5.9% | 6.0% | 6.2% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0.1% |
| Race and Ethnicity Unknown | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Two or More Races | 1.8% | 1.9% | 2.0% | 2.1% | 2.1% |
| White | 66.2% | 66.0% | 65.7% | 65.5% | 65.2% |
| Source: Economic Modeling (EMSI) (Aiken County) | | | | | |

Table 8: Undergraduate Students by Gender

| Gender | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Female | 61.3% | 64.0% | 64.9% | 66.9% |
| Male | 38.7% | 36.0% | 35.1% | 33.1% |

**Aiken Technical College –
Service Area Population by Gender**

| Gender | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Female | 51.7% | 51.8% | 51.8% | 51.9% | 52.0% |
| Male | 48.3% | 48.2% | 48.2% | 48.1% | 48.0% |

Source: Economic Modeling (EMSI)

Student Success Rate

ATC's student success rate is a cohort-based measure of graduation, postsecondary transfer, or continued enrollment at the College within three years (150% time) of first-time enrollment. The cohort includes all first-time freshmen: Fall enrollees in a degree, diploma, or certificate program who have never attended college. The College has established a student success rate of 27% (+/-5%) based on ATC historical success rate criteria.

Table 9: Student Success Rates

| Aiken Technical College – Student Success Rates | | | | | | |
|--|----------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Cohort | Cohort # | Graduates (150%) | Transfers (150%) | Enrolled Fall (150%) | Student Success | |
| | | | | | N (150%) | % |
| Fall 2014 | 529 | 42 | 26 | 73 | 141 | 26.7% |
| Fall 2015 | 556 | 57 | 79 | 74 | 210 | 37.8% |
| Fall 2016 | 660 | 86 | 113 | 80 | 279 | 42.3% |
| Fall 2017 | 571 | 72 | 95 | 53 | 220 | 38.5% |

Source: CERS opening extract data file, first-time freshmen, certificate, degree, or diploma-seeking. CERS closing and graduate data file. Transfer data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and SCTCS Success Rate database. South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS): Performance Data (EDSS-ST-IPD314 IPEDS Success Rate)

Student Completion Indicator Rate

In 2018, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) requested that member institutions select a Key Student Completion Indicator (KSCI) that reflected the College's student completion patterns. At present, ATC reports Traditional Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) First-Time Full-Time (FTFT) 150% Graduation Rate data. ATC is considering a shift to either National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Total Completion Rate or IPEDS 8-Year Outcomes Measures as they would more accurately reflect our student population trends (9.0 Average Credit Hours/Student and 68% Part-Time). This criterion is benchmarked against the IPEDS Comparison Group Median FTFT 150% Graduation Rate +/-5%. While ATC is still below the Median IPEDS benchmark, the trend has been improving and was significantly up for the 2014 cohort.

Table 10: Student Completion Indicator Rates

| Aiken Technical College – Student Completion Indicator Rates |
|---|
|---|

| Cohort | Aiken Technical College IPEDS FTFT 150% Graduation Rate | IPEDS Comparison Group Median FTFT 150% Graduation Rate |
|--|---|---|
| 2014 | 12% | 24% |
| 2015 | 21% | 26% |
| 2016 | 23% | 30% |
| 2017 | 26% | 33% |
| Source: IPEDS Annual Data Feedback Reports | | |

ATC has further broken-down graduation rate trends by gender and race, focusing on groups that represent greater than 10% of our overall population, or who have a FTFT adjusted cohort minimum of 30 students. Historically, ATC's female and Black FTFT graduation rates have been significantly lower than those of the ATC comparison group's overall cohort median, though there has been a significant upward movement in Black completion rates for the 2015 and 2016 cohorts, exceeding the cohort median. However, a corresponding trend among minority students towards part-time enrollment is yet another reason ATC is strongly considering a shift to NSC Total Completion Rate or IPEDS 8-Year Outcomes Measures to better reflect, and assess the progress of, our student population. The continuing low graduation rates for female students is troubling, given that women comprise approximately two-thirds (66% in 2020) of ATC's total student population. Awareness of this gap has been raised via faculty professional development and onboarding training, but these best practices sessions (relationship building, active and collaborative engagement, etc.) have not yet demonstrated an impact on female student retention and graduation, and further action is required.

Table 11: Student Completion Indicator Rate by Gender

| Aiken Technical College – Student Completion Indicator Rate by Gender | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Cohort | ATC Female IPEDS FTFT 150% Graduation Rate | ATC Male IPEDS FTFT 150% Graduation Rate | IPEDS Comparison Group Median FTFT 150% Graduation Rate |
| 2015 | 9% | 31% | 26% |
| 2016 | 13% | 31% | 30% |
| 2017 | 20% | 31% | 33% |
| Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Data Reports; South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) EDSS-ST-GRS002 Cohort Completers | | | |

Table 12: Student Completion Indicator Rate by Race

| Aiken Technical College – Student Completion Indicator Rate by Race | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Cohort | FTFT Black 150% Graduation Rate | FTFT White 150% Graduation Rate | IPEDS Comparison Group Median FTFT 150% Graduation Rate |
| 2015 | 29% | 20% | 26% (B = 10% / W = 28%) |
| 2016 | 21% | 26% | 30% (B = 17% / W = 34%) |
| 2017 | 28% | 26% | 33% (B = 15% / W = 32%) |
| Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Annual Data Feedback Reports | | | |

ATC also tracks Pell-Grant recipient 150% graduation rates as a success measure associated with our community's socioeconomically disadvantaged students. Financial Aid Awareness events, marketing

existing student support programs and services, and the intervention of supplemental instruction (SI) tutors in transitional studies classrooms have all been efforts to promote lower socioeconomic status students' retention and graduation. Some progress has been made on this front, though graduation rates remain below the overall comparison group median.

Table 13: Student Completion Indicator Rate

| Aiken Technical College – Student Completion Indicator Rate for Pell Grant Recipients | | |
|--|---|--|
| Cohort | FTFT Pell-Grant Recipient 150% Graduation Rate | IPEDS Comparison Group Median FTFT 150% Graduation Rate |
| 2015 | 18% | 26% (P = 21%) |
| 2016 | 14% | 30% (P = 23%) |
| 2017 | 19% | 33% (P = 25%) |
| Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Annual Data Feedback Reports | | |