

The Florida College System – Transparency, Accountability, Progress and Performance

What are the enrollments and completions of students with disabilities in the Florida College System?

The Florida College System (FCS) proudly serves a diverse student population from varied racial/ethnic backgrounds, across age groups and with different levels of academic preparation. The FCS makes reasonable accommodations to serve individuals with documented disabilities, including modifying the delivery of academic content, providing necessary auxiliary aids and services, and offering enhanced support services. Examples of accommodations include allowing extra time on exams, providing texts in alternative formats and offering note-takers, and sign-language interpreters. To receive services, students report their qualifying disabilities with supporting documentation to their college's Office of Student Disability Services. Documentation requirements vary among colleges and may differ from the requirements of middle and high schools.

Table 1 shows the enrollments and completions of students with disabilities from 2009-10 to 2012-13. Table 1 figures include the following programs: Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Science (AS), Career/Technical Certificates, College Credit Certificates, and Baccalaureate Degrees. Overall enrollments increased 13.3 percent during the four-year period. Lower-division (freshmen and sophomore) enrollments for students with disabilities were up 12.3 percent and upper division enrollments doubled from 179 to 370. In 2012-13, there were 3,470 lower-division students with disabilities who graduated from FCS institutions. An additional 138 students with disabilities completed baccalaureate degrees in the FCS during the same year.

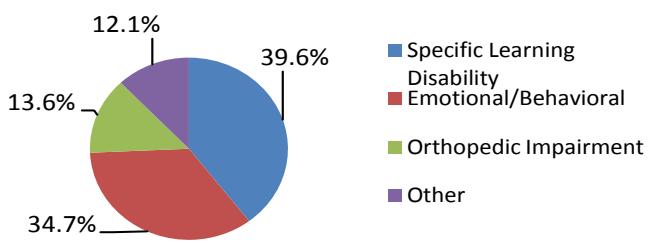
Table 1
FCS Students with Disabilities, Enrollments and Completions, 2009-10 to 2012-13

	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>2010-11</u>	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>
Lower-Division Enrollments	17,150	18,295	19,395	19,260
Upper-Division Enrollments	179	210	299	370
Total Enrollments	17,329	18,505	19,694	19,630
Lower-Division Completions	2,632	2,767	3,331	3,470
Upper-Division Completions	48	70	113	138
Total Completions	2,680	2,837	3,444	3,608

Completion totals unduplicated across categories.

Source: Community College Technical Center MIS & Florida College System Research and Analytics.

Figure 1. 2012-13 Enrollments by Disability Type



2012-13 Completions by Disability Type

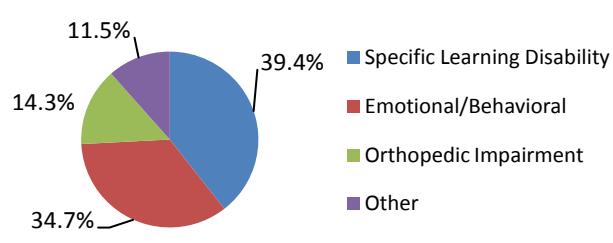


Figure 1 shows enrollments and completions by disability type for 2012-13. These proportions were approximately the same for both groups. Four out of 10 disabilities that students reported fell under the “specific learning disability” category. A [specific learning disability](#) is defined as, “a disorder in one or more of the basic learning processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest in significant difficulties affecting the ability to listen, speak, read, write, spell or do mathematics.” The next most common reported type of disability was students with emotional or behavioral disabilities, followed by orthopedic impairments. The remaining disability categories include deaf/hearing impairment, visual impairment, speech impairment, autism spectrum, traumatic brain injury or other health impairment. The wide range of disabilities shows the diverse student populations that the FCS serves and the extent to which students with disabilities successfully access and complete postsecondary education through FCS institutions.

For more information on this topic, please see the Florida College System’s [Program Review on Disability Services](#) or the Division of Florida College’s Disability Support Services [web page](#).

For assistance, contact Florida College System Research & Analytics
Scott J. Parke, Ph.D. or Kathyrine L. Scheuch, