



Aiken Technical College 2020 Graduation Survey Summary

May 28, 2020

Produced by ATC Institutional Effectiveness and Research Office

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Summary:

The 2020 Graduation survey participation rate decreased approximately 20 percent from the 2019 & 2018 graduation surveys. The main factor contributing to this decline was the college closure for gatherings, in-person meetings, and events due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Based on the above participation rate, the results will not necessarily represent the view of the majority of graduates.

The majority of the students who responded rated items concerning their program of study as “very satisfied” and “satisfied”. The graduates ranked *i*) overall quality of campus security, *ii*) a major program of study, and *iii*) learning spaces like classrooms or labs among their top three levels of satisfaction. Items like campus activities and instruction in your major program of study obtained the highest percentage of “neutral” or “dissatisfied” ratings.

There is a positive feeling regarding ATC's impact on their skill development as “very helpful” and “helpful”. Over 50 percent of the graduates pointed out that ATC was “very helpful” in developing skills to formulate strategies to identify, collect, analyze, develop, and evaluate information; problem-solving and critical thinking; and learning independently. On the other hand, graduates recognized the following areas of improvement for ATC: *i*) oral and written communication, *ii*) understanding different philosophies and cultures, *iii*) determining personal and career goals, and *iv*) enhancing self-confidence.

The employment results indicate that approximately 50 percent of the respondents were employed at the time of their graduation ceremony. Half of those who responded as employed are working in their program field of study. In addition, 90 percent of the graduates who answered question six would recommend ATC to someone interested in their education program. Ninety-five percent of the graduates who answered question sixteen would recommend ATC to someone interested in attending college.

Methodology:

The Institutional Effectiveness and Research Department administered the 2020 Graduation Survey via Survey Monkey for Aiken Technical College 2020 graduates on behalf of the College's Recruitment and Student Experience Department. On March 10, 2020, the survey was available for graduates at the Pre Commencement Celebration event. A link to the survey was sent at that time to 432 graduates.

Sixty-four graduates responded, yielding a response rate of 15%. This survey was closed on May 6, 2020, at 12:01 am. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate ATC's programs as they relate to employment opportunities. A drawing for a \$25.00 Amazon gift card was offered as an incentive to complete the survey.

Question 1 asks for contact information and is not included in this report. Results of the Graduate Survey questions 2-18 are provided below.

Results:

Q2. What is your program of study?	Count	Percent
Answered:	54	84%
Skipped	10	16%
Total	64	

Response	Count	Percent
Associate in Arts	11	20%
Associate in Science	6	11%
Nursing (ADN, LPN, LPN to ADN Transition)	6	11%
Dental Assisting	4	7%
Patient Care Assisting	3	6%
Welding	3	6%
Accounting	2	4%
Childcare / Childhood Development	2	4%
EMT/Paramedic	2	4%
Management	2	4%
Medical Assisting	2	4%
Surgical Technology	2	4%
Computer Technology	1	2%
Cybersecurity Networking Certificate	1	2%
Early Care and Education	1	2%
Industrial Maintenance Technology	1	2%
Marketing	1	2%
Nuclear Fundamentals Certificate	1	2%
Pharmacy Technician	1	2%
Radiologic Technology	1	2%
Technology Certificates	1	2%
Total Responses	54	

Q3. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following:	Count	Percent
Answered:	62	97%
Skipped	2	3%
Total	64	

	Very Dissatisfied		Dissatisfied		Neutral		Satisfied		Very Satisfied		Total
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Overall quality of Campus Security	0	-	0	-	2	3%	14	23%	45	74%	61
Your major program of study	1	2%	1	2%	4	6%	19	31%	37	60%	62
Learning Spaces/Classrooms/Labs	0	-	0	-	5	8%	21	34%	35	57%	61
Campus Activities	0	-	0	-	11	18%	16	26%	35	56%	62
Instruction in your major program of study	0	-	4	7%	8	13%	17	28%	32	52%	61
Overall quality of the college	0	-	0	-	5	8%	26	43%	30	49%	61
Your general education program of study	0	-	1	2%	6	10%	27	44%	27	44%	61
Instruction in your general education courses	0	-	2	3%	5	8%	28	46%	26	43%	61

