

Florida Colleges Remain Top Producers of Associate Degrees

The 2010 edition of *Community College Week's* Top 100 Associate Degree Producers shows that colleges in The Florida College System (FCS) continue as leaders in the total number of degrees conferred per institution. In addition, Florida colleges lead in the number of degrees granted to African Americans, Hispanics, all minority students, and degrees granted in several health and science related programs.

Associate degrees awarded by Florida colleges include the Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Science (AS), and Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees. During 2008-09, 52,439 associate degrees were conferred in The Florida College System.¹

Exhibit 1 shows the rankings for the 2009 report (academic year 2007-08) and 2010 report (academic year 2008-09).² A total of 17 colleges from the FCS were listed in the 2010 edition of the Top 100 report, an increase of one from 2009. Northwest Florida State College joined the top 100 this year. Eight Florida colleges were ranked in the top 25 in both the 2009 and 2010 reports. Miami Dade College (MDC) and Valencia Community College (VCC) ranked among the top five in the nation for associate degree producers, with MDC ranking second in the nation, while VCC ranked fourth (up from five in 2009).

¹ Florida Department of Education, 2009 Fact Book, "Points of Interest," <http://www.fldoe.org/arm/cctcmis/pubs/factbook/default.asp>.

² For the purposes of consistency and simplicity, the years referenced in the text and in the tables refer to the year the report was published, even though the data came from the prior academic year.

EXHIBIT 1

TOP PRODUCERS OF TOTAL ASSOCIATE DEGREES	
2009	2010
Miami Dade College - 2	Miami Dade College - 2
Broward College - 3	Valencia Community College - 4
Valencia Community College - 5	Broward College - 6
Florida State College at Jacksonville - 7	Florida State College at Jacksonville - 8
St. Petersburg College - 10	St. Petersburg College - 10
Santa Fe College - 12	Santa Fe College - 12
Palm Beach State College - 15	Palm Beach State College - 15
Tallahassee Community College - 24	Hillsborough Community College - 20
Hillsborough Community College - 27	Tallahassee Community College - 26
Brevard Community College - 31	Brevard Community College - 29
Daytona State College - 64	Daytona State College - 38
Pensacola State College - 67	Indian River State College - 51
Indian River State College - 68	Seminole State College of Florida - 55
Seminole State College of Florida - 83	Pensacola State College - 66
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota - 91	Edison State College - 73
Edison State College - 96	Northwest Florida State College - 86
	State College of Florida - Manatee - Sarasota - 87

SOURCE: COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEK

Exhibit 2 shows eleven Florida colleges in the top 100 producers of associate degrees for African Americans in 2010, up from nine in 2009. Five of the eleven colleges were among the top 20. These same colleges have consistently ranked in the top 20 in the nation for this category since 2005.

EXHIBIT 2

TOP PRODUCERS OF TOTAL ASSOCIATE DEGREES FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS	
2009	2010
Miami Dade College - 1	Miami Dade College - 2
Broward College - 3	Broward College - 5
Florida State College at Jacksonville - 13	Florida State College at Jacksonville - 12
Valencia Community College - 16	Valencia Community College - 16
Palm Beach State College - 18	Tallahassee Community College - 19
Tallahassee Community College - 20	Palm Beach State College - 21
Hillsborough Community College - 37	Hillsborough Community College - 32
St. Petersburg College - 59	St. Petersburg College - 59
Santa Fe College - 82	Indian River State College - 76
	Santa Fe College - 90
	Daytona State College - 99

SOURCE: COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEK

Exhibit 3 shows eight Florida colleges among the top 100 producers of associate degrees conferred to Hispanics, up from six in 2009. Miami Dade College ranked first in the nation for both 2009 and 2010. Hillsborough Community College and Santa Fe College both moved up in rank in 2010, and Edison State College and Seminole State College of Florida were added to the list. Six of these colleges also made the list of top producers for African Americans in Exhibit 2.

EXHIBIT 3

TOP PRODUCERS OF TOTAL ASSOCIATE DEGREES FOR HISPANICS	
2009	2010
Miami Dade College - 1	Miami Dade College - 1
Valencia Community College - 4	Valencia Community College - 5
Broward College - 5	Broward College - 6
Hillsborough Community College - 36	Hillsborough Community College - 30
Palm Beach State College - 31	Palm Beach State College - 31
Santa Fe College - 63	Santa Fe College - 60
	Edison State College - 90
	Seminole State College of Florida - 95

SOURCE: COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEK

Exhibit 4 shows Florida colleges ranked in the top 100 for degree production for all minority groups. This ranking combines African Americans and Hispanics with other minority groups. Nine colleges from the FCS that were ranked in the top 100 in 2005 and 2009 were also on the 2010 list (this list was not calculated between 2006 and 2008), illustrating the consistent roles that these colleges have in providing a postsecondary education to minority populations.

EXHIBIT 4

TOP PRODUCERS OF TOTAL ASSOCIATE DEGREES FOR ALL MINORITY GROUPS	
2009	2010
Miami Dade College - 1	Miami Dade College - 1
Broward College - 2	Broward College - 3
Valencia Community College - 6	Valencia Community College - 4
Palm Beach State College - 20	Palm Beach State College - 18
Florida State College at Jacksonville - 27	Hillsborough Community College - 27
Hillsborough Community College - 36	Florida State College at Jacksonville - 28
Tallahassee Community College - 44	Tallahassee Community College - 49
Santa Fe College - 63	Santa Fe College - 61
St. Petersburg College - 90	St. Petersburg College - 79

SOURCE: COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEK

The 2009 and 2010 rankings included breakdowns by academic discipline. In one category, Liberal Arts and Science, General Students, and Humanities, Florida colleges overwhelmingly top the rankings. This category

is generally linked to the AA degree within The Florida College System. Exhibit 5 shows that 17 Florida institutions ranked in the top 50. Moreover, nine of the top ten positions are all colleges from the FCS. The remaining colleges from the FCS are clustered close together, ranking from 13 to 39.

