

Florida College System Baccalaureate Accountability

The Florida College System (FCS) provides access and opportunity to postsecondary education for many Floridians. A wide range of students are served by FCS institutions, including working adults with family and career obligations that restrict them from traveling far for classes or from taking classes during the work day. For other students, financial or other constraints may prevent them from attending a selective-admission public or private university.

In an effort to be responsive to the need for a baccalaureate-educated workforce (especially in high-demand areas such as teaching and nursing) and with Florida lagging behind leading states in baccalaureate production, the Florida Legislature authorized FCS institutions to offer baccalaureate degrees in 2001. As of February 2014, 24 of 28 Florida colleges are approved by the Board of Education to offer more than 170 baccalaureate programs to meet regional workforce needs.

This report serves as an overview of the progress made by the FCS on several required performance measures in accordance with section [1007.33](#), Florida Statutes (F.S.), including:

- Enrollments
- Completions
- Retention Rates
- Success Rates

Demographics (race, gender and age) as well as job placement and salary trends are included within the report. Data for these trends are from academic years 2008-09 to 2012-13.

Table 1. Five-Year Trends, Baccalaureate Enrollment Headcount (2008-09 to 2012-13)

Program	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Bachelor of Applied Science	4,840	8,044	12,373	15,805	17,840
<i>Percent change from previous year</i>	55.4%	66.2%	53.8%	27.7%	12.9%
Bachelor of Science, Education	2,021	3,022	3,471	3,649	3,626
<i>Percent change from previous year</i>	39.0%	49.5%	14.9%	5.1%	-0.6%
Bachelor of Science, Nursing	1,242	1,987	2,668	3,599	4,470
<i>Percent change from previous year</i>	54.7%	60.0%	34.3%	34.9%	24.2%
Bachelor of Science, Other	-	115	852	2,335	4,579
<i>Percent change from previous year</i>	-	-	640.9%	174.1%	96.1%
Total	8,103	13,168	19,364	25,388	30,515
<i>Percent change from previous year</i>	50.8%	62.5%	47.1%	31.1%	20.2%

Source: Community College/Technical Center MIS and FCS Research & Analytics, AA-1A Reports

Table 1 contains five-year trends of baccalaureate enrollment headcount and year-to-year percent change. Total enrollments have nearly quadrupled from 8,103 in 2008-09 to 30,515 in 2012-13. As shown, Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) programs consistently enrolled the most students. Currently, 23 colleges are approved to offer a total of 60 BAS programs that meet targeted regional workforce needs. In its [final report](#) (June 2006), the BAS Task Force developed the following definition for BAS degrees:

“The Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) is the designated degree for flexible baccalaureate programs that are designed to accommodate the unique demands for entry and advancement within specific workforce sectors. BAS programs provide degree completion opportunities for students from a variety of education backgrounds, but primarily those with A.S. degrees or the equivalent. BAS degree programs conform to all articulation conventions (including common course prerequisites, common course numbering, and faculty credentialing in accordance with the Southern Association of

Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges). BAS degree programs typically include capstone experiences that provide opportunities for students to demonstrate the application of acquired knowledge, skills, and competencies.”

Bachelor of Science degrees in education, nursing and “other” areas (such as biology, business administration or criminal justice) are also offered by FCS institutions. Enrollments in BS programs have also shown continuous growth during the last five years.

Table 2. Five-Year Trends, Baccalaureate Degrees Awarded (2008-09 to 2012-13)

Program	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Bachelor of Applied Science	632	926	1,535	2,489	3,084
<i>Percent change from previous years</i>	100.6%	46.5%	65.8%	62.1%	23.9%
Bachelor of Science, Education	259	415	671	740	847
<i>Percent change from previous years</i>	0.0%	60.2%	61.7%	10.3%	14.5%
Bachelor of Science, Nursing	151	261	512	655	773
<i>Percent change from previous years</i>	22.8%	72.8%	96.2%	27.9%	18.0%
Bachelor of Science, Other	-	-	11	95	305
<i>Percent change from previous years</i>	-	-	-	763.6%	221.1%
Total	1,042	1,602	2,729	3,979	5,009
Percent change from previous years	49.5%	53.7%	70.3%	45.8%	25.9%

Source: Community College/Technical Center MIS and FCS Research & Analytics, AA-1A Reports

Table 2 shows the five-year trends of degrees awarded from FCS institutions. Across the board, the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded has steadily increased over the years. Overall, the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded has increased nearly five times from 1,042 in 2008-09 to 5,009 in 2012-13. Three out of five FCS baccalaureate degrees were awarded in BAS programs (3,084 graduates).