Q4. What was your main goal while attending ATC? (Check all that apply)	Count	Percent
Answered:	61	95%
Skipped	3	5%
Total	64	

Response	Count	Percent
To learn new skills that would help you get a job	44	72%
To learn new things for your personal development	22	36%
To earn transfer credit toward a bachelor's degree	18	30%
To upgrade skills that would help you in your current job	16	26%
Other (please specify):	3	5%
To accomplish a goal I set for myself and my family.		
To Accomplish and finish my Associate Degree.		
To build my way up the nursing ladder		
Total Responses	103	

Q5. Did you accomplish this goal?	Count	Percent
Answered:	62	97%
Skipped:	2	3%
Total	64	

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	62	100%
No	0	0%
Total Responses	62	

Q6. Would you recommend Aiken Technical College to someone interested in your program of study?	Count	Percent
Answered:	62	97%
Skipped:	2	3%
Total	64	

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	56	90%
No	6	10%
Total Responses	62	

Yes Comments:
A very good educational institution with enthusiastic instructors and awesome services.
Aiken Tech has been the best college I have ever been to. Instructors were compassionate and just as ambitious about your goals as you were. The classes challenged as well as intriguing beyond what I thought was possible. They offer opportunities that I never would have experienced anywhere else--campus ambassador program, etc. Not only did other students become my family, but the instructors and other campus staff have had my back since starting and finishing, and they will have ANYONE'S back who goes to their school. I will miss Aiken Tech with all my heart, but they've ignited the fire to get me to achieve my goals in further universities and careers.
Aiken Tech is a phenomenal school that has excellent programs of study. These programs help you accomplish any goals you have set out for yourself.
ATC has a very open and friendly environment. They have a way to make everyone feel welcome.
Because it's affordable.
cheap
Family like environment
Great college to start with your post-graduation education.
Great School, and teachers.
Great way to get transfer credits after high school. Instructors are great and can teach their material properly.
comments continued on next page

Yes Comments continued:
I already have due to the fact ATC's willingness to help me so I never fell behind in harder subjects.
I think the program has a lot of issues and needs to be fixed. One of the biggest issues and inconsistencies is the math class. I hope that you get it together!
I would recommend it because I never heard anything good about any nursing program.
It helps you get a start on your future plans in life
It is a baseline education for your prerequisites, most of which will be unrelated to your field of study and are tedious; you might as well get on with it with minimal needed effort.
It was a wonderful learning experience that I thoroughly enjoyed.
It was truly a wonderful learning experience.
Most professors want to see you succeed.
my teacher was very helpful in my study
Nuclear Fundamentals is one of the most amazing programs I have ever seen! I'll admit when I first came to ATC in 2014 I was dissatisfied with my current program (Industrial Maintenance, later Electrical Maintenance) but now, I am very satisfied and feel the rush of energy I expected to feel in a college atmosphere while in grade school!
Overall I was satisfied with the program and I believe those who are interested in the same program will also be satisfied.
Overall, my experience at Aiken Technical college was amazing.
-The cost of attendance, and afford financial assistance. -Close to home and with easy access. -Very good academic reputation.
The course is difficult but trains you to code well. It also provides good lessons in teamwork by giving us exercises. It taught us how to learn new things in the field quickly and accurately.
The program director and other Surgical technology instructors are very encouraging and teach very well.
The program I was in was great. Mrs. Altman really got me through my college years.
The small school atmosphere and dedication of the staff help you feel like you are actually learning something compared to a four year institution.
The welding program here at ATC is great and anyone needing education in this field would benefit greatly from it.
Wonderful campus, school, enrollment process, courses, instructors, assistive personnel.

No Comments:
A lot of problems with Instructor
it all started good but the instructor was always up and down making it difficult to learn some days and just be a student and not be stressed out
Program just pushes students through
Some of the instructors are useless. The school overall is unorganized. I regret coming to this school.
The administration does not listen to its students. I have filled out all of the end of semester surveys truly and nothing was ever done about certain teachers. There were 3 classes during my time at ATC that I had to completely teach myself. For reference, those included Pharmacology: Hudson, Med Surg: Williams and Med surg: Williamson. Id add Math calc to that list because Mrs. Williams taught that also but I know administration does not listen. I would not recommend the program solely on the teachers, some were great but others are AWFUL and some have chased the good ones away.

