

RESEARCH BRIEF

INSTITUTIONAL AND PROGRAM PLANNING

VOLUME 7

NUMBER 3

NOVEMBER 1997

STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

The purpose of this brief is to update the status of the statewide accountability measures passed by the 1991 Florida Legislature and to compare SPJC'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. A Statewide Accountability Implementation Committee was convened to implement the necessary indicators and initiatives. 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.

During 1992, indicators to implement the measures were developed, timelines for the collection of data were established, draft reports were prepared, and an interim report was submitted to the Legislature. During 1993 the indicators were refined; institutions submitted college-specific accountability plans; and statewide accountability goals and benchmarks were established. These linked the accountability process with the Community College Master Plan; an overall strategy for oversight of accountability was established and a systemwide report was submitted to the Legislature. During 1994 each college submitted a plan showing its progress towards meeting the measures and a second systemwide report was submitted to the Legislature. Annually this process has been repeated; that is, the Division of Community Colleges generates data for each measure, the colleges review their own figures, and a statewide annual report is generated by the Division and submitted to the Legislature. The accountability outcome measures, the statewide benchmarks, SPJC's target, SPJC's current performance, and the current statewide performance are described below.

INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE

Outcome Measure 1: Enrollment/Retention/Success

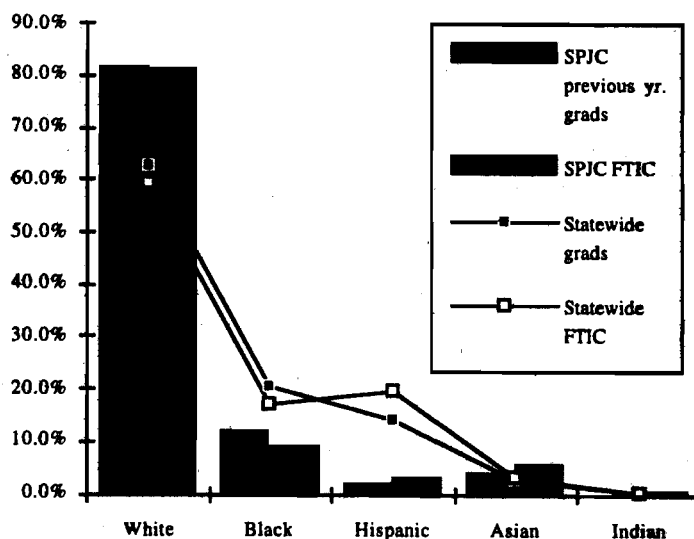
a. Enrollment

Measure--This measure addresses the percentage of high school graduates in one year from the college service area (Pinellas County) who enroll in the college (SPJC) 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.

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

SPJC Performance--The percentage of SPJC enrollees for three ethnic groups was greater than the prior year's graduates (Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian). For white and black students, the percentage of SPJC enrollees was less than the prior year Pinellas County high school graduates. This enrollment pattern was similar to the systemwide pattern. SPJC's black student enrollment of 28.3% is below the college's 35% target. However, the percent of enrollees to prior year graduates is greater for SPJC (37.4%) than the statewide average (32.2%) for all categories. The graph compares on the same axis the percentage of 1994-95 college enrollees to the previous year's high school graduates from Florida public schools by ethnicity. The bar graph shows SPJC's first-time-in-college students to Pinellas County graduates the previous year, the line graph compares the same information for all community college's compared to all county public high grads from the previous year.



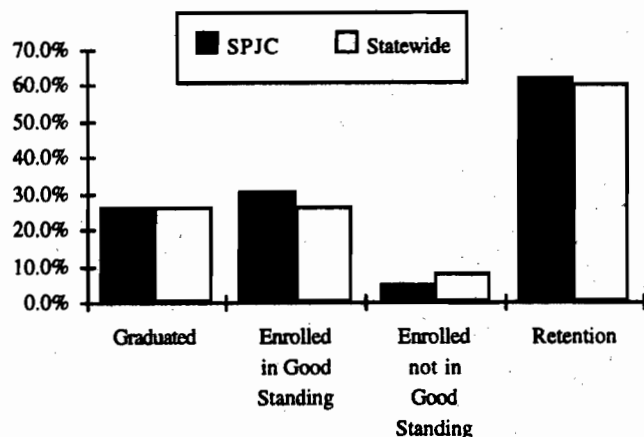
b. Retention

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.

