

# The Florida College System Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance

## What are the Retention, Advancement, and Graduation Rates of FCS Baccalaureate Programs?

In 2001, St. Petersburg College was the first college in the Florida College System (FCS) that was authorized to offer baccalaureate degrees. The latest data show that 24 colleges and 175 programs are offered by FCS institutions. In 2012-13, there were 30,515 students enrolled and 5,009 graduates – both represent all time high figures since baccalaureates were first offered by FCS institutions. Enrollments and completions continue to grow each year.

Beginning in 2009, accountability reports for FCS baccalaureate programs were produced to track retention, success, and graduation rates by cohort. These students are tracked for four years beginning in the fall term of entry. Students who enter FCS baccalaureate programs should have earned an Associate in Arts (AA) degree, Associate in Science (AS) degree, or 60 college credit hours, so the fall term of entry reflects the point at which the student enters a baccalaureate program to complete the remaining 60 hours of upper division credits toward the baccalaureate degree. Table 1 contains the retention and advancement rates from reporting years 2009 through 2013 by full-time and part-time attendance. For the 2013 tracking period (fall 2009-10 to spring 2012-13), approximately two-thirds of the baccalaureate students were retained (64.0 percent). The latest available data show retention rates for full-time students (82.3 percent) outpaces retention among part-time students (55.3 percent). Over the last 5 cohorts the gap in retention between full-time and part-time students has expanded from 17.5 percent for the 2009 group to 27.0 percent for the 2013 cohort. Advancement rates have been consistently high over the years. For the 2013 period, 97.8 percent of students in the accountability cohort graduated at the end of the tracking period, were still enrolled in good standing, left in good standing, or transferred to another four year institution.

**Table 1. Florida College System Baccalaureate Retention and Advancement Rates**

Tracking Period for Retention	Full- or Part-Time	FA2005-06 to SP2008-09	FA2006-07 to SP2009-10	FA2007-08 to SP2010-11	FA2008-09 to SP2011-12	FA2009-10 to SP2012-13
<b>Retention Rates</b> (Graduated + Still Enrolled - All)	FT	77.8%	83.3%	83.3%	86.0%	82.3%
	PT	60.3%	60.1%	58.2%	58.6%	55.3%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>67.4%</b>	<b>66.9%</b>	<b>65.6%</b>	<b>67.0%</b>	<b>64.0%</b>
Tracking Period for Advancement	Full- or Part-Time	FA05-06 to SP08-09	FA06-07 to SP09-10	FA07-08 to SP10-11	FA2008-09 to SP2011-12	FA2009-10 to SP2012-13
<b>Advancement Rates</b> (Graduated + Still Enrolled in Good Standing + Left in Good Standing + Transferred)	FT	99.6%	100.0%	99.5%	98.9%	98.8%
	PT	99.5%	98.2%	98.4%	98.7%	97.4%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>99.5%</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>98.7%</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>97.8%</b>

Source: Community College Technical Center MIS and Florida College System Research & Analytics. Note: Fall = FA, Spring = SP

Table 2 shows the graduation rates of baccalaureate students. Graduation rates are tracked through summer of year four. For 2013, overall 44.7 percent of students graduated by the end of the tracking period. For the last four years full-time student graduation rates have been over twice as high as the rates attained by students who enrolled on a part-time basis (70.7 percent FT vs. 32.5 percent PT for 2013). The gap in graduation rates between full-time and part-time student cohorts in the latest data narrowed slightly and remains substantial.

**Table 2. Florida College System Baccalaureate Graduation Rates**

Tracking Period for Graduation	Full- or Part-Time	FA05-06 to SU2009-10	FA06-07 to SU2010-11	FA07-08 to SU2011-12	FA2008-09 to SU2012-13	FA2009-10 to SU2013-14
<b>Graduation Rates</b>	FT	65.4%	73.4%	73.9%	76.2%	70.7%
	PT	34.5%	35.6%	35.1%	33.6%	32.5%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>46.6%</b>	<b>46.6%</b>	<b>44.7%</b>

Source: Community College Technical Center MIS and Florida College System Research & Analytics. Note: Fall = FA, Summer = SU.

The FCS offers an affordable pathway to a variety of baccalaureate programs that meet regional workforce needs. Please visit the following [webpage](#) for more information on FCS baccalaureate programs at a [college](#) near you.

For assistance, contact The Florida College System Research & Analytics  
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