Q7. After graduating from ATC, do you plan to pursue another degree/credential?	Count	Percent
Answered:	62	97%
Skipped:	2	3%
Total	64	

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	38	61%
No	24	39%
Total Responses	62	

Q8. What college will you be attending?	Count	Percent
Answered:	34	89%
Skipped:	4	11%
Total	38	

Response	Count	Percent
USC Aiken	9	26%
Unknown at this time	6	18%
Aiken Technical College	5	15%
Augusta University	2	6%
Lander University	2	6%
American Military University Online	1	3%
Clemson University	1	3%
Columbia Southern - American Military University	1	3%
Columbia Southern University	1	3%
Helms College	1	3%
Loyola University of Chicago or University of Charleston	1	3%
USC Columbia	1	3%
New York Institute of Art + Design	1	3%
none	1	3%
N/A	1	3%
Total Responses	34	

Q9. What will be your program of study?	Count	Percent
Answered:	33	87%
Skipped:	5	13%
Total	38	

Response:
Accounting
Animal & Veterinary Sciences
BA Business Accounting
Bachelors in Foreign Languages with a concentration in Spanish
Bachelors in Nursing
Bachelors of Science--Biology specification.
Biology and Psychology(Dual Major)
BSN
Bsn
BSN and then PNP if the ridiculous grading scale for the nursing program doesn't exclude me from the selection process.
BSN in Nursing
Business administration and minor in biology..
criminology
Culinary Arts
Dental hygiene
Early Childhood Education
Emergency management Emergency preparedness Bachelor in Paramedic
Forensics
Forensics or Nuclear Engineering
Hygiene
I plan on getting a certificate in small business management.
Responses continued on next page

Response continued:
Interior Design
LPN to ADN bridge program
Mammography
Mass Communication
none
Not sure yet
Nursing
Occupational Health Safety
real estate
RN-BSN
Sociology
Surgical technology

Q10. What is your current employment Status?	Count	Percent
Answered:	62	97%
Skipped:	2	3%
Total	64	

Response	Count	Percent
Employed, full-time paid.	12	19%
Employed, part-time paid.	21	34%
Unavailable for employment	1	2%
Unemployed but seeking work	10	16%
Unemployed, continuing education	13	21%
Other (please specify):	5	8%
Federal Work Study		
I am a stay at home mother to 4 children.		
self-employed/retired		
Stay at home parent and student		
Waiting to start full time		
Total Employed	33	52%
Total Responses	62	

Q11. Is your job related to your program of study?	Count	Percent
Answered:	33	100%
Skipped:	0	0%
Total	33	

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	17	52%
No	16	48%
Total Responses	33	

Q12. Where is your job located?	Count	Percent
Answered:	33	100%
Skipped:	0	0%
Total	33	

Company	City	State
Always Caring Homecare	Aiken	SC
Anchor Rehabilitation and Healthcare	Aiken	SC
ATC SSC	Graniteville	SC
Augusta University Medical Center	Augusta	GA
Bridgestone PSR	Aiken	SC
Care.com	Aiken	SC
Club Car	Evans	GA
Cracker Barrel	Aiken	SC

Company continued on next page

Company continued		
DEF DIESEL	Aiken	SC
Doctor's Hospital	Augusta	GA
Doctors Hospital of Augusta	Augusta	GA
Electrolux	Augusta	GA
First Community Bank	Aiken	SC
Hallmark	Kansas City	MO
Hallmark	Aiken	SC
IHOP	North Augusta	SC
Leidos	Augusta	GA
McCormick ES	McCormick	SC
Medshore ambulance	Williston	SC
Medshore Ambulance Service	Barnwell	SC
Moes	Aiken	SC
Panera	Aiken	SC
Publix	Greenwood	SC
QuestZone	Clearwater	SC
Restaurant	Aiken	SC
Select Specialty Hospital	Augusta	GA
Spring Green Lawncare	Aiken	SC
Subway	Batesburg	SC
Walgreens	Aiken	SC
Walgreens	North Augusta	SC
Walmart	North Augusta	SC
YMCA Headstart	Graniteville	SC
YOU	Aiken	SC

Q13. Have you begun searching for a job related to your program of study?	Count	Percent
Answered:	42	98%
Skipped:	1	2%
Total	43	

