

RESEARCH BRIEF

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

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STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

The purpose of this brief is to summarize the 2002-2003 status of the Statewide Accountability Measures passed by the 1991 Florida Legislature using the statewide 2002-2003 data and to compare SPC's performance on each measure with the statewide performance. Section 240.324, F.S. directs that a management and accountability process be implemented that will provide for the "...ongoing improvement and assessment of the improvement of the quality and efficiency of the State Community College System." The areas to be addressed were specified in law. There are five statewide measures of accountability, some with more than one part. The measures are:

- enrollment of students entering the college in relation to the previous year's high school graduates, retention of students (graduated or still enrolled), and student success (graduated, still enrolled, or left in good standing);
- performance of A. A. degree transfers in the State University System;
- passing rates of students who completed vocational programs on state licensure tests and placement in related occupations;
- the success of students who are required to take college preparatory courses (completion of prep courses, retention and success in college credit programs); and
- performance of students on the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) after they have completed 60 credit hours at the college.

The accountability outcome measures, the statewide benchmarks, SPC's target, SPC's current performance, and the current statewide performance are described below.

INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE

Outcome Measure 1:

Enrollment/Retention/Success

a. Enrollment

Measure--This measure is intended to determine if the proportion of high school graduates in one year from the college service area (Pinellas County) is the same as FTIC students who enroll in the college (SPC) the following year by ethnic category.

State Benchmark--To increase the percentage of previous year high school graduate minority student enrollments until such enrollments equal the previous years' high school graduates for each category.

SPC Target--Increase black enrollment as a percent of prior year high school graduates to 35%.

SPC Performance-- Table 1 shows a two-year comparison of SPC's first-time-in-college students to Pinellas County graduates and for all community colleges compared to all county public high graduates from the previous year by ethnicity. SPC's enrollment pattern differs from the statewide pattern in 2000-01. The percentage of SPC white enrollees was greater than the prior year's graduates. The percent of enrollees to graduates was less for other ethnic categories. SPC did not make its goal with respect to enrollment of blacks, students being 35% of the college's FTIC students. For the fifth year, SPC enrolled a higher percentage of first-time-in-college students from the prior year high school graduates of its service area (34.4%) than the statewide average (30.9%) for all categories.

Table 1
PRIOR YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ENROLLMENT

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian		Indian		Total	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total
Reporting year 1999-00												
St. Petersburg College												
Number of High School Graduates	3,833	80.44	564	11.84	153	3.21	190	3.99	12	0.25	4,765	4.83
Number of First-Time-In College	1,262	82.21	136	8.86	66	4.30	63	4.10	7	0.46	1,535	5.44
Percent Pool		32.92		24.11		43.14		33.16		58.33		32.21
State-Wide												
Number of High School Graduates	60,563	61.41	20,191	20.47	14,521	14.72	2,824	2.86	232	0.24	98,625	
Number of First-Time-In College	16,680	59.09	4,792	16.98	5,578	19.76	862	3.05	108	0.38	28,226	
Percent Pool		27.54		23.73		38.41		30.52		46.55		28.62
Reporting year 2000-01												
St. Petersburg College												
Number of High School Graduates	3,878	80.81	563	11.73	155	3.23	183	3.81	7	0.15	4,799	4.68
Number of First-Time-In College	1,385	83.99	154	9.34	47	2.85	59	3.58	2	0.12	1,649	5.20
Percent Pool		35.71		27.35		30.32		32.24		28.57		34.36
State-Wide												
Number of High School Graduates	62,447	60.86	20,919	20.39	15,555	15.16	3,023	2.95	226	0.22	102,607	
Number of First-Time-In College	19,345	60.95	5,535	17.44	5,742	18.09	949	2.99	63	0.20	31,739	
Percent Pool		30.98		24.46		36.91		31.39		27.88		30.93

b. Retention

Measure--Described are the number and percentage of students, by ethnicity and full-time/part-time status, seeking A.A./A.S. degrees or Postsecondary Vocational Certificates (PSVC) who have graduated or who are enrolled after four years from the date of initial enrollment (definition of retention). Initial enrollment is defined as 18 college credit hours earned toward a degree or 9 hours earned toward a certificate.

State Benchmark--To retain or graduate at least 50% of the part-time students four years after the date of initial enrollment. To retain or graduate at least 70% of the full-time students four years after the date of initial enrollment.

