

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. ATC course success rates have consistently remained in the mid-70s since 2012, never falling below the minimal action threshold of 72%. RWR 032 and ENG 101 currently have the lowest success rates among ATC's developmental and gatekeeper courses. As a result, ATC's 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 2015	6,696	5,048	75.4%
Fall 2016	7,162	5,316	74.2%
Fall 2017	6,450	4,940	76.6%
Fall 2018	6,422	4,779	74.4%
Fall 2019	6,389	4,681	73.3%
Source: ATC Fall Grade Distribution Reports			

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.

Table 2: Fall Enrollment Rates

Aiken Technical College – Fall Enrollment			
Term	Prior Year	Current Year	Enrollment %
Fall 2015	2,351	2,359	0.3%
Fall 2016	2,359	2,459	4.2%
Fall 2017	2,459	2,399	-2.4%
Fall 2018	2,399	2,267	-5.5%
Fall 2019	2,267	2,236	-1.4%
Source: South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) 1-1 Student Fall Headcount by College; EDSS-ST-VER010			

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 criteria target of 80%, with a +/-5% threshold for graduate placement in alignment with SCTCS Performance Indicator Data formulas and requirements. With one exception (2014-2015), the College has met the target, and has never fallen below the action threshold. The College addressed the issue by promoting the College Central Online Job network to aid students in placement and by offering an annual Career Fair in April, as well as a community-agency based Career Fair in August 2018. The College has begun requiring students to update their information on the ATC website through a pop-up screen before they can register for classes. Graduates are also provided with a survey requesting updated contact information to enable the College to follow up with them later.

Table 3: Graduate Placement Rates

Aiken Technical College – Graduate Placement Rates					
Year	Graduates Reported	Graduates on Job	Graduates in School	Total Placed	% Placed
2014 – 2015	474	291	67	358	75.6%
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%
Source: 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

The graduate production rate measure 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
2014 - 2015	1492.4	398	26.7%
2015 - 2016	1418.9	428	30.2%
2016 - 2017	1511.7	431	28.5%
2017 - 2018	1471.9	434	29.5%
2018 - 2019	1363.5	413	30.3%
Sources: CERS opening extract. CERS graduate extract Fall, Spring and Summer 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. During the 2015-2016 cycle, students taking the Surgical Technology certifying examination fell below the benchmark. The program implemented improvement strategies, including obtaining additional clinical site opportunities, adding additional adjunct instructors to increase individual attention per student, and increasing available laboratory time for students. Pass rates increased to 100% for the following two years. Both the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) programs underwent similar transitions in staffing. The low percentage pass rates in those two programs were in part the result of reduced cohort size, which exacerbated negative results. For example, in 2017-18 only a single student took, and failed, the NREMT Advanced exam. The new director of CMA has increased laboratory hours, increased tutoring intervention and purchased software that has promoted student success. In 2018-19, the pass rate improved to 86.7%. For EMT, the new director has enhanced the curriculum and provided national registry exam reviews for all students. A flipped classroom concept has also been adopted and pass rates have improved, though are not yet at the 80% goal. The licensure exam pass rates for the Expanded Duty Dental Assisting Program reached 91% for 2018-19 due to an emphasis on radiation health and safety, as well as the implementation of certification review sessions. Regarding the PCA (CNA) exam, the program has been expanded from one to two terms and this shift, combined with didactic emphasis, has resulted in the achievement of the 80% target in subsequent testing.

Table 5: Licensure Examination Pass Rates

Aiken Technical College – Licensure Examination Pass Rates					
Exam	First-Time Examinee Pass Rates				
	2015 - 16	2016 - 17	2017 - 18	2018 - 19	2019 - 20
National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) - Practical Nurse	88%	95%	96%	100%	95%
National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) - Registered Nurse (ADN)	100%	96%	96%	77%	98%
Radiography Exam, ARRT	89%	100%	100%	89%	82%
Surgical Technologist National Certifying Examination	50%	100%	100%	100%	90%
Certified Medical Assistant	80%	-	72%	87%	69%
EMT – NREMT Basic	83%	-	57%	79%	80%
EMT – NREMT Int/Adv	75%	-	0%	67%	91%
EMT – NREMT Paramedic	83%	-	33%	0%	67%