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

SPJC Performance--State generated data shows 62.1% (833 AA/AS/PSVC students) of the Fall 1992 -- Spring 1996 cohort were "retained" (graduated or still enrolled) at SPJC. Systemwide the retention rate for this cohort was 60.4% (11,700 AA/AS/PSVC students). The graph compares the percentage of SPJC students who graduated or who are enrolled after four years from the initial enrollment to the Statewide comparable data.



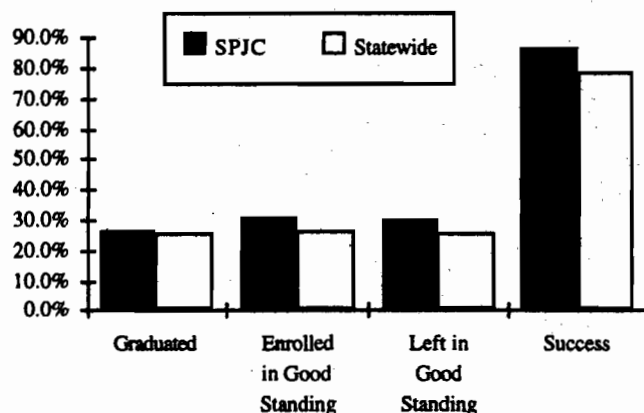
c. Success

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.

SPJC 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.

SPJC Performance--The graph compares the percentage of SPJC 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. SPJC's success rate of 86.9% for A.A./A.S. degree and PSV Certificate students is higher than the statewide average of 78.5%.



Outcome Measure 2:

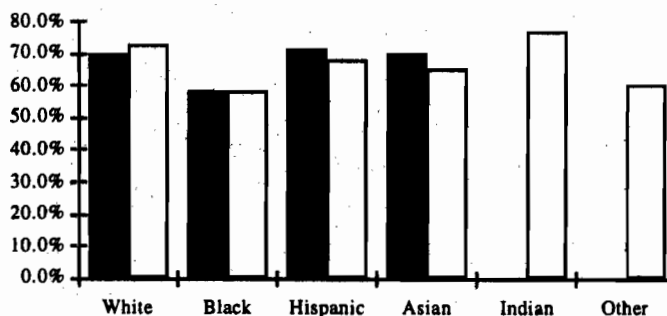
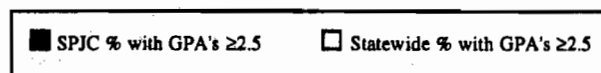
A. A. Degree Transfer Performance

Measure--Computed is the 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.

SPJC 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.

SPJC Performance--SPJC's mean GPA of students in the state universities of 2.81 is slightly less than the statewide GPA of 2.83. However, 70% of both SPJC and all Florida community college A.A. degree students who have transferred to state universities are performing at a GPA ≥ 2.5 . Moreover, 71.5% of those students who were not remediated at SPJC and 68.0% of those who were remediated have earned a GPA ≥ 2.5 . The graph compares the percentage of SPJC students transferring to the state universities in 1993-94, who earned a GPA of 2.5 or more to the statewide community college average by ethnic category.



Outcome Measure 3:

State Licensure Passing Rates/ Vocational Program Placements

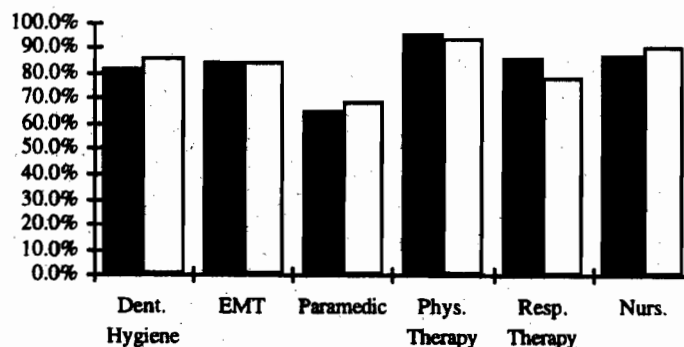
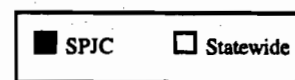
a. State Licensure Passing Rates

Measure--For those vocational programs that prepare students to sit for state licensure exams required for students to enter the profession, the number of students tested and the percent passing the examination are computed.