Table 3. Overall Retention Rates, Fall 2008-09 and Fall 2009-10 Cohorts

Attendance Status	Fall 2008-09 Cohort	Fall 2009-10 Cohort
Full-Time	86.0%	82.3%
Part-Time	58.6%	55.3%
Total	67.0%	64.0%

Source: Community College/Technical Center MIS and FCS Research & Analytics, Baccalaureate Accountability Reports

Overall, nearly two-thirds of the fall 2009-10 cohort returned the following year (64.0 percent). Retention rates decreased slightly from the fall 2008-09 cohort to the fall 2009-10 cohort. Retention rates among full-time students are consistently and substantially higher than those achieved by part-time students. Individuals who can juggle their schedules and enroll full time are encouraged to do so.

Table 4. FCS Baccalaureate Graduation Rates

Tracking Period	Fall 2006 to Summer 2009	Fall 2007 to Summer 2010	Fall 2008 to Summer 2011	Fall 2009 to Summer 2012	Fall 2010 to Summer 2013
Full-Time	65.4%	73.4%	73.9%	76.2%	70.7%
Part-Time	34.5%	35.6%	35.1%	33.7%	32.5%
Total	47.1%	46.7%	46.6%	46.6%	44.7%

Source: Community College/Technical Center MIS and FCS Research & Analytics, Baccalaureate Accountability Reports

Table 4 provides the graduation rates of baccalaureate students who attended full- or part-time. As with retention rates, graduation rates for full-time students were higher than those attained by part-time students. During the three-year observation period, full-time student three-year graduation rates were about twice as high as those of part-time students. For the tracking period of fall 2010 to summer 2013, the graduation rate was 70.7 percent for full-time baccalaureate students and 32.5 percent for part-time students. Overall graduation rates have been in the mid-40 percent range for the past five years. The overall graduation rate was 44.7 percent for the latest cohort—1.9 percent below last year’s overall results and 2.4 percentage points lower than the overall graduation rates of those tracked from fall 2006 to summer 2009.

Table 5. FETPIP Education Outcomes for 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 FCS Baccalaureate Completers*

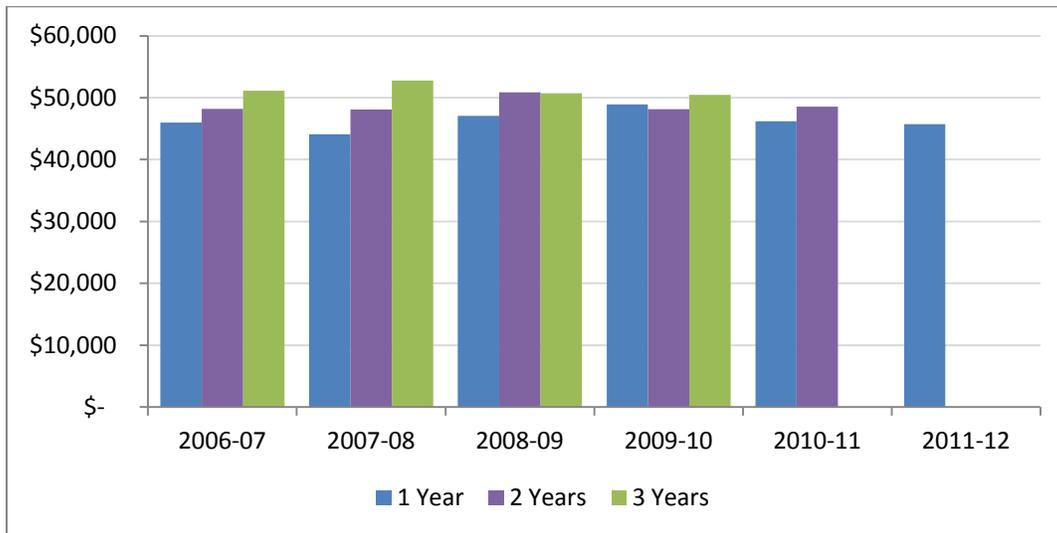
Outcome	2009-10 Completers			2010-11 Completers			2011-12 Completers		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Number of Years After Graduation									
Employed Full-Time/Full-Quarter (FT/FQ)	88%	91%	92%	90%	91%	-	87%	-	-
Employed <u>and</u> Continuing Education	76%	82%	77%	82%	82%	-	79%	-	-

