

Tri-County Technical College

Student Success Thresholds and Measures

As stated in its mission, Tri-County Technical College (TCTC) is focused on “providing students an exceptional and affordable learning experience that improves their quality of life.” To that end, the College has identified six core success criteria to measure student achievement. These success criteria are appropriate to Tri-County’s mission and provide relevant data to evaluate both TCTC’s progress toward achieving its mission as well as performance measures that determine the appropriation of South Carolina performance funding awards.

The success criteria were identified from measurement standards established by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) and from TCTC’s own strategic planning goals. The minimum thresholds are established each year by the College and by the South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS). The criteria include:

Success Criteria	Current Minimum Threshold	TCTC’s Current Rate	Met Target?
Graduate Placement Rate	80%	91%	Yes
Licensure Examination Pass Rate (overall pass rate on first-time licensure exams)	80%	87%	Yes
Fall to Spring Persistence Rate	71%	81%	Yes
Graduate Production Rate	20%	44%	Yes
Student Success Rate	49%	69%	Yes
National Student Clearinghouse Total Completion Rate	Meet or exceed National Benchmark (41%)	56%	Yes

Graduate Placement Rate

The graduate placement rate is the percentage of graduates who are placed in a job related to their field of education or who are continuing their education at a four-year institution. For the past five years, TCTC has exceeded the minimum threshold for the graduate placement rate. TCTC’s five-year average placement rate is 93%, and its current placement rate is 91%. Furthermore, TCTC consistently meets or exceeds the System average graduation rate.

Cohort	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
TCTC Placement Rate	92%	94%	93%	93%	91%
Minimum Threshold	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
System Average	90%	90%	91%	90%	91%

Data Source: Graduate placement rates come from the South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) which calculates the rates from data provided in the Program Evaluation System (PEMS).

More detailed data on TCTC's graduate placement rates, including rates by academic program, can be found on the [Placement](#) page on the Institutional Research website.

Licensure Examination Pass Rate

The licensure examination pass rate is the overall pass rate by first-time exam takers. For the past five years, TCTC has exceeded the minimum threshold for the licensure examination pass rate. TCTC's five-year pass rate is 87%, and its current pass rate is 87%.

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
TCTC Pass Rate	84%	89%	86%	87%	87%
Minimum Threshold	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
System Average	89%	88%	87%	87%	85%

Data Source: Licensure examination pass rates come from the South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) which calculates the rates from data provided in the CHE Licensure Exam report.

Licensure exam pass rates for the specific programs and their associated examinations can be found on the [Licensure Examination Pass Rate](#) page on the Institutional Research website.

Fall to Spring Persistence Rate

The fall to spring persistence rate is the percentage of students enrolled in the fall semester who remained enrolled the following spring semester. SCTCS adopted the National Community College Benchmark Project (NCCBP) definition of persistence which excludes high school students and adjusts the initial fall cohort to remove students who graduated at the end of the fall semester. TCTC consistently exceeds both the minimum threshold for the fall to spring persistence rate and the System average. TCTC's five-year average persistence rate is 79%, and its current persistence rate is 81%.

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
TCTC Persistence Rate	78%	77%	79%	80%	81%
Minimum Threshold	71%	71%	71%	71%	71%
System Average	72%	72%	74%	72%	73%

Data Source: Fall data is from the CERS closing extract, spring data is from the CERS opening extract, and graduate data is from the CERS graduate extract. High school (dual enrollment students) are excluded from the calculation.

More detailed data on TCTC's retention and persistence rates can be found on the [Retention and Persistence](#) page on the Institutional Research website.

Graduate Production Rate

The graduate production rate is calculated by dividing the total number of unduplicated graduates during an academic year by the fall full-time equivalent (FTE). TCTC has exceeded both the minimum threshold for the graduate production rate and the System average over the last five years. TCTC's five-year average graduate production rate is 42%, and its current graduation production rate is 44%.

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
TCTC Graduate Production Rate	38%	42%	38%	48%	44%
Minimum Threshold	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
System Average	27%	29%	29%	32%	32%

Data Source: Unduplicated graduate headcounts come from the CERS graduate extracts which cover the July – June award dates, and fall data comes from the CERS opening FTE data.

More detailed data on TCTC graduates and awards can be found on the [Awards](#) page on the Institution Research website. Additionally, fall headcount and FTE enrollment data can be found on the [Fall Enrollment](#) page.

Student Success Rate

The student success rate is a cohort-based measurement that calculates the percentage of a given cohort who graduate, transfer to another post-secondary institution, or remain enrolled after three years from their initial first-time postsecondary enrollment. TCTC consistently exceeds the minimum threshold target for student success rate. TCTC's five-year average success rate is 68%, and its current success rate is 69%. Additionally, TCTC consistently exceeds the System average success rate.

Cohort	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TCTC Success Rate	64%	71%	70%	68%	69%
Minimum Threshold	39%	39%	39%	49%	49%
System Average	43%	46%	47%	45%	44%

Data Source: The cohorts of first-time freshmen, certificate, diploma, or degree-seeking students are established using the CERS opening extracts. Graduates are obtained from CERS graduate extracts, and students who are still enrolled are identified with fall CERS opening extracts. Transfer students are identified using data from the National Student Clearinghouse.

More detailed data on TCTC's student success rates, including disaggregated success rates by student demographic groups, can be found on the [Graduation and Success](#) page on the Institutional Research website.

National Student Clearinghouse Total Completion Rate

The National Student Clearinghouse Total Complete Rate is based upon the cohort of first-time degree-seeking students who began their postsecondary studies during the fall term of the cohort year. The cohort includes both full-time and part-time students and excludes dual enrolled high school students. The cohort is followed through June 30th of the sixth academic year and highlights six-year outcomes, including degree and certificate completion and continued enrollment (persistence). For the last two cohort years, For the last two cohort years, TCTC's overall six-year completion rate has exceeded the national benchmark for two-year institutions by more than 10 percentage points.

Cohort	Fall 2012	Fall 2013
TCTC Overall Total Completion Rate	50.96%	55.59%
Minimum Threshold	*Meet or exceed National Benchmark	*Meet or exceed National Benchmark
National Benchmark Overall Total Completion Rate for Two-Year Institutions	39.22%	40.76%

Data Source: The Total Completion Rate data comes from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center in their StudentTracker Postsecondary Completions Institutional Benchmark Report. As stated in the report, National Student Clearinghouse draws their data from the Enrollment Reporting and DegreeVerify services of the National Student Clearinghouse.

More detailed data on TCTC's total completion rates, including the full National Student Clearinghouse Completions Benchmark Reports and disaggregated total completion rates by student demographic groups, can be found on the [SACSCOC Student Achievement Data](#) page on the Institutional Research website.