SPC Target--To retain or graduate 65% of the full-time A.A. and A.S. students 4 years after initial enrollment

SPC Performance--State generated data shows 68.5% (984 AA/AS/PSVC/ATD students) of the Fall 1998 -- Spring 2002 cohort were "retained" (graduated or still enrolled) at SPC. Systemwide the retention rate for this cohort was 62.3% (15,120 AA/AS/PSVC/ATD students). The Retention graph provides a 2-year comparison of percentages of SPC students who graduated or who are enrolled after four years from the initial enrollment to the statewide comparable data.

c. Success

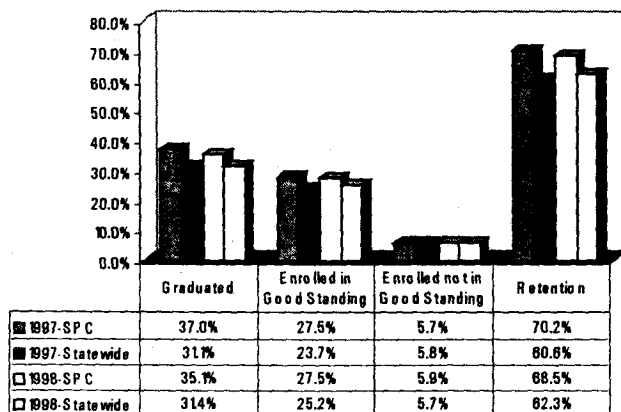
Measure--Addressed are the number and percentage of students, by ethnicity, seeking A.A./A.S. degrees or PSVC who have graduated, are enrolled in good standing, or who left in good standing after four years from the initial enrollment.

State Benchmark--Eighty percent (80%) of students will have graduated, been retained in good standing or left in good standing four years after the date of initial enrollment.

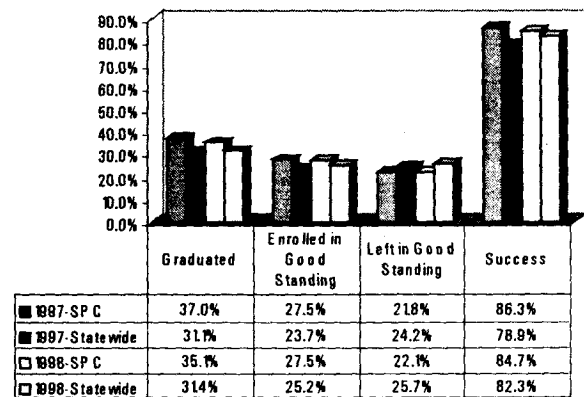
SPC Target--Ninety percent (90%) of A.A./A.S. degree and PSV Certificate students will have graduated, been retained in good standing or will have left in good standing four years after initial enrollment.

SPC Performance-- SPC's success rate of 84.7% for A.A./A.S. degree, PSV Certificate, and ATD students was higher than the statewide average of 82.3%. The Success graph compares the percentage of SPC students who graduated, are enrolled in good standing, or who left in good standing after four years from the initial enrollment to the analogous statewide data.

Retention



Success



Outcome Measure 2:

A. A. Degree Transfer Performance

Measure--Computed is the upper division grade point average (GPA) of A. A. degree students, who transfer to a State University in Florida, segmented by university, college preparatory status and ethnic category.

State Benchmark--At least 70% of the A. A. degree students transferring to a state university will perform at a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

SPC Target--At least 70% of the A.A. degree students who have transferred to the State University System will perform at a GPA ≥ 2.5 or higher.

SPC Performance--For six years (ending two years ago) the percentage of SPC's A.A. degree transfer students with GPA's greater or equal to 2.5 increased, reaching a high of 75.3% with the 2000-2001 data. The percentage decreased last year to 70.5% and increased this year to 70.6% but this has been below the statewide average for these years. Nevertheless, the College met its target of 70% which is equal to the statewide benchmark. Table 2 compares the percentage of SPC students transferring to the state universities in 1999-2000, who earned a GPA of 2.5 or more to the statewide community college average by ethnic category.

**Table 2
ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE TRANSFER PERFORMANCE**

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Indian	Total
Reporting year 1999-00						
St. Petersburg College						
Number of Graduates in SUS	715	47	36	40		842
Mean GPA	2.90	2.71	2.62	2.67	2.86	2.87
Number with GPA's ≥ 2.5	518	30	21	22	3	594
Percent with GPA's ≥ 2.5	72.45	63.83	58.33	55.00	75.00	70.55
State-Wide						
Number of Graduates in SUS	6,681	1,071	1,593	440	44	9,868
Mean GPA	2.96	2.64	2.82	2.78	2.98	2.89
Number with GPA's ≥ 2.5	5,035	667	1,136	280	33	7,177
Percent with GPA's ≥ 2.5	75.36	62.28	71.31	63.64	75.00	72.73

Outcome Measure 3:

State Licensure Passing Rates/ Vocational Program Placements

a. State Licensure Passing Rates

Measure--This measure compares licensure passing rates for students in those vocational programs that require state licensure exams to enter the profession.