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	14	33%
No	19	45%
Somewhat	9	21%
Total Responses	42	

Q14. Where are you looking for employment?	Count	Percent
Answered:	17	40%
Skipped:	26	60%
Total	43	

Company	City	State
Aiken Regional Medical Center	Augusta	SC
Always Caring Homecare	Aiken	SC
Augusta Smiles	Augusta	GA
Augusta smiles youth dentistry	Augusta	GA
Bae Systems	Aiken	SC
BRIDGESTONE PSR	Aiken	SC
Dental office	Aiken	SC
Edgefield county ems	Edgefield	SC
Headstart/Public school	Aiken	SC
Savannah River Site/Remediation/Nuclear Solutions	Ellenton	SC
Select Specialty Hospital	Augusta	GA
Tax firm	Aiken	SC
the sunshine house	Aiken	SC
	Aiken	SC
		SC
N/a	N/a	N/a
Not sure yet		

Q15. Please rate ATC's impact on your skill development in the following areas:	Count	Percent
Answered:	60	94%
Skipped	4	6%
Total	64	

	Not Helpful		Somewhat Helpful		Helpful		Very Helpful		Not Applicable		Total
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Formulate strategies to Identify, Collect, Analyze, Develop, and Evaluate information	0	0%	5	8%	18	31%	35	59%	1	2%	59
Problem Solving and Critical Thinking	0	0%	10	17%	18	30%	31	52%	1	2%	60
Learning Independently	0	0%	6	10%	21	36%	30	51%	2	3%	59
Oral Communication	2	3%	9	15%	21	35%	28	47%	0	0%	60
Utilizing Computers	2	3%	6	10%	22	37%	24	41%	5	8%	59
Quantitative (Math) skills and analysis	0	0%	8	13%	25	42%	24	40%	3	5%	60
Working Cooperatively With Others	1	2%	8	14%	21	36%	23	39%	6	10%	59
Written Communication	1	2%	10	17%	26	43%	23	38%	0	0%	60
Understanding Different Philosophies and Cultures	4	7%	8	13%	18	30%	23	38%	7	12%	60
Determining Personal and Career Goals	6	10%	6	10%	23	38%	22	37%	3	5%	60
Enhancing Self-Confidence	1	2%	12	20%	22	37%	22	37%	3	5%	60

Q16. Would you recommend Aiken Technical College to someone interested in attending college?	Count	Percent
Answered:	60	94%
Skipped:	4	6%
Total	64	

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	57	95%
No	3	5%
Total Responses	60	

Yes Comments:
Affordable variety of programs
At Aiken Tech, the staff are there to see you succeed and they will help you in any way possible. They become almost like a family to you, they understand you and listen to the problems you may be going through. They will notice where you're struggling, and they will recommend certain tutoring or even perhaps joining a group that the campus offers like the campus ambassador program, to help you gain leadership skills and become a better leader/person in everyday life. They go out of their way to help you strive for the best, and they always will have your back.
Because it's a great school
Because it's cheap.
because the teachers and administrators are very helpful
Beneficial
cheap
Great School.
It provides a variety of different positive learning opportunities in a great environment.
It's a great place to at least get started, depending on what it is that you want to study. Also what you want to study, you may want to consider college at all since some jobs don't even require education.
It's easy, and since these are tedious prerequisites, you might as well get through it with as little friction as possible.
comments continued on next page

Yes Comments continued:
Local Campus. Great Community events. Beautiful campus for people who don't have the luxury to live on a university campus.
Students here are very friendly, teachers are eager to teach you a lot of knowledge!!
The experience is what you make out of it. I would suggest ATC because the experience is what you make it, and ATC is affordable.
The school is a great start to a wonderful education.
This is a great place to start, especially if you're a hands-on learner.
Yes, I believe if you really want something pray about it, and try. If God see that it's good then things will work out, no matter the circumstances.
No Comments:
n/a

Q17. In the space below, please add any comments in reference to your experience at Aiken Technical College.	Count	Percent
Answered:	19	30%
Skipped:	45	70%
Total	64	

