

Aiken Technical College

Student Achievement Data



Aiken Technical College is a public, open-door, two-year, comprehensive institution of higher education established to provide the citizens of greater Aiken County opportunities for educational and workforce development.

In conjunction with the South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), ATC has identified nine areas to measure student achievement. These student achievement criteria are appropriate to open admission two-year institutions and provide data to evaluate ATC's progress towards achieving its mission. These student achievement data were identified based on ATC's internal critical success factors and measurement standards established by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE). Achievement data include:

Student Achievement Criteria	Threshold
Course Success Rate	Grade rates of A, B, and C will exceed 77% +/-5%
Fall Enrollment	Targeted at +/-10% when comparing Fall to Spring
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%.

Table 1. Course Success Rates

Aiken Technical College – Course Success Rate			
Term	Total Completers	Successful Completers	Success %
Fall 2014	6,720	4,930	73.4%
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%
Source: ATC Fall Grade Distribution Reports			

Fall Enrollment

ATC’s Fall enrollment rate is benchmarked 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 2014	2,583	2,351	-9.0%
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%
Source: South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) 1-1 Student Fall Headcount by College			

Graduate Placement Rates

Graduate placement rates reflect the success of graduates with respect to employment or continuing 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 its graduation placement rate 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
2013 - 2014	695	432	153	585	84.2%
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%

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

Table 4. Graduate Production Rates

Aiken Technical College – Graduate Production Rate			
Year	Unadjusted Fall FTE	Unduplicated IPEDS 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

Licensure Examination Pass Rates

Licensure examination pass rates are used by all programs with graduates who are required to successfully pass a licensure examination. ATC defines the licensure examination pass rate as the percentage of first-time examinees who take and pass one of the list of licensure exams noted in the chart below on their first attempt. ATC has established a licensure examination pass rate threshold of 80% on first-time licensure exams across all programs.

Table 5. Licensure Examination Pass Rates

Aiken Technical College - Licensure Examination Pass Rates					
Exam	First-Time Examinee Pass Rates				
	2013 - 14	2014 - 15	2015 - 16	2016 - 17	2017 - 18
National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) - Practical Nurse	100%	100%	88%	95%	96%
National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) - Registered Nurse (ADN)	88%	100%	100%	96%	96%
Radiography Exam, ARRT	44%	100%	89%	100%	100%
Surgical Technologist National Certifying Examination	86%	100%	50%	100%	100%
Certified Medical Assistant	-	75%	80%	-	72%
EMT – NREMT Basic	-	71%	83%	-	57%
EMT – NREMT Advance	-	50%	75%	-	0%
EMT – NREMT Paramedic	-	80%	83%	-	33%
Pharmacy Technician Certifying Board	-	-	-	-	100%
Certified Dental Assistant – Infection Control Exam	-	-	-	-	90.9%
Certified Dental Assistant – Radiation Health and Safety Exam	-	-	-	-	78%
Certified Dental Assistant – General Chairside Exam	-	-	-	-	88.8%
NNAAP – PCA(CNA)	-	78%	67%	84%	74.9%
NHA – Phlebotomy Technician Certification (CPT)	-	89%	92%	94%	75%
NHA – Certified EKG Technician (CET)	-	93%	95%	93%	100%
ATC Overall Average	84.6%	86.4%	84.1%	93.3%	85.9%
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. Following guidelines established by the South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS), 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. ATC follows SCTCS guidelines, adhering to a target of 71% fall-spring persistence and ATC's threshold is +/-5%.

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 2014 – Spring 2015	2,281	94	2,187	1,704	71.2%
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%

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 (+/-10%) with 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 presence.

Table 7. Undergraduate students by race

Aiken Technical College - Annual Undergraduate Students by Race					
	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: Source: SCTCS Performance Data (EDSS_ST_ANN107)					
ATC Service Area Population by Race					
	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					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	Fall 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)					
ATC Service Area Population by 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, transfer to another postsecondary institution, or continuing enrollment within three years of first-time enrollment. The cohort includes all first-time freshmen: those who have never attended a college who enrolled in a degree, diploma, or certificate program in a given Fall semester. The college has established a student success rate of 27% (+-5%) based on College 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 2011	664	49	72	97	218	32.8%
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%

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.
 Note: ATC reports official SCTCS Performance Data, which will be updated in Summer 2020 for the Fall 2015 Cohort.

Student Completion Indicator Rate

In Spring 2018, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) asked member institutions to select a key student completion indicator that most accurately represents the colleges’ 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 NSC Total Completion Rate or IPEDS New 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 Rate

Aiken Technical College – Student Completion Indicator Rate		
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 ATC’s 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 New 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 require further action.

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	12%	14%	21%
2014	5%	14%	24%
2015	29%	21%	26%

Source: IPEDS Data Reports

ATC also tracks Pell-Grant Recipient 150% graduation rates as a success measure associated with our community’s socio-economically disadvantaged students. Financial Aid Awareness events, marketing targeting 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 ultimate success. Some progress has been made on this front, though graduation rates remain below the 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%
2014	9%	24%
2015	18%	26%

Source: IPEDS Data Reports