State Benchmark--At least 90% of all students sitting for a licensure exam will pass.

SPC Target--Overall 85% of SPC students who sit for licensure exams will pass.

SPC Performance--No statewide data are available, however, institutional data shows SPC students perform well on state licensure examinations. The overall pass rate for 2000-01 was 86.0% (over the 85% target) and the pass rate for each exam was 78% or higher. Below Table 3 provides a two-year comparison for SPC passing rates.

Table 3
Licensure Passing Rates

	Dental Hygiene	Funeral Services	EMT	Paramedic	Physical Therapy	Radiography	Respiratory	Nursing	Veterinary
Reporting year 1999-00 St. Petersburg College	100.0%	100.0%	98.7%	100.0%	96.8%	100.0%	100.0%	82.7%	89.2%
Reporting year 2000-01 St. Petersburg College	96.3%	100.0%	83.8%	87.0%	78.6%	100.0%	100.0%	80.7%	96.4%

b. Placement Rates

Measure--This measure describes the number and percentage of students who complete an A.S. degree or PSV Certificate program or who leave the program and are employed in a job related to their instruction. Students are considered "placed" if they are found the following year to be: (1) continuing their education in a Florida community college or state university, (2) working a field related to their education, or (3) in the military. Placement rate was chosen only for programs with five or more completers in the placement pool.

State Benchmark--At least 90% of all students who complete a vocational program will be placed.

SPC Target--At least 90% of all students who complete an SPC vocational program will be placed.

SPC Performance--Data shows that 92.6% of 1,020 SPC students (who were found) were placed. This compare statewide to 95.8% who completed the same programs as offered by SPC. Statewide, in all programs offered at community colleges, the placement rate for completers was 95.6%.

Outcome Measure 4:

College Preparatory Success

a. College Prep Course Success

Measure--This measure shows the number and percentage of students who tested into college preparatory courses, by subject area, based on scores on the entrance exam. Of these students, the report shows how many enrolled in a college preparatory course (for the area needed) and those who passed the highest-level college preparatory course (for that area) within two years to meet the standards for admission into college level courses.

State Benchmark--To have students in need of remediation pass the highest-level college preparatory course at the following rates: reading-65%, writing-68% and math-50%.

SPC Target--To have students in need of remediation pass the highest-level college preparatory course at the following rates: reading-70%, writing-70% and math-50%.

SPC Performance--The most notable area of improvement this year compared to last was for students passing the highest level mathematics college preparatory score within two years. Although the SPC mathematics pass rate increased each year for the six preceding years (beginning at 34.8% in 96-97 and reaching 48.0% last year) it failed to reach the statewide average pass rate. However, this year SPC's success rate in mathematics for students who tested into college preparatory courses, and who passed the highest level requirement within two years, was considerably higher than the statewide average (59.0% vs. 49.5%). Additionally, SPC's success rate was higher than the statewide average in reading (81.8% vs. 69.4%) and writing (74.3% vs. 63.9%).

Table 4
College Preparatory Success Rates

	Reading	Writing	Math
Fall 1998 through Summer 2000			
St. Petersburg College	76.2%	70.4%	48.0%
Statewide	65.8%	61.2%	49.9%
Fall 1999 through Summer 2001			
St. Petersburg College	81.8%	74.3%	59.0%
Statewide	69.4%	63.9%	49.5%

b. Retention Rate of College Prep Students

Measure--Described is the status of degree students who have completed their college preparatory requirements and who have graduated, are enrolled in good standing, or enrolled not in good standing four years after initial enrollment. Initial enrollment is defined as having completed 18 college credits towards an A.A. or A.S. degree.

State Benchmark--To retain or graduate at least 50% of the part-time students four years after the date of initial enrollment in college level courses. To retain or graduate at least 70% of the full-time students four years after the date of initial enrollment. Full-time students are those who attended full-time during their first college semester and at least one other semester.

SPC Target--To retain or to graduate at least 70% of the full-time students four years after the date of initial enrollment.

