Benchmark Report: 2011

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Office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment
Northern Virginia Community College

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The purpose of the Office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment is to conduct analytical studies and provide information in support of institutional planning, policy formulation and decision making. In addition, the office provides leadership and support in research related activities to members of the NOVA community engaged in planning and evaluating the institution’s success in accomplishing its mission.
Introduction

This report presents data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)\(^1\) on selected indicators related to student access and success that include enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. Data for Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) are compared with that of a group of comparison institutions determined by IPEDS. The characteristics used to select comparison institutions include public, two-year, degree-granting institutions in the southeast of the country with similar enrollment. A complete listing of the comparison institutions is shown on page 2.

IPEDS publishes this benchmark report annually so that institutions can identify and review institutional trends and determine how their indicators compare to those of other institutions with similar characteristics. The data in this report were provided by institutions to IPEDS during the 2010-11 survey year\(^2\).

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\(^1\) IPEDS is a division of the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

\(^2\) Each year, IPEDS surveys most postsecondary institutions annually and collects data on a variety of areas including institutional characteristics, completions, enrollment, human resources, finance, student financial aid, and graduation rates.
Comparison group data are included to provide a context for interpreting your institution’s statistics. If your institution did not define a Custom Comparison Group for this report by July 15, NCES selected a comparison group for you. (In this case, the characteristics used to define the comparison group appears below.) The Executive Peer Tool (ExPT) ([http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/)) can be used to reproduce the figures in this report using different peer groups.

Using some of your institution's characteristics, a group of comparison institutions was selected for you. The characteristics include large, public, 2-year colleges, in the southeastern states. This comparison group includes the following 37 institutions:

- Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College (Asheville, NC)
- Bluegrass Community and Technical College (Lexington, KY)
- Brevard Community College (Cocoa, FL)
- Cape Fear Community College (Wilmington, NC)
- Central Georgia Technical College (Macon, GA)
- Central Piedmont Community College (Charlotte, NC)
- Chattahoochee Technical College (Marietta, GA)
- Chattahoochee State Community College (Chattanooga, TN)
- Delgado Community College (New Orleans, LA)
- East Mississippi Community College (Scooba, MS)
- Fayetteville Technical Community College (Fayetteville, NC)
- Forsyth Technical Community College (Winston Salem, NC)
- Georgia Perimeter College (Decatur, GA)
- Greenville Technical College (Greenville, SC)
- Guilford Technical Community College (Jamestown, NC)
- Hillsborough Community College (Tampa, FL)
- Hinds Community College (Raymond, MS)
- Holmes Community College (Goodman, MS)
- J Sargeant Reynolds Community College (Richmond, VA)
- Jefferson Community and Technical College (Louisville, KY)
- Jefferson State Community College (Birmingham, AL)
- John C Calhoun State Community College (Tanner, AL)
- Midlands Technical College (West Columbia, SC)
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (Perkinston, MS)
- Northwest Mississippi Community College (Senatobia, MS)
- Pasco-Hernando Community College (New Port Richey, FL)
- Pellissippi State Community College (Knoxville, TN)
- Pitt Community College (Winterville, NC)
- Pulaski Technical College (North Little Rock, AR)
- Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (Salisbury, NC)
- Southwest Tennessee Community College (Memphis, TN)
- Tallahassee Community College (Tallahassee, FL)
- Thomas Nelson Community College (Hampton, VA)
- Tidewater Community College (Norfolk, VA)
- Trident Technical College (Charleston, SC)
- Valencia College (Orlando, FL)
- Wake Technical Community College (Raleigh, NC)
Figure 1. Percent of all students enrolled, by race/ethnicity and percent of students who are women: Fall 2010

NOTE: For this survey year, institutions were required to report race and ethnicity using the 1997 (new) Office of Management and Budget categories. For more information about disaggregation of data by race and ethnicity, please see the Methodological Notes at the end of this report. Median values for the comparison group will not add to 100 percent. See "Use of Median Values for Comparison Group" in the Methodological Notes at the end of this report for how median values are determined. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 2. Unduplicated 12-month headcount (2009-10), total FTE enrollment (2009-10), and full- and part-time fall enrollment (Fall 2010)

NOTE: For details on calculating full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment, see Calculating FTE in the Methodological Notes at the end of this report. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 3. Number of degrees and certificates awarded, by level: 2009-10

NOTE: N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.