*Fall 2012 findings (October 2013)

Source: Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) Annual Outcomes Report and FCS Research & Analytics, Baccalaureate Accountability Reports

Table 5 shows a rising proportion of FCS baccalaureate graduates employed full-time and full-quarter one, two and three years after graduation. Additionally, approximately four out of five completers are both employed and continuing their education following graduation.

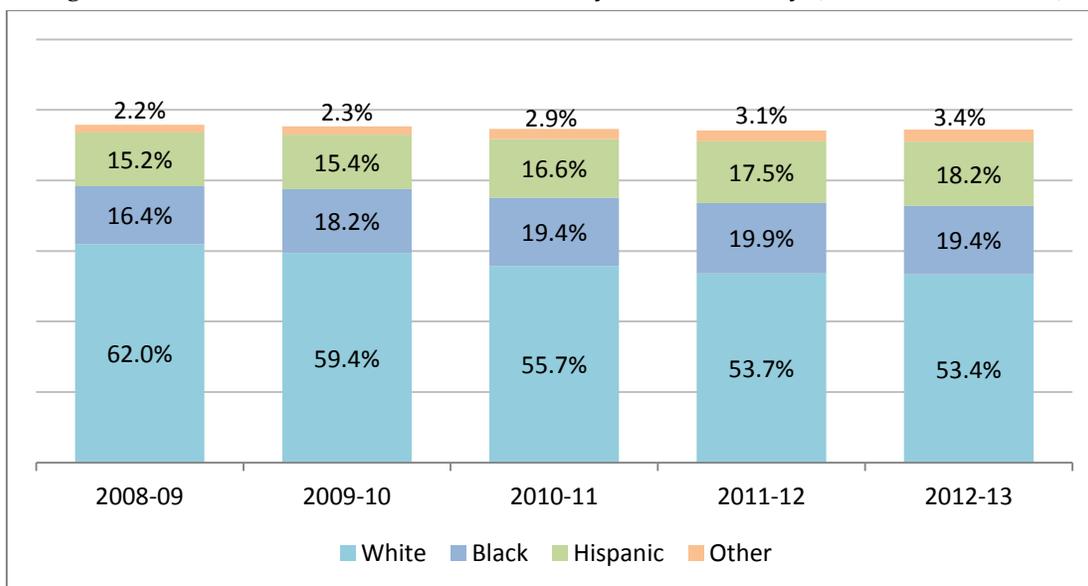
Figure 1. Annualized Earnings Trends of Baccalaureate Completers



Source: FETPIP Annual Outcomes Report and FCS Research & Analytics

Figure 1 shows average annualized earnings trends by the year of graduation and the number of years following graduation. As shown, earnings had a general upward trend with the passage of time. The recent “great recession” of 2007-2009 with elevated unemployment rates extending through 2012 likely contributed to some turbulence in earnings progression.