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

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

SPJC Performance--SPJC students perform well on state licensure examinations. The overall pass rate for 1994-95 was 84.5% and the pass rate for each exam was over 64%. The overall pass rate statewide for programs offered by SPJC was 85.4%; for all community college programs with licensure requirements the statewide pass rate was 86.5%. The graph compares SPJC passing rates to the statewide percentages in programs at the college.



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.

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

SPJC Performance--The standard rate has been 70% in each program compared to the new state benchmark of 90%. Statewide 1993-94 data shows that 91.8% of 611 SPJC students (who were found) were placed. This compares statewide to 87.4% who completed the same programs as offered by SPJC. Statewide in all programs offered at community colleges the placement rate was 83.2% student completers.

Outcome Measure 4: College Preparatory Success

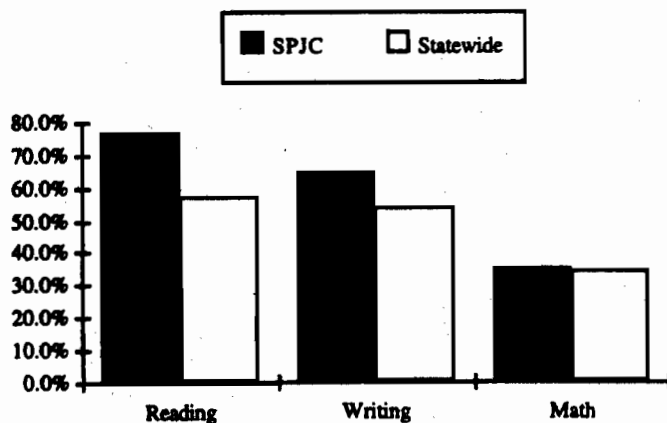
a. College Prep Course Success

Measure--This measure addresses 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%.

SPJC 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%.

SPJC Performance--For the Fall 1993 cohort, SPJC pass rates are reading 76.9%, writing 64.4% and math 34.8% which are higher in all subject areas than the statewide averages of reading 56.8%, writing 53.7% and math 34.5%. The graph compares the number of FTIC students in Fall 1993 taking a placement exam, and the number who failed, to the number enrolling in remedial courses and passing within two years, by subject area, for SPJC and statewide. The graph compares the percentage of SPJC students completing remedial course requirements to the statewide average by subject area for the Fall 1993 cohort tracked through Summer 1995.



b. Retention Rate of College Prep Students

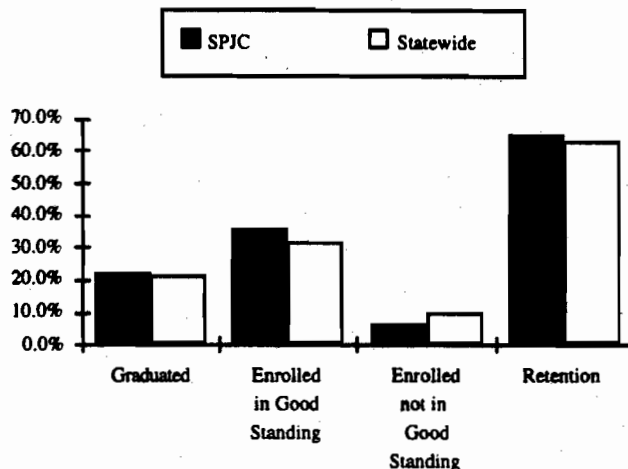
Measure--Described is the status of degree students who have completed their college preparatory requirements and who have

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.

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

SPJC Performance--Based on the Fall 1992 cohort, 64.8% of SPJC students were graduated or enrolled compared to 63.0% of statewide degree students. The graph compares the percentage of SPJC students who graduated or who are enrolled after four years from the initial enrollment to the statewide comparable data.



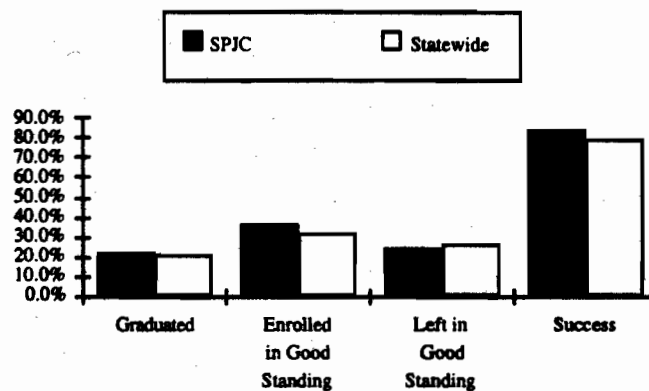
c. Success Rate of College Prep Students

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.

