

ARCC 2011 Report: College Level Indicators Self-Assessment

Mission College

West Valley-Mission Community College District

College Self-Assessment / Response

Located in the city of Santa Clara, Mission College serves the heart of Silicon Valley. Situated off the 101 corridor linking San Jose and San Francisco, Mission College not only serves the Western part of Santa Clara County, but also students from across the Valley. Mission College enjoys a diverse student body representative of its location, with over 60% of students with known ethnicity composed of under-represented groups. Mission College students also embody a broad spectrum of ages, with over 62% of students entering at the age of 25 or older, and over 16% entering at over the age of 49. Students under the age of 25, however, have been increasing relative to other ages, increasing by 5.1% in 2009-10 compared to the prior year.

Although the unduplicated count of students had been increasing in prior years, the total number of students decreased by 899 students in 2009-10. This may be due in part to a somewhat accelerated economic rebound in Silicon Valley compared to other regions within the state. Even as the unduplicated count of students decreased, however, the count of Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) increased by 54 FTES. Students are increasingly likely to carry a full-time load (up 8% compared to two years ago) and daytime classes now make up 62% of total enrollment compared to 33% in the evening—a significant shift for this historically evening-centered campus.

A review of Mission's college level performance indicators indicates both areas of strength and areas for improvement. On the positive side, the Student Progress and Achievement Rate has consistently increased over recent years, increasing by 5% relative to two years ago and representing the peer group high. Similarly, the percent of students earning at least 30 units shows a two-year increase of 9%, close to the peer group high.

The remaining indicators remained relatively steady or showed modest increases. Three indicators are a focus as each were below the peer group average: Persistence Rate, Improvement Rate for Credit Basic Skills Courses, and Improvement Rate for Credit ESL Courses.

Addressing the possible factors which contribute to student persistence, the College recently created a new Welcome Center and Student Ambassador program designed to assist students in navigating student services. During peak times, the Welcome Center serves as a "triage point" to get students the help they need. Additionally, the College has initiated K-16 Bridge programs and a new Summer Bridge program for first-time students, which includes a college survival course, as well as math and reading fundamentals.

Through the Basic Skills Advisory Committee and the assistance of external grants, Mission is focused on improving the long-term success of Basic Skill students. Although Mission faces the challenge of a particularly large basic skills population (over 6,000 enrollments in basic skills courses in Fall 2010), faculty and staff have been working to revise curriculum, better align content across programs and improve the assessment process.

Mission is proud of the success of its students, and is committed to using data to guide improvement.



Chancellor's Office
California Community Colleges

1102 Q Street Sacramento, California 95811-6511 www.cccco.edu

ARCC website: <http://www.cccco.edu/systemoffice/divisions/techresearchinfo/researchandplanning/arcc/tabid/292/default.aspx>

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