SPC Performance--The Retention graph compares the percentage of SPC students who graduated or who are enrolled after four years from the initial enrollment to the statewide comparable data. The College's retention rate was 71.9% compared to the statewide average of 65.4%. The SPC graduation rate for students who completed the highest level preparatory requirement was 29.3% compared to the statewide average of 26.4%.

c. Success Rate of College Prep Student

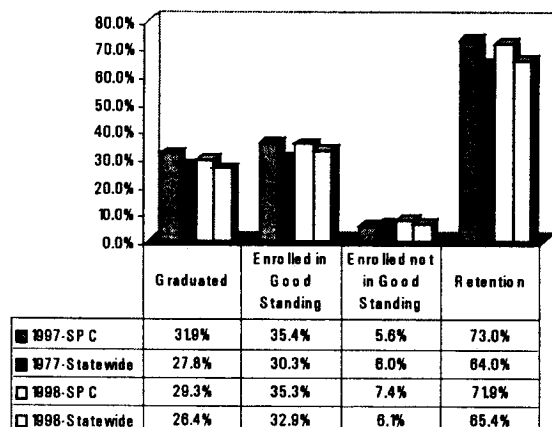
Measure--This measure addresses the number and percentage of students who have completed their college preparatory requirements and who have graduated, or are enrolled or left in good standing four years after initial enrollment. Initial enrollment is defined as having completed 18 college credits toward the degree.

State Benchmark--To graduate, retain in good standing or to have left in good standing at least 75% of the students four years after the date of initial enrollment in college level courses.

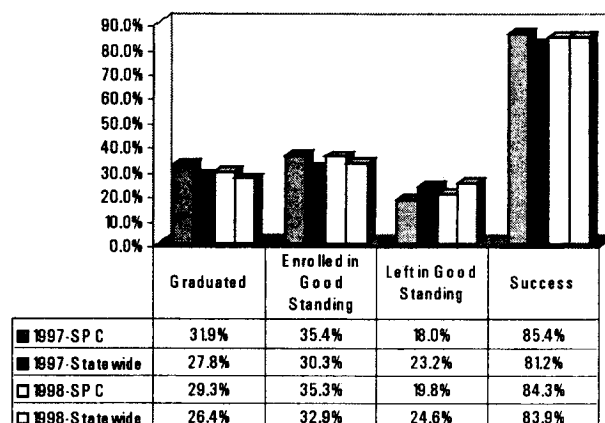
SPC Target--To graduate, to have enrolled or left in good standing at least 80% of the degree students four years after the date of initial enrollment.

SPC Performance--Based on the Fall 1998 cohort, 84.3% of SPC students were graduated, enrolled or left in good standing compared to 83.9% of statewide students. SPC met its target for this group of students. The graph compares the percentage of SPC students who graduated, are enrolled in good standing, or who left in good standing to the statewide comparable data.

Retention



Success



Outcome Measure 5: CLAST Performance

Measure--Described are the number and percentage of students who have passed CLAST after they have completed 60 or more college credit hours, segmented by ethnicity and participation in college preparatory courses.

State Benchmark--To have at least 80% of all students who have completed 60 credit hours pass all parts of CLAST (overall), including 68% for college prep students and 90% for non-college prep students.

SPC Target--To have at least 75% of all students who have completed 60 credit hours pass all parts of CLAST, including 80% for college prep students and 80% for non-college prep students. Scores and goals have been decreased to reflect the exemptions given to higher achieving students.

SPC Performance--This is the eighth year that the percent of students with 60 or more college-level credits passing all CLAST tests individually and in total was higher than the statewide average meeting both the statewide benchmark and the college target. The percentage of students having taken college preparatory courses who passed all four subtests was exceptionally notable (SPC 92.2% vs. Statewide 86.9%). The results were similar for students without college preparatory courses (99.1% vs. 95.9%) and for all students (those taking college preparatory classes plus those not requiring college preparatory classes) passing all four subtests (95.1% for SPC vs. 91.1% Statewide). Other test results were:

- 96.8% of SPC students passed mathematics compared to 93.7% statewide;
- 99.0% of SPC students passed reading compared to 97.6% statewide;
- 98.4% of SPC students passed English Language compared to 97.3% statewide;
- 99.9% of SPC students passed Essay compared to 98.1% statewide.

**Table 5
CLAST Performance**

	Reading	English	Math	Essay
1999-00				
St. Petersburg College	98.97%	98.23%	95.57%	98.85%
Statewide	97.18%	96.87%	92.27%	97.91%
2000-01				
St. Petersburg College	98.97%	98.42%	96.80%	99.03%
Statewide	97.55%	97.30%	93.74%	98.12%

Summary

SPC's performance meets or exceeds the statewide performance for all accountability measures except in the area of licensure exams. SPC met its own target with respect to state licensing examination pass rates (86.0% overall pass rate); its overall pass rate was less than that of the statewide benchmark of 90%.