SPJC Target--To graduate, to have enrolled or left in good standing at least 75% of the degree students four years after the date of initial enrollment.

SPJC Performance--Based on the Fall 1992 cohort, 83.1% of SPJC students were graduated, enrolled or left in good standing compared to 79.3% of statewide degree students. The graph compares the percentage of SPJC students who graduated, are enrolled in good standing, or who left in good standing to the statewide comparable data.



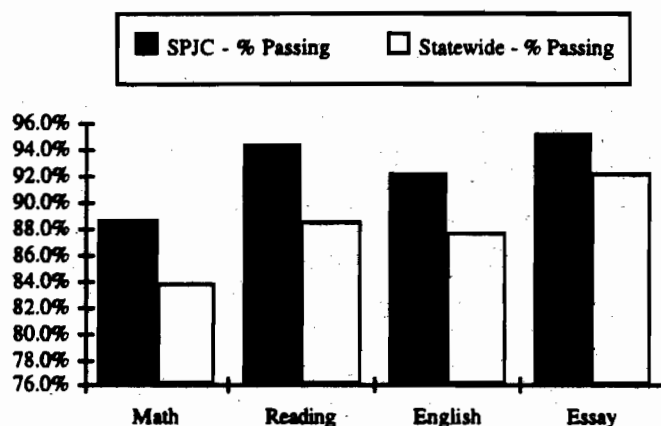
Outcome Measure 5: CLAST Performance

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.

SPJC Target--To have at least 85% of all students who have completed 60 credit hours pass all parts of CLAST, including 80% for college prep students and 90% for non-college prep students.

SPJC Performance--SPJC's overall passing rate for all four tests was 81.7%, including 74.6% of students with college prep work and 92.1% of students with no college prep work. This compares favorably to the statewide overall pass rate of 74.7%, including 62.1% of students with college prep work and 86.4% of students with no college prep work. The graph below compares SPJC's overall passing rates to the statewide percentages by subject area for 1994-95.



Summary

SPJC's current performance meets or exceeds the statewide performances for all accountability measures except A.A. degree transfers and for state licensing examination pass rates. The difference between the statewide average rate and SPJC's for A.A. degree transfers was exceptionally modest. While statewide 70.4% of the A.A. degree transfers earned GPA's greater than or equal to 2.50, 69.8% of SPJC transfers met that standard. The statewide average GPA was 2.83 compared to 2.81 earned by SPJC transfers. Similarly, while SPJC met its own target with respect to state licensing examination pass rates (85% overall pass rate), its overall pass rate was less than that of the statewide average.

Several areas of improvement have been realized over last year. These are in the areas of retention and success of students. For the cohorts of A.A./A.S. degree students whose fourth year of attendance at SPJC ended in Spring 1995, the retention rate (degree students graduated or still enrolled) was 59.6%; for the next year's cohort that percentage increased to 62.1%. For students who complete all college preparatory requirements and earned at least 18 college-level credits, the previous year's retention percentage was 62.8% compared to the Spring 1996 rate of 64.8%. For both groups of students, SPJC's retention rates were higher than the statewide average.

For the cohort of A.A./A.S. degree students whose fourth year of attendance at SPJC ended in Spring 1995, the success rate was 84.2% compared to 86.9% for the Spring 1996 cohort. For students who completed all college preparatory requirements and earned at least 18 college-level credits, the previous year's success percentage was 79.8% compared to the Spring 1996 rate of 83.1%. For both groups of students, SPJC's success rates were higher than the statewide average.

SPJC's program placement rates of A.S. degree and Vocational Certificate program completers continues to be higher than the statewide average for the third consecutive year and also has improved each year. For the 1993-94 graduates, the SPJC placement rate was 91.8%.

The success rate for students tested into college preparatory courses and who passed the highest level requirement by subject area within two years, was higher for SPJC students than the statewide average for reading, writing, and mathematics. Additionally, the reading pass rate of 76.9% was higher than either the statewide average of 65% or the SPJC target of 70%.