

**SUMMARY**  
**MAJORS AND CONCENTRATIONS**

College:	Technical College of the Lowcountry
Component Assessed:	Office of Research and Institutional Effectiveness
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**Section 2: Statement of the Program/Service Being Assessed**

The Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) currently offers 13 associate degrees in the four divisions of the college. In the Arts and Science Division there are 3; Allied Health Sciences 2; Business Technologies 5; and in Industrial Technology there are 3 degrees.

**Section 3: Description of the Program/Service Being Assessed**

The 3 degrees in the Arts and Sciences Division are the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science and Associate of Early Care and Education. The programs of study for the Associate of Arts and Science include the following transfer blocks:

- I. Associate of Arts
  - Associate in Arts - Humanities, Social Sciences
  - Associate in Arts - Early Childhood, Elementary Education
  - Associate in Arts - General Education & Business
- II. Associate of Science
  - Associate in Science - Engineering
  - Associate in Science - Science & Mathematics

The 2 degrees in Allied Health Science are: Associate Degree in Nursing and Radiologic Technology. The 5 degrees of Business Technology are: General Business, Office Systems Technology, Computer Technology, Criminal Justice and Paralegal. The 3 Industrial Technology degrees are: Civil Engineering Technology, Industrial Electronic Technology and General Technology.

Currently, TCL offers 26 certificates and 4 diplomas. For the 2005-2006 academic year, 14 new certificates were added to respond to the industry needs of the 4 county service area.

**Section 4: Description of Current Assessment Studies**

Each academic year TCL compiles a program evaluation report for the South Carolina Technical College System. Annually each program produces an Institutional Effectiveness Report, which includes the mission of the program, the description of each program, current assessment studies, major outcomes, and an action plan to implement the following year. In addition accreditations, enrollment, graduation and awards, and grade reports are compiled by the Office of Research and Institutional Effectiveness each term and analyzed by the Assessment and Evaluation Committee and Academic Affairs.

To assess the performance of the associate degree students the Technical College of the Lowcountry has instituted a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) which defines a set of institutional competencies for all associate degree graduates. These are as follows: 1) proficiency in the basic academic skills of reading, writing, oral communication, fundamental mathematical skills, and basic computer skills; 2) proficiency in problem solving and critical thinking; 3) the ability to acquire and use information; and 4) the ability to work with a variety of computer technologies.

### **Section 5: Major Findings of the Current Assessment Studies and Program/Service Changes Resulting from Assessment Outcomes**

The Program Evaluation data reveal that all established programs met standards established by the South Carolina Technical System for enrollment, graduation and job placement. All of these programs receive a “Good” status. The Associate of Arts and Associate of Science received a “Good-Excellent” status.

The Building Construction Technology Degree, has been suspended and is now a certificate program. Two recently established programs, Civil Engineering Technology and Early Care and Education have no graduates yet and were not evaluated. A Physical Therapy Assistant, Massage Therapy and Surgical Technology programs were initiated this year.

The spring 2006, trained volunteers from faculty and administrative staff assessed student work as a part of the Quality Enhancement Plan. Eighty-five percent of the writing samples met the reading/writing standard and fifteen percent failed to meet the standard. The assessment results from 89 different writing samples had a mean of 46.98. In the spring of 2006 the WorkKeys was administered for mathematics assessment. Fifty-nine students currently enrolled in MAT 110 or MAT 120 classes were tested. The anticipated mean score for the assessment was 4.25, the overall average for this group was a 5.3. Analysis of computer skills will be added during the Spring 2007 term.

There were 157 Associate Degrees awarded during the 2004-05 academic year in Allied Health Science, Associate of Arts and Sciences, Business Technologies and Industrial Technology. In addition a total of 131 certificates and 35 diplomas were awarded in the four academic divisions.

Job placement has been evaluated using the ETRACK system of the South Carolina Employment Securities Commission. ETRACK reports earnings of individuals each quarter. Of the 157 graduates in the 2005-2006 academic year, 47 were working in South Carolina by the fourth quarter of 2005, before their graduation. Using student survey data we found that the following 3 programs had 100% placement in the workplace: General Technology, Office Systems Technology and Nursing.

### **Section 6: Conclusion**

Goals that direct the Strategic Plan are developed with the TCL Commission and the Vice Presidents. Objectives from these goals that form the Strategic Plan are created through processes that include: a retreat with the faculty and staff and analysis of the previous year expected outcomes. Division Deans meet weekly with the Vice President of Academic Affairs and with the division department heads to implement the Strategic Plan. Institutional Effectiveness reports analyze the results of the implementation and suggest strategies to improve each service area of

the college. TCL continues to refine the planning and assessment process with the ultimate goal of improving the learning environment to better serve our students.

Information relating to accrediting agencies and academic programs may be found on the TCL web site at <http://www.tcl.edu/accreditation.asp>. Institutional Effectiveness reports from each program may also be located on the TCL web site at the following address: <http://www.tcl.edu/officialReports.asp>.