

## DATA DEFINITIONS

### The Basics for a Common Understanding

#### Characteristics:

- Roughly 54,000 students in fall 2019
- Roughly 4,000 to 5,000 First time in College, whom are degree seeking

#### Typically:

- Fall-to-Fall retention is around 55%
- Fall-to-Spring retention is around 72%
- Course completion ('A','B','C') is around 70%
- 4-year graduation rate 16% for most recent cohort (2015FL)

#### The Average New Student:

- About six to seven new students out of 10 (60%-70%) are in need of developmental education in at least one area
- About 60% to 70% of students are part time

## COMMON DEFINITIONS

**Cohort:** A group of people who share a defining characteristic, typically who experienced a common event in a selected period, such as first time enrollment in college in the same semester. Think of everyone starting a foot race at the same time.

**FTIC (First time in college):** This student has not been enrolled in college before as a college student. They are not transfer students. They are not audit-only students and CURRENT Dual-credit students are not part of the FTIC group and have never been counted as FTIC.

Dual credit students are first and foremost High School students and high school is their "Home."

Once a dual credit student completes high school they can enroll at TCCD and they would be counted as a FTIC student at TCCD. Then they would be first time in college because they had never been enrolled as a college student.

**FTIC Degree-Seeking:** Indicates a new First Time in College (FTIC) student who is credential/degree-seeking at TCCD.

**Why use FTIC Degree-Seeking as the cohort to track?**

- FTIC Degree Seeking students start new at TCCD. They intend to complete at TCCD. We have a closed loop that is measurable.
- **Example:** a FTIC student whose stated intent is to transfer to another institution would not be included in determining retention or graduation rates because they can transfer at any time and they never intend to get a degree at TCCD.

**Acceptance rate (*applied vs admitted*)**

- 100%. TCCD is an open enrollment institution. Everyone who applies is accepted.

**Head Count (HC):** Head Count can be duplicated or unduplicated.

- **Example:** there are about 54,000 students at TCCD. This is a unique headcount. One student can be in five (5) classes. If one is counting enrollments then there are five enrollments. This is a duplicated headcount.

**Full-Time Student:** At TCCD, any student who is enrolled in 12 or more semester credit hours (SCH) is considered full-time. Some state and federal agencies define FTE as 15 SCH a semester.

**Full-time Equivalent (FTE):** May be calculated at FTE 12 or FTE 15. This is calculated by dividing a student's SCH for the term by 12 or 15 depending on the definition of full-time (12 or 15 SCH).

**Who uses FTE?** It is useful for determining needed resources.

- **Example:** there are 2000 students enrolled in a school and half (1,000) take exactly 12 hours but half (1,000) only take 6 hours. The FTE of this college enrollment is  $1,000 + 500$  or 1,500. If all the students were full-time FTE would equal 2,000. Based on FTE the college could determine that more or fewer resources are needed where just looking at enrollment (N=2,000) might not tell an administrator that information.

**TSI Complete/Developmental Need.** While TCCD offers open enrollment to everyone, TCCD and the State of Texas have placement tests to see how college ready students are in the areas of reading, writing, and math.

- 60-70% of new TCCD students come to us with developmental needs in at least one of these three areas.
- Developmental courses do **not** count towards a degree program but are prerequisites before a student can take a college-level or Gateway course.
- Students can be required to take Adult Basic Education and two levels of developmental courses before they are considered college-ready in a particular area (i.e. math).

- TCCD does not use or require the SAT/ACT.

**Grade Point Average (GPA):** a scale from 0 to 4.0

**GPA** calculation is based on credit courses. Developmental course grades are not part of GPA calculation.

- **Example:** a student took three developmental courses and a regular credit course. The student failed all three developmental courses and got an 'A' in the credit course. The student will probably receive a letter congratulating them for being on the Dean's list.

**Course Success Defined as 'A', 'B' or 'C':** When looking at course success, it is defined as receiving a grade of 'A', 'B' or 'C'.

- Technically the grade of 'D' is failing in a developmental course and a grade of 'D' is passing in a credit course, but a grade of 'D' will not transfer.
- **Consideration:** if a student had passing grades of all 'D's, they would not be in good academic standing.

**Good Academic Standing:** A student is in good academic standing if they have a GPA of 2.0 or above. This equates to an overall 'C' average or higher.

- **Consideration:** a student can be in good standing, have a 2.0 GPA yet not qualify to graduate from their program because the program requires a minimum 2.50 GPA to earn that degree.

**Retention & Persistence:** These words are sometimes treated as though they mean two different things, but they do not.

- **Consideration:** Fall-to-Fall Persistence is the same as Fall-to-Fall Retention.
- **Remember:** Students persist and colleges retain.

**Academic Year:** Fall of the previous year and the next spring and summer terms.

- **Example:** Academic Year 2013-14 (AY 2013-14) = Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Summer 2014.
- **Remember:** the summer term is part of the academic year.

**Associate's degrees are two-year programs requiring 60 SCH to complete.**

- **Consideration:** a graduation rate is typically measured at 200% or 4 years. **Why?** Most students do not realistically graduate in four years, even full-time students.
- **Example:** Full-Time is defined as being enrolled in at least 12 SCH a term. Most full-time students do 12 SCH a term but generally do not attend summer courses. Twelve (12) SCH a semester is 24 SCH a year, assuming all courses are passed and there is no developmental need. At the end of two years, a full-time student has earned 48 hours. Most full-time

students do not take the 15 SCH a term required to complete a two-year degree in two-years. Most students start in Dev Ed. Many do not pass all their classes.