Figure 4. Academic year tuition and required fees for full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students: 2007-08–2010-11

Figure 5. Average net price of attendance for full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students receiving grant or scholarship aid: 2007-08–2009-10

Figure 6. Percent of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who received grant or scholarship aid from the federal government, state/local government, or the institution, or loans, by type of aid: 2009-10

Figure 7. Average amounts of grant or scholarship aid from the federal government, state/local government, or the institution, or loans received, by full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students, by type of aid: 2009-10

NOTE: The tuition and required fees shown here are the lowest reported from the categories of in-district, in-state, and out-of-state. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


NOTE: Average net price is for full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students and is generated by subtracting the average amount of federal, state/local government, and institutional grant and scholarship aid from the total cost of attendance. For public institutions, this includes only students who paid the in-state or in-district tuition rate. Total cost of attendance is the sum of published tuition and required fees, books and supplies, and the weighted average room and board and other expenses. For more information, see the Methodological Notes at the end of this report. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


NOTE: Any grant aid above includes grant or scholarship aid from the federal government, state/local government, or the institution, Federal grants includes Pell grants and other federal grants. Any loans includes federal loans and other loans to students. For details on how students are counted for financial aid reporting, see Cohort Determination in the Methodological Notes at the end of this report. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Northern Virginia Community College
Figure 8. Percent of all undergraduates receiving aid by type of aid: 2009-10

Figure 9. Average amount of aid received by all undergraduates, by type of aid: 2009-10

Figure 10. Graduation rate and transfer-out rate (2007 cohort); graduation rate cohort as a percent of total entering students, and retention rates of first-time students (Fall 2010)

Figure 11. Graduation rates of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates within normal time, and 150% and 200% of normal time to completion: 2006 cohort
Northern Virginia Community College

Figure 12. Full-time equivalent staff, by assigned position: Fall 2010

NOTE: Graduate assistants are not included in this figure. For information on the calculation of FTE of staff, see the Methodological Notes. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 13. Average salaries of full-time instructional staff equated to 9-month contracts, by academic rank: Academic year 2010-11

NOTE: Average full-time instructional staff salaries for 11/12-month contracts were equated to 9-month average salaries by multiplying the 11/12-month salary by .9182. Salaries based on less than 9-month contracts are not included. Medical school salaries are not included. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group. Medians are not reported for comparison groups with less than three values.


Figure 14. Percent distribution of core revenues, by source: Fiscal year 2010

NOTE: The comparison group median is based on those members of the comparison group that report finance data using the same accounting standards as the comparison institution. For a detailed definition of core revenues, see the Methodological Notes. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 15. Core expenses per FTE enrollment, by function: Fiscal year 2010

NOTE: The comparison group median is based on those members of the comparison group that report finance data using the same accounting standards as the comparison institution. Expenses per full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment and a detailed definition of core expenses, see the Methodological Notes. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Overview

This report is based on data supplied by institutions to IPEDS during the 2010-11 survey year. Response rates exceeded 99 percent for most surveys. Detailed response tables are included in IPEDS First Look reports, which can be found at http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=010.

Use of Median Values for Comparison Group

The value for the comparison institution is compared to the median value for the comparison group for each statistic included in the figure. If more than one statistic is presented in a figure, the median values are determined separately for each indicator or statistic. Medians are not reported for comparison groups with less than three values. Where percentage distributions are presented, median values may not add to 100 percent. Through the ExPT, users have access to all of the data used to create the figures included in this report.

Missing Statistics

If a statistic is not reported for your institution, the omission indicates that the statistic is not relevant to your institution and the data were not collected. As such, not all notes listed below may be applicable to your report.

Use of Imputed Data

All IPEDS data are subject to imputation for total (institutional) and partial (item) nonresponse. If necessary, imputed values were used to prepare your report.

Data Confidentiality

IPEDS data are not collected under a pledge of confidentiality.

Disaggregation of Data by Race/Ethnicity

When applicable, some statistics are disaggregated by race/ethnicity. Data disaggregated by race/ethnicity have been reported using the 1997 (new) Office of Management and Budget categories. Detailed information about the recent race/ethnicity changes can be found at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/reic/resource.asp.

Postbaccalaureate Degree Categories

The use of new postbaccalaureate degree categories was mandatory in the 2010-11 collection year. These categories are: doctor's degree-research/scholarship, doctor's degree-professional practice, and doctor's degree-other. (The first-professional degree and certificate categories and the single doctor's degree category have been eliminated.)

Cohort Determination for Reporting Student Financial Aid and Graduation Rates

Student cohorts for reporting Student Financial Aid and Graduation Rates data are based on the reporting type of the institution. For institutions that report based on an academic year (those operating on standard academic terms), student counts and cohorts are based on fall term data. Student counts and cohorts for program reporters (those that do not operate on standard academic terms) are based on unduplicated counts of students enrolled during a full 12-month period.

Description of Statistics Used in the Figures

Average Institutional Net Price

Average net price is calculated for full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates who were awarded grant or scholarship aid from the federal government, state/local government, or the institution anytime during the full aid year. For public institutions, this includes only students who paid the in-state or in-district tuition rate. Other sources of grant aid are excluded. Average net price is generated by subtracting the average amount of federal, state/local government, and institutional grant and scholarship aid from the total cost of attendance. Total cost of attendance is the sum of published tuition and required fees, books and supplies, and the weighted average room and board and other expenses.

