

Achievement of Students Transferring From Two-Year to Four- Institutions

Section 1: Background

College: Technical College of the Lowcountry

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Section 2: Mission Statement of the Program/Service Being Assessed

A key mission of the Technical College of the Lowcountry is to prepare graduates with knowledge and skills for transfer to senior colleges and universities. All courses required for the two year Associate Degree in Arts or Sciences may be transferred to any four year public college or university in South Carolina.

Section 3: Description of the Program/Service Being Assessed

The Statewide Articulation Agreement approved 86 courses for transfer within the South Carolina system with hours portioned to the various divisions as outlined in Table 1.

Division	Semester Hours
Arts, Humanities and Social Science	46 – 48
Business Administration	46 – 51
Engineering	33
Science and Mathematics	51 – 53
Teacher Education	38 – 39
Nursing	60

In addition, the Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) has articulation agreements with nine private colleges or universities in South Carolina and 14 out-of-state four year institutions.

Transfer blocks are designed to facilitate the student as they select a program of study. Transfer blocks included in the Associate of Arts degree are: *Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; General Education and Business; Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Education*. Included under the umbrella of the Associate of Science degree are transfer blocks for *Science and Math and Engineering*.

Section 4: Description of Current Assessment Studies

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), implemented in 2004, analyzes achievement each year of students enrolled in Associate Degree programs by assessing the skill level of associate degree students. One rationale of the QEP is to assure success for students who transfer. The assessment is conducted by trained volunteers from the faculty and administrative staff.

The Technical College of the Lowcountry tracks transfer activity for each fall cohort using information from each SC college and university as well as the National Student Clearinghouse. We also analyze data received from the senior institutions in South Carolina.

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

Over the last four years students from the Technical College of the Lowcountry transferred to institutions nearby with the greatest percentages selecting USC Beaufort, followed by USC Salkehatchie and the College of Charleston. Table 5 in the Appendix compares the destinations and number of students who transferred to South Carolina schools over the last four years.

The number of students who transfer to senior institutions each Fall has remained approximately 1.8% of the total enrollment for the previous spring over the last four years. The Fall 2003 semester had the highest total (40) of transfers, primarily because of the high number of students who transferred to private schools that year (11).

For Fall 2005 a total of 44 students applied to 6 public colleges and universities in South Carolina, of which 22 were enrolled. Table 2 outlines the number of students who transferred to senior institutions in Fall 2005.

Table 2. First-Time Fall 2005 Applications, Acceptances and Enrollments To SC Public Four Year Institutions							
	Total	Total # Accepted	Total # Rejected	# Incomplete	Total Students Enrolled	% Applied Enrolled	% Accepted who Enrolled
College of Charleston	3	3			3	100.00%	100.00%
SC State University	2	2	0	0	2	100.00%	100.00%
USC Beaufort	31	27		4	12	38.71%	44.40%
USC Columbia	7	4	1	2	1	14.29%	25.00%
Clemson	1	1	0	0	1	100.00%	100.00%
Medical Univ. of SC*					3		
Total	44	37	1	6	22	50.00%	59.50%

* Additional Data not available.

Demographic data indicate that the greatest percentage of transfer students was non-white females (31.8%), which correspond to 32.6% of the total enrollment the previous spring who were non-white females. However, the next highest demographic of transfer students was white males (27.3%). White males comprised only 16.5% of the student body the previous Spring. Table 3 illustrates the gender and racial breakdown of students who transferred from TCL to Public Senior Institutions.

	Non-White		White		Unknown	Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Clemson University			1			1
College of Charleston		1	1	1		3
SC State University		2				2
Medical University of SC					3	3
USC Beaufort	1	3	4	3	1	12
USC Columbia		1				1
Total	1	7	6	4	4	22
Percent of Total	4.5%	31.8%	27.3%	18.2%	18.2%	100.0%

The Quality Enhancement Plan assessment found that 85% of students met the reading/writing standard set by TCL, which predicts success for students who transfer to senior institutions.

TCL measures the success of students who transfer to in-state institutions through the review of data provided by the SC State Technical System. GPA is available for all institutions except the Medical University of South Carolina. TCL students did well with an average GPA of .17 points higher than students who began as first time freshmen in each college or university. Table 4 lists the average GPA of TCL students at each institution compared to the average GPA of freshmen and each institution.

	Number of TCL Students	Mean GPA of TCL Students	Freshmen in the Senior Institution	Mean GPA of Senior Institution Freshmen	Difference
Clemson	1	3.08	13223	2.88	0.2
C of Charleston	3	2.38	6621	2.97	-0.59
SC State	2	2.40	2804	2.45	-0.05
USC-B	12	3.03	1032	2.75	0.28
USC-C	1	3.89	16421	2.88	1.01
Average	19	2.96	40101	2.79	0.17

Section 6. Action Plan Objectives/Planning Initiatives Derived from Current Study

TCL will continue to analyze student learning with the addition of mathematics and computer literacy assessment via the Quality Enhancement Plan. In addition, TCL will utilize data from the SC public and private institutions and the National Student Clearinghouse.

TCL remains dedicated to the mission of preparing students to achieve success as they transfer to four year colleges and universities. Through the Quality Enhancement Plan, the articulation agreements with senior four-year colleges and universities and the commitment to excellence in education, TCL will continue to prepare students to continue their education and success as they transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Section 7. Appendix

Table 5. Comparison of Students who Transferred								
Institution	2002		2003		2004		2005	
Clemson							1	4%
College of Charleston	1	4%	3	10%			3	11%
Coastal Carolina			1	3%	1	3%		
Medical Univ. of SC			2	7%	1	3%	3	11%
SC State University					2	5%	2	7%
The Citadel			1	3%				
USC Aiken	1	4%	1	3%				
USC Beaufort	19	70%	13	43%	14	35%	12	43%
USC Columbia			1	3%	1	3%	1	4%
USC Spartanburg	1	4%						
USC Salkehatchie	4	15%	5	17%	7	18%	4	14%
Winthrop					3	8%		
Subtotal SC Public	26	96%	27	90%	29	73%	26	93%
Benedict	1	4%			1	3%		
Clafin					1	3%		
Limestone			3	10%	2	5%	1	4%
Newberry					3	8%		
South University					2	5%	1	4%
Spartanburg Methodist					1	3%		
Vorhees					1	3%		
Subtotal SC Private	1	4%	3	10%	11	28%	2	7%
Out of State								
Total	27	100%	30	100%	40	100%	28	100%