

RESEARCH

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BRIEF

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Classroom Performance (Withdrawal Rates)

The Classroom Performance Measure was developed at St. Petersburg College as one component of the Core Indicators to measure the overall performance of credit and college preparatory students by campus. Performance was defined as the percent of students passing (earning a grade of A, B, C, D, or P), and the percent of students not completing the course who received a grade of (I)ncomplete, (F)ailure, or (W)ithdrawal. For college preparatory courses, an additional category was recognized for students not completing the course who received a grade of N (showing progress). The information for this measure was compiled from the collegewide grade distribution report based upon the course administrative campus generated at the end of a session. Some course data, such as dual credit courses generally do not end at the same time as the regular campus courses and may be missing.

Tables 1 and 2 show historical data for college preparatory and credit courses beginning Fall 2000 through Fall 2002. The number of enrollments is a duplicated headcount where students are counted for each class registered, however, audit students are excluded from the calculations. For college preparatory classes (Table 1), withdrawal rates increased collegewide while failure rates declined. For all three years Tarpon Springs had the highest passing rate of the campuses, the highest failing rate and the lowest withdrawal rate.

Table 1
College Preparatory Courses Pass, Fail and Withdrawal Rates
Fall 2000 – Fall 2002

Campus	Fall 2000					Fall 2001					Fall 2002				
	Number of Enrollments	Percent Passed	Percent W	Percent F	Percent N	Number of Enrollments	Percent Passed	Percent W	Percent F	Percent N	Number of Enrollments	Percent Passed	Percent W	Percent F	Percent N
Clearwater	1,849	61.5	16.5	3.7	16.5	1,907	57.9	20.0	4.0	17.9	2,046	61.0	21.0	1.6	16.3
St. Petersburg/Gibbs	2,553	57.8	21.9	10.8	8.1	2,487	57.0	22.8	10.0	8.7	2,871	59.6	23.2	7.4	9.1
Seminole	493	63.9	19.3	7.3	8.7	730	55.6	21.6	9.6	12.5	784	54.0	23.3	7.8	14.4
Tarpon Springs	826	63.3	12.3	24.0	0.2	970	62.7	14.1	20.4	2.2	1,142	66.5	19.8	10.4	3.1
Collegewide	5,721	60.8	18.7	10.1	9.7	6,094	58.0	20.4	9.7	11.0	6,843	60.5	22.0	6.2	10.8

Similarly, for college credit courses (Table 2), withdrawal rates increased collegewide while pass and failure rates declined. The Health Education Center reported the highest pass rates all three years and the lowest withdrawal and failure rates. Open Campus courses include both dual credit students (course credits applied to both high school graduation and college degrees) and Corporate Training (corporate technology, professional development, and academic classes). The withdrawal rate for Open Campus varied greatly from one year to the next.

Table 2
College Credit Courses Pass, Fail and Withdrawal Rates
Fall 2000 – Fall 2002

Campus	Fall 2000				Fall 2001				Fall 2002			
	Number of Enrollments	Percent Passed	Percent W	Percent F	Number of Enrollments	Percent Passed	Percent W	Percent F	Number of Enrollments	Percent Passed	Percent W	Percent F
Allstate Center	1,154	89.9	6.2	2.5	1,475	87.8	5.7	0.9	2,071	91.4	5.7	1.9
Clearwater	15,600	76.9	15.0	6.7	16,088	76.0	16.1	6.3	16,079	75.5	18.5	4.8
Health Education Center	3,923	93.2	3.3	1.1	3,949	92.3	4.6	0.3	3,119	90.8	4.7	3.3
Open Campus	462	92.0	7.0	0.0	389	71.0	28.4	0.6	388	83.6	10.9	1.6
Seminole	5,607	67.2	20.7	9.6	6,957	67.0	21.4	10.1	10,073	70.0	20.9	7.4
St. Petersburg/Gibbs	17,422	75.3	16.1	6.9	17,541	76.3	15.1	6.6	18,157	75.5	18.0	5.5
Tarpon Springs	5,488	78.4	9.9	11.3	6,081	76.0	11.7	11.7	7,317	78.0	13.4	8.3
Collegewide	49,656	77.1	14.3	7.0	52,480	76.5	14.9	7.1	57,204	76.3	16.8	5.7

In Fall 2003, a new student system was implemented that resulted in two new sites being added (Electronic Campus and Corporate Training Services removed from Open Campus). Tables 3 and 4 show the pass, fail and withdrawal rates for college preparatory and college credit courses for Fall 2003. When compared to the previous three Fall terms, collegewide the college preparatory withdrawal and failure rates were comparable but the pass rate decreased while the showing progress rate increased.

Table 3
College Preparatory Courses Pass and Withdrawal Rates
Fall 2003

	Number of Enrollments	Percent Passed	Percent Withdrawn	Percent Failed	Percent Showing Progress
Clearwater	2,130	56.4%	18.7%	4.3%	20.6%
Electronic Campus	671	38.2%	25.0%	15.9%	20.9%
Seminole	380	66.6%	17.4%	8.9%	7.1%
St. Petersburg/Gibbs	3,005	54.6%	24.0%	10.6%	10.8%
Tarpon Springs	1,063	64.1%	14.8%	15.5%	5.6%
Collegewide	7,249	55.6%	20.8%	9.9%	13.7%

Table 4 shows the same information for Fall 2003 college credit courses. Although the number of students increased by almost twelve percent (11.8%) compared to Fall 2002, the collegewide pass, fail, and withdrawal rates remained relatively the same. Interestingly, at the larger campuses that showed historical data (Clearwater, St. Petersburg/Gibbs, Tarpon Springs) the pass rates were similar to the previous Fall term except for Tarpon Springs that showed almost a two percent (1.7%) increase; the same was true of the withdrawal rates (Tarpon Springs showed a one percent decrease).