The reason for these high rankings lies in the state's strong "2+2" articulation system. Florida's statewide articulation agreement is among the most comprehensive articulation agreements in the nation.³ The agreement guarantees students who graduate with an AA degree from The Florida College System admission to one of the eleven state universities, though not necessarily admission to the student's first choice. In 2007, 76 percent of FCS associate degree graduates who applied were admitted to the State University System (SUS), compared to the 57 percent admission rate of students who applied to a university directly after high school.⁴ The agreement also guarantees that at least 60 credit hours will transfer so that students will be admitted to the upper division as juniors. All of this creates a strong incentive for students to complete their AA prior to seeking admission to the SUS, which in turn, helps explain why Florida produces such high numbers of degrees in this area.

EXHIBIT 5

TOP PRODUCERS: LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, GENERAL STUDENTS, AND HUMANITIES	
2008	2010
Miami Dade College - 1	Miami Dade College - 1
Broward College - 2	Valencia Community College - 2
Valencia Community College - 3	Broward College - 3
Florida State College at Jacksonville - 4	Santa Fe College - 4
Santa Fe College - 5	Florida State College at Jacksonville - 5
Palm Beach State College - 6	Tallahassee Community College - 7
Tallahassee Community College - 7	Palm Beach State College - 8
St. Petersburg College - 8	St. Petersburg College - 9
Brevard Community College - 9	Hillsborough Community College - 10
Hillsborough Community College - 10	Brevard Community College - 13
Indian River State College - 27	Seminole State College of Florida - 21
Seminole State College of Florida - 28	Daytona State College - 22
Pensacola State College - 29	Indian River State College - 28
Daytona State College - 31	State College of Florida - Manatee-Sarasota - 34
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota - 36	Edison State College - 35
	Pensacola State College - 36
	Northwest Florida State College - 39

SOURCE: COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEK

³ The statewide articulation agreement was established in 1971 and codified in Section 1007.23, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 6A-10.024, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)/Board of Governors (BOG) Articulation Regulation. See "Statewide Postsecondary Articulation Manual" by the Florida Department of Education Office of K-20 Articulation at <http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/pdf/statewide-postsecondary-articulation-manual.pdf>.

⁴ See Zoom Edition 2009-01, "Statewide Articulation Agreement – Effective and Comprehensive" at <http://www.fldoe.org/cc/OSAS/Evaluations/pdf/Zoom2009-01.pdf>. Admission to limited access degree programs is based on meeting competitive entrance requirements.

Many health and medical fields have chronic shortages of trained workers. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, reports that 10 of the 20 fastest-growing occupations are health care related.⁵ Oftentimes, two-year certificate programs or associate degrees are the minimum standard for credentials for certain occupations such as dental hygienist and radiology technologist.⁶ Moreover, according to the American Association of Colleges and Nursing (AACN), the current nursing shortage is expected to intensify as baby boomers age and the need for health care grows.⁷ For Florida, the baseline nursing shortage for 2009 was projected to be 21,849; this shortage is expected to grow to over 59,000 by 2020.⁸ Exhibit 6 shows that FCS institutions are helping offset these shortages with nine colleges among the top 50 in producing nursing associate degrees and eight Florida colleges are among the top 50 in producing associate degrees in health professions and related clinical sciences.

EXHIBIT 6

	NURSING	HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND RELATED CLINICAL SCIENCES
College	2010 Rank	2010 Rank
Miami Dade College	2	4
Florida State College at Jacksonville	6	11
Broward College	8	14
St. Petersburg College	11	12
Pensacola State College	17	30
Valencia Community College	19	37
Edison State College	32	
Daytona State College	37	42
Hillsborough Community College	39	39

SOURCE: COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEK

The results from *Community College Week's* 2010 edition of the Top Producers report underscore the consistent performance for The Florida College System in producing associate degree graduates. Colleges in the FCS have been unsurpassed in conferring degrees to liberal arts and sciences, general students, and humanities students, which is further affirmation of the effectiveness of the state's "2+2" articulation system. Further, FCS colleges have been providing a steady pipeline of graduates in the nursing and health profession fields. Other disciplines such as agriculture, communication technologies, engineering-related technologies, family and consumer sciences and science technologies are peppered with FCS institutions that continue to generate graduates who contribute to the state's economic development and workforce.

⁵ United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs035.htm>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Fact Sheet, April 2009, <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/media/FactSheets/NursingShortage.htm>.

⁸ Florida Center for Nursing, "Forecasting Supply, Demand, and Shortage of RNs and LPNs in Florida, 2007-2020," www.FLCenterForNursing.org.

For more information please contact:

Dr. Kathyrine Scheuch, Research Analyst

Kathyrine.Scheuch@fldoe.org

(850) 245-9456

Dr. John Hughes, Associate Vice Chancellor for Evaluation

John.Hughes@fldoe.org

(850) 245-9482

Ms. Abbey Cunningham, Graduate Student

Florida State University

Abbey.Cunningham@fldoe.org

DRAFT



Florida Department of Education

Florida Department of Education
Dr. Eric J. Smith, Commissioner
The Florida College System
Dr. Willis N. Holcombe, Chancellor
Dr. Judith Bilsky, Executive Vice Chancellor

Phone: (850) 245-0407
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1544
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400
www.fldoe.org/CC/