Figure 2. FCS Baccalaureate Enrollments by Race/Ethnicity (2008-09 to 2012-13)



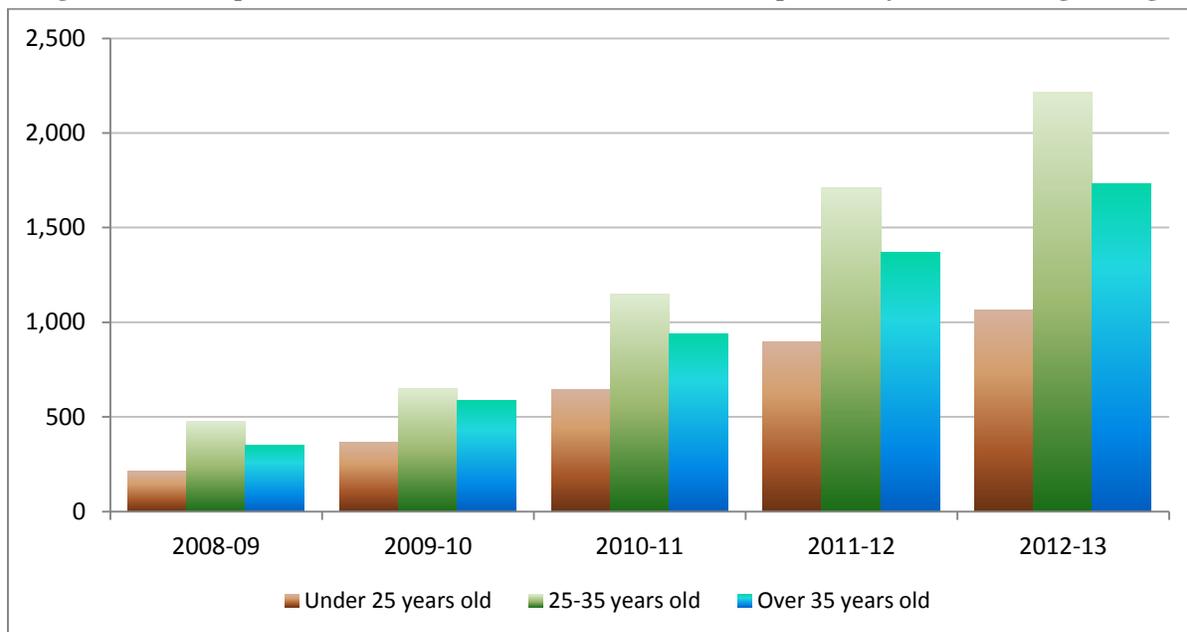
*Non-resident alien and Unknown are not included.

“Other” category includes Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander, and two or more races/ethnicities

Source: Community College/Technical Center MIS and FCS Research & Analytics, Fact Book Table 4.10.3

Figure 2 shows the five-year trends of enrollments by race and ethnicity. Over five years, the racial/ethnic diversity of baccalaureate students has grown as white student enrollments decreased nearly 9 percentage points. Just under one in five baccalaureate students self identified as black/African American for the last few years. Proportionately, black/African American enrollments are slightly lower than last year at 19.4 percent. The proportion of Hispanic students increased over the years from 15.2 percent in (2008-09), to 18.2 percent in 2012-13. Students classified in the “other” category (Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander, or two or more race/ethnicities) increased slightly to 3.4 percent in 2012-13.

Figure 3. Unduplicated Headcount of Baccalaureate Completers by Year and Age Range



Source: Community College/Technical Center MIS and FCS Research & Analytics

Consistently over the last five years, most graduates were between 25 and 35 years of age. In 2012-13, there were over 2,200 students from this age category who earned an FCS bachelor’s degree. The “Over 35 years” age group accounted for the second largest number of completers with over 1,700 baccalaureate graduates in 2012-13. Students under the age of 25 are also growing, but students from the more mature demographic are the main participants in and completers of FCS baccalaureate programs.

The population served by FCS baccalaureate programs tends to be diverse and made up of a more mature demographic—place-bound individuals who are already in the workforce, have families and who have close ties to their communities. Many of these students must attend school part-time. However, retention and graduation rates for students who are able to attend full-time are high. Floridians are increasingly recognizing that baccalaureate programs in the Florida College System provide a cost effective way to earn workforce driven four-year degrees that allow them to enter or advance in their chosen career.

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