Pharmacy Technician Certifying Board	-	-	100%	100%	75%
Certified Dental Assistant – Infection Control Exam	-	-	91%	-	90%
Certified Dental Assistant – Radiation Health and Safety Exam	-	-	78%	90%	90%
Certified Dental Assistant – General Chairsides Exam	-	-	89%	67%	78%
NNAAP – PCA (CNA)	67%	84%	75%	100%	67%
NHA – Phlebotomy Technician Certification (CPT)	92%	94%	75%	-	100%
NHA – Certified EKG Technician (CET)	95%	93%	100%	-	-
ATC Overall Average	84.1%	93.3%	85.9%	87.0%	86.3%
Source: IE 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%. Though slightly below ATC's goal in Spring 2019, persistence has not dropped below the action threshold over the past five 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 2015 – Spring 2016	2,310	111	2,199	1,573	71.5%
Fall 2016 – Spring 2017	2,345	105	2,240	1,624	72.5%
Fall 2017 – Spring 2018	2,261	129	2,132	1,514	71.0%
Fall 2018 – Spring 2019	2,091	126	1,965	1,378	70.1%
Fall 2019 – Spring 2020	2,088	95	1,993	1,378	69.1%
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.					
SCTCS: EDSS - ENR115 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

Aiken Technical College – Annual Undergraduate Students by Race					
Race/Ethnicity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
White, Non-Hispanic	59.2%	58.5%	57.7%	57.7%	56.7%
Black, Non-Hispanic	33.3%	34.0%	34.9%	33.6%	34.0%
Hispanic	4.1%	4.5%	4.6%	5.2%	6.1%
Two or More Races, Non-Hispanic	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	1.2%	1.0%
Asian & Pacific Islander	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%
American Indian or Alaskan Native, Non-Hispanic	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%
Source: SCTCS Performance Data (EDSS_ST_ANN107)					

Aiken Technical College – Service Area Population by Race					
Race/Ethnicity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
White, Non-Hispanic	67.1%	66.8%	66.5%	66.2%	66.0%
Black, Non-Hispanic	24.5%	24.7%	24.7%	24.8%	24.8%
Hispanic	5.3%	5.5%	5.6%	5.8%	5.9%
Two or More Races, Non-Hispanic	1.6%	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%
Asian & Pacific Islander	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%
American Indian or Alaskan Native, Non-Hispanic	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Source: EMSI					

Table 8: Undergraduate Students by Gender

Aiken Technical College – Annual Undergraduate Students by Gender					
Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Female	64.2%	64.0%	61.2%	61.3%	64.2%
Male	35.8%	36.0%	38.8%	38.7%	35.8%
Source: SCTCS Performance Data (EDSS_ST_ANN107)					

Aiken Technical College – Service Area Population by Gender					
Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Female	51.6%	51.6%	51.7%	51.7%	51.7%
Male	48.4%	48.4%	48.3%	48.3%	48.3%
Source: 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 2012	651	43	89	89	221	33.9%
Fall 2013	514	52	64	64	180	35.0%
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%

Source: CERS opening extract data file, first-time freshmen, certificate, degree, or diploma-seeking. CERS closing and graduate data file. Transfer data from IPEDS and SCTCS Success Rate database.
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 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 (9.4 Average Credit Hours/Student and 69% Part-Time according to IPEDS Fall 2018 data). 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 up, significantly so for the 2015 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
2013	12%	21%
2014	12%	24%
2015	21%	26%

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 cohort, 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 almost two-thirds (64% in 2019) 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
2013	7%	18%	21%
2014	7%	18%	24%
2015	9%	31%	26%
Source: IPEDS Data Reports			

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
2013	11%	14%	21% (B = 14%/W = 24%)
2014	5%	14%	24% (B = 10%/ W = 29%)
2015	29%	20%	26% (B = 10%/W = 28%)
Source: 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
2013	8%	21% (P = 15%)
2014	9%	24% (P = 20%)
2015	18%	26% (P = 21%)
Source: IPEDS Annual Data Feedback Reports		