Response
Above and beyond happy with this institution. I have no shame or embarrassment when I say I go to a community college because Aiken Tech is one of the finest.
Despite this virus canceling face-to-face classes, my teachers this semester were very accommodating and kind when it came to my constant questions. I had a wonderful time meeting new people and understanding myself more as a person from joining groups.
Everyone that works in the office were incredibly kind and helpful, always. The best thing I can say about Aiken Tech, really. They seem to really care about helping you, which is not something I can say about the vast majority of the academic staff and advisors, who act as if it is an inconvenience when you look to them for guidance.
I had a great experience all the teachers were great.
I had a great experience in this college. Since the day one until graduation I had a great support in all steps reached. I really loved the time I spent here at ATC, I had the pleasure of making a good friends. Thank you very much for everything.
I have been able to attend the EDDA program and I am highly satisfied. My instructors were great and still encourage me to do my best .
I've enjoyed Aiken Tech overall, I really enjoy being in work study. My co-workers are amazing and I've learned a lot from them in the short period of time I've worked alongside them.
my experience at Aiken Technical College was in all a good one. if I could ask one thing is that they get more help and more professors for the childcare program because I feel like we are somewhat over looked.
My experience was fine. My teachers for my general classes were fine, but Mrs. Altman, was wonderful. She helped me so much
My experience was school and alright.
Overall great experience
Please stop hiring remote online instructors. They suck.
The ATC website was not helpful. The enrollment and payment plan deadlines are not easy to find, and the syllabuses on the site are outdated.
responses continued on next page

Responses continued:

The classes related to Industrial and electrical maintenance (the ones located currently in the 1700 building) for the most part don't seem to be helping students learn much. By that I mean, in the labs the expected answer is written in the space below, the quizzes and tests give you all the answers needed after one try and then gives you two other chances to try again and get the A. They also don't emphasize many formulas or encourage actual "learning" and can be rather unmotivating for students who want to learn. The rest of the programs however, are very well thought out, challenging, and the new boost of school spirit is amazing!

The only complaint I have is the financial aid side of it. I don't feel they were accommodating and I had multiple issues with their department.

This is a very good school, my English skill sucks since I was not born and lived in the US. I was trying to improve my reading speed, writing skills, and math problem-solving techniques, so I ask the tutors a lot and stay most of the time in the academic center. Tutors over there are very patient and eager to help me solve the issues I was facing. Right now those three skills are a lot improved, I really, really need to say thank you to ATC from the bottom of my heart!

Very good college to beginning your education and to further any goals in life

N/a

na

Q18. In the space below, please add any suggestions to enhance/improve services and activities offered through Aiken Technical College.	Count	Percent
Answered:	16	25%
Skipped:	48	75%
Total	64	

Response
Any suggestions I have made are already in the works through Aiken Tech's student services, SGA, administration, as well as any other parties involved.
Easier access to upper level faculty and staff
Fix your website.
I suggest that the way new students are treated by faculty to be improved. My first time dealing with the book store employees and the financial aid office they spoke down to me as if I were ignorant. I almost withdrew and attended another college just for the way I was treated. However, as the years went on I began to be treated with a bit more respect. Hopefully this change was due to a new faculty rotation.
I think everything I experienced on the campus is so good so I got nothing to complain. If I really need to say something, I will say that I want softer soft chairs in the Student Success center for me to take naps.
I think maybe a workout gym would be nice
I think opening more diversity amongst the events and special speakers, etc. would be wonderful. Perhaps ask students via survey or email what they would like to see brought to campus?
In online classes I suggest that a more and better material provided for a better learning distance. More videos/ lectures/ power points/ tutorials/ broad cast etc. I found a little difficult to learn without a virtual support. Thank you again for everything.
more places to study at. more places to hang out.
Overall ATC, is a great school. I will say the enrollment center phone line always go to the voicemail, and you can never reach anyone unless you visit the school. The health programs needs a little bit of professionalism, and students/instructors should feel comfortable voicing opinions. In contrast, my experience was great and instructors were awesome for the most part.
Please stop hiring remote online instructors. They suck.
Stop requiring so many general education courses before you can actually start learning the skills needed for employment. That's what high school is for.
responses continued on next page

Responses continued:
There needs to be some kind of auditing of classes. Some of these "educators" do not care, especially in the on-line class space. I would say that 60% of the classes I took were completely on-rails, with little to no communication from the actual teacher; they rarely even gave feedback and seemed generally disinterested in the process.
I don't have any suggestions at this moment.
N/a
No suggestions, very good