For the purpose of the IPEDS reporting, aid received refers to financial aid that was awarded to, and accepted by, a student. This amount may differ from the aid amount that is disbursed to a student.

Core Expenses

Core expenses include expenses for instruction, research, public service, academic support, institutional support, student services, scholarships and fellowships (reported under FASB standards as net grant aid to students), and other expenses. Expenses for operation and maintenance of plant, depreciation, and interest are allocated to each of the other functions. Core expenses exclude expenses for auxiliary enterprises (e.g., bookstores, dormitories), hospitals, and independent operations.

Core Revenues

Core revenues for public institutions reporting under GASB standards include tuition and fees; government appropriations (federal, state, and local); government grants and contracts; private gifts, grants, and contracts; sales and services of educational activities; investment income; other operating and non-operating sources; and other revenues and additions (capital appropriations and grants and additions to permanent endowments). Core revenues for private, not-for-profit institutions (and a small number of public institutions) reporting under FASB include tuition and fees; government appropriations (federal, state, and local); government grants and contracts; private gifts, grants, and contracts (including contributions from affiliated entities); investment return; sales and services of educational activities; and other sources. Core revenues for private, for-profit institutions reporting under FASB standards include tuition and fees; government appropriations (federal, state, and local); government grants and contracts; private gifts and contracts; net investment income; sales and services of educational activities; and other sources. In general, core revenues exclude revenues from auxiliary enterprises (e.g., bookstores, dormitories), hospitals, and independent operations.
Equated Instructional Staff Salaries

Total salary outlays for full-time instructional staff on 11/12-month contracts were equated to 9-month outlays by multiplying the outlay for 11/12-month contracted instructional staff by 0.8182. The equated outlays were then added to the outlays for 9/10-month instructional staff to determine an average salary for each rank. Salaries are not included for medical school staff or staff on less-than-9-month contracts.

FTE for Enrollment

The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment used in this report is the sum of the institution's FTE undergraduate enrollment and FTE graduate enrollment (as calculated from or reported on the 12-month Enrollment component). Undergraduate and graduate FTE are estimated using 12-month instructional activity (credit and/or contact hours). See “Calculation of FTE Students (using instructional activity)” in the IPEDS Glossary at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/.

FTE for Staff

The full-time equivalent (FTE) of staff is calculated by summing the total number of full-time staff from the Employees by Assigned Position (EAP) section of the Human Resources component and adding one-third of the total number of part-time staff.

Graduation Rates and Transfer-out Rate

Graduation rates are those developed to satisfy the requirements of the Student Right-to-Know and Higher Education Opportunity Acts and are defined as the total number of individuals from a given cohort of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates who completed a degree or certificate within a given percent of normal time (for the degree or certificate) before the ending status date of August 31, 2010, divided by the entire cohort of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates minus any allowable exclusions. Institutions are permitted to exclude from the initial cohort students who died or were totally and permanently disabled; those who left school to serve in the armed forces or were called to active duty; those who left to serve with a foreign aid service of the federal government, such as the Peace Corps; and those who left to serve on an official church mission. Transfer-out rate is the total number of individuals from a given cohort of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates who completed a degree or certificate before the ending status date of August 31, 2010, divided by the entire cohort of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates minus any allowable exclusions.

Retention Rates

Full-time retention rates are defined as the number of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who enter the institution for the first time in the fall and who return to the same institution the following fall (as either full- or part-time), divided by the total number of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates in the fall of first entrance. Part-time retention rates are similarly defined. For 4-year institutions offering a bachelor’s degree, this rate is reported only for those first-time students seeking a bachelor’s degree. For less than 4-year institutions, the rate is calculated for all first-time degree/certificate-seeking students.

Salaries, Wages, and Benefits

Salaries, wages, and benefits, for public institutions under GASB standards, and private, not-for-profit institutions under FASB standards, include amounts paid as compensation for services to all employees regardless of the duration of service, and amounts made to or on behalf of an individual over and above that received in the form of a salary or wage. Frequently, benefits are associated with an insurance payment. Private, for-profit institutions under FASB standards do not report salaries.

Total Entering Undergraduate Students

Total entering students are students at the undergraduate level, both full- and part-time, new to the institution in the fall term (or the prior summer term who returned in the fall). This includes all first-time undergraduate students, students transferring into the institution at the undergraduate level, and nondegree/certificate-seeking undergraduates entering in the fall. Only degree-granting, academic year reporting institutions provide total entering student data.

Tuition and Required Fees

Tuition is defined as the amount of money charged to students for instructional services; required fees are those fixed sum charges to students for items not covered by tuition that are required of such a large proportion of all students that the student who does not pay the charge is an exception. The amounts used in this report are for full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates and are those used by the financial aid office to determine need. For institutions that have differential tuition rates for in-district or in-state students, the lowest tuition rate is used in the figure. Only institutions that operate on standard academic terms will have tuition figures included in their report.