Table 4
Pass and Withdrawal Rates (College Credit Courses)
Fall 2003

	Number of Enrollments	Percent Passed	Percent Withdrawn	Percent Failed
Allstate	2,093	86.7%	8.2%	2.7%
Clearwater	16,159	74.8%	18.7%	5.2%
Corporate Training	123	97.3%	2.7%	0.0%
Electronic Campus	10,539	70.0%	22.2%	6.7%
Health Education	3,981	93.2%	4.7%	1.7%
Open Campus	659	94.1%	5.2%	0.3%
Seminole	2,649	79.7%	13.8%	5.9%
St. Petersburg/Gibbs	18,957	74.5%	18.7%	5.9%
Tarpon Springs	8,817	79.7%	12.4%	7.0%
Collegewide	63,977	76.6%	16.8%	5.6%

The 2003-2004 Enrolled Student Survey indicated that the majority of students were satisfied with their preparation in five basic skill areas. Figure 1 shows the mean ratings of the items based on a seven-point scale. All items were above the college standard indicating success that requires a mean of 5.0 or better. For this reason, classes in which these skills are taught were selected for further review. Figure 2 shows the courses that were used for the subject areas.

Figure 1
Student Satisfaction in 5 Subject Areas

Computer Use	5.73
Mathematics	5.48
Oral Communications	5.67
Reading	5.80
Writing	5.81

Figure 2
Courses In Each Subject Area

Subject Area	Courses Identification or Course Prefix
Computer Use	CTS1101, CGS1100
Mathematics	MAC, MAP, MAS, MGF, MTC or STA
Oral Communications	SPC
Reading	REA or RED
Writing	ENC1101, ENC1102 ENC1121H, ENC1122H

Table 5 shows the total number of students and whether they passed or failed to complete college credit courses for Fall 2003 in the five subject areas mentioned above. Although students indicated they were satisfied with their preparation for these five subject areas, students were slightly less successful when compared to all credit course work shown in Table 4 (72.9 vs. 76.6). Students in this subset also withdrew at a higher rate (19.9 vs. 16.8) and failed at a higher rate (6.3 vs. 5.6). Using the same format, the results from the five subject areas was compared to all credit courses presented in Table 4 for each campus. The pass rates were lower with the exception of Seminole (80.9 vs. 79.7). The withdrawal rates were higher for each campus and failure rates were mixed with some campuses reporting a higher rate (Open Campus, St. Petersburg/Gibbs, Tarpon Springs) while some were lower (Clearwater, Electronic Campus, Seminole).

Table 5
Classroom Performance in Subject Areas
Fall 2003

	Number of Enrollments	Percent Passed	Percent Withdrawn	Percent Failed
Computer Use	1,666	70.7%	23.6%	4.8%
Clearwater	575	70.7%	25.5%	2.6%
Electronic Campus	112	73.2%	17.9%	8.9%
Seminole	151	78.1%	21.2%	0.7%
St. Petersburg Gibbs	538	66.4%	27.9%	5.6%
Tarpon Springs	290	74.3%	15.1%	8.1%
Mathematics	3,965	71.2%	21.3%	7.1%
Clearwater	1,183	75.1%	20.8%	3.8%
Electronic Campus	522	53.0%	39.3%	6.5%
Open Campus	80	96.3%	2.5%	1.3%
Seminole	102	85.3%	13.7%	1.0%
St. Petersburg Gibbs	1,428	70.1%	19.8%	9.7%
Tarpon Springs	650	75.9%	14.4%	9.3%
Reading	324	87.6%	9.3%	0.6%
Clearwater	26	65.4%	30.8%	0.0%
Electronic Campus	29	65.5%	31.0%	0.0%
St. Petersburg Gibbs	77	89.5%	7.9%	2.6%
Tarpon Springs	192	93.2%	3.6%	0.0%
Speech	2,006	77.5%	15.4%	6.3%
Clearwater	582	81.6%	13.4%	4.0%
Electronic Campus	116	44.0%	50.0%	6.0%
Seminole	97	68.0%	27.8%	4.1%
St. Petersburg Gibbs	858	80.0%	11.8%	8.2%
Tarpon Springs	353	78.5%	12.5%	6.5%
Writing	5,136	72.2%	20.2%	6.5%
Clearwater	1,305	71.6%	19.4%	7.7%
Electronic Campus	629	65.0%	28.6%	5.7%
Open Campus	46	84.8%	10.9%	0.0%
Seminole	331	84.6%	9.4%	6.0%
St. Petersburg Gibbs	1,902	71.0%	22.0%	5.2%
Tarpon Springs	923	75.5%	15.9%	8.5%
Subject Total	13,097	72.9%	19.9%	6.3%
Clearwater	3,671	74.1%	19.9%	5.0%
Electronic Campus	1,408	59.5%	33.5%	6.2%
Open Campus	126	92.1%	5.6%	0.8%
Seminole	681	80.9%	15.3%	3.8%
St. Petersburg Gibbs	4,803	72.1%	20.0%	7.1%
Tarpon Springs	2,408	77.3%	13.9%	7.7%

In summary, the Fall 2003 collegewide college preparatory pass rate decreased considerably compared to previous years whereas the failing and showing progress rates increased. Although the number of students increased by twelve percent (11.8%) compared to the previous year, the collegewide pass, fail, and withdrawal rates remained relatively the same. Students in the 5 subject areas were slightly less successful when compared to all credit course work (72.9 vs. 76.6).