

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AT SWCC

Southwestern Christian College evaluates success with respect to student achievement consistent with its mission. The Mission of the college is “to offer to its students a holistic education program that motivates students to value and achieve academic excellence; to assist students in preparation for varied vocations in life, and to prepare future leaders for their distinct communities and the world at large.”

Student achievement is assessed at many points along the path toward degree completion. A study of the results of these assessments provide institution planners with a set of indicators and predictors to map and track students along a trajectory that leads to long-term and transferable success. Early alert assessments, administered the 4<sup>th</sup> week of each term from each academic division, identify students who need remediation and who are subsequently referred to the Scholars Lab, a component of the Center for Student Success (CSS). The CSS provides academic support services via supplemental instruction, peer tutoring, counseling and guidance. Faculty reports significant improvement in subsequent assessments for students engaged in CSS activities.

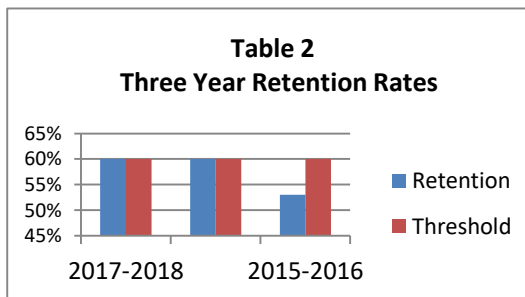
Methods of evaluating Student Achievement include the following:

- Retention Rates
- Graduation Rates
- Course Completion Percentages & GPA

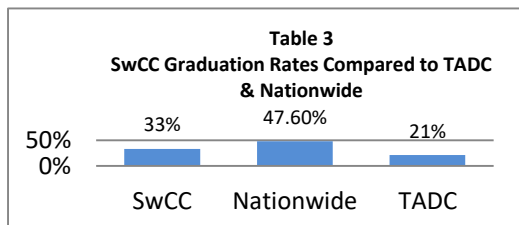
**The Retention rate** is a standard predictor of student success. It indicates the steady progression of the student in the realization of their educational objective. The National Average Retention Rate for Two-Year Non Profit Schools with open admissions is from 62% to 64%. The Texas Association of Developing Colleges reports an average Retention Rate of 53%. As an Open Access institution, SwCC admits and serves students who often come with a lack of adequate academic preparation for college level course work. Seventy-five percent to eighty percent of First-time, Full-time students who have enrolled the fall term for the most recent three years have required remediation in at least one Basic Studies Class. Additionally, students often respond to the challenges they face in navigating the college experience by “stopping out” as opposed to actually “dropping out”. Many return to the College and successfully complete their degrees. With sensitivity to this population the college has chosen a 65% Retention Rate as its **Target** which is appropriate for its Mission.

Metric	Threshold	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016
Retention Rate	60%	60%	60%	53%

### Post-Secondary Interactive System (IPEDS)



**The Graduation Rate** for SwCC is comparable to member institutions of the Texas Association of Developing Colleges, a consortium of HBCU’s in the state of TX. (TADC) which is 21%. Nationwide, the average graduation rate for 1<sup>st</sup> time undergraduates attending classes full-time is: 33.4% after 4 years, 47.6% after six years, and 49.2% after eight years. SwCC’s Average Graduation Rate is 32%. Target 47%, Threshold 32%. (Source of Data: IPEDS Navigator & Academic Research Office.)



**Course Completion Rates** embody the concept of Persistence which is a requirement for academic success at all levels. Southwestern Christian College defines “success” as a steady progression toward a worthwhile goal. Accordingly, monitoring course completion each term is consistent with the Mission of the college to “motivate students to value and achieve academic excellence. Moreover, course grades of “C” or better indicate that the achievement of core competencies have been met and have prepared students to transition to higher education, to assist students in preparation for varied vocations in life, and to prepare future leaders for their distinct communities and the world at large.

Course Completion & Grade Point Average by Divisions				
Academic Division	Target	2017-2018 % Course Comp => "C" GPA	2016-2017 % Course Comp => "C" GPA	2015-2016 % Course Comp => "C" GPA
<b>Bible &amp; Religious Studies</b>	70% 2.00	75% 2.78	73% 2.33	76% 2.66
<b>Business &amp; Vocational</b>	70% 2.2	70% 2.50	59% 2.24	75% 2.5
<b>Natural Science, Math, &amp; Computer Science</b>	70% 2.2	92% 2.85	47% 2.80	92% 2.98
<b>Humanities &amp; Fine Arts</b>	70% 2.5	69% 2.73	84% 3.39	80% 2.75
<b>Social Science</b>	70% 2.50	65% 2.45	63% 2.53	80% 2.46
<b>Basic Studies</b>	70% 2.00	62% 2.45	57% 2.00	75% 2.65

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN FRESHMEN GATEKEEPING COURSES % of Students with Grades => "C"		
Academic Year	Math135, College Algebra	Eng131, Composition & Rhetoric
AY 2017-2018	87%	96%
AY 2016-2017	96%	100%
AY 2015-2016	69%	90%
AY 2014-2015	72%	73%
Source of Data: Academic Affairs Office (Grade Point Average)		

### Use of Student Achievement Data

The institution uses student achievement data to inform the academic community and provide evidence to support decisions required to make changes and modifications in curriculum, teaching/learning strategies, resource development, staff development, and all phases of student support services.

Among the most recent changes and modifications made to improve student achievement as a result of assessment findings include:

- Implementing an "Early Alert" assessment and advisement program.  
During the 4<sup>th</sup> week of instruction of each semester all students are assessed in all classes to identify strengths and weaknesses in achieving learning outcomes. Students are advised and referred to early interventions based upon performance. Advanced students are identified and advised in ways to further enhance their collegiate experience.
- A new professor with a Ph.D. in English was hired in the Basic Studies Division who has done extensive research in the area of developmental education and has taught developmental courses with success for over twenty years.
- Program and services in the Learning Resource Center and Scholars Lab has been augmented to include self-help computer assisted modules on common topics requiring remediation.
- In the 2017-2018 Academic Year an Integrated Reading & Writing course was developed to replace two separate Reading & Writing classes. The integration has proven to be successful and has reduced the time students take to begin college-level work in English.
- An additional layer of support is provided through the Office of Financial Aid which is responsible for monitoring Satisfactory Academic Progress each semester. The Financial Aid Office counsels all financial aid recipients and issues warnings with corrective actions to be taken as appropriate.

Student Achievement metrics are published under Right-To-Know information on the Institutional Effectiveness page and the Financial Aid page of the college **website:** [www.swcc.edu](http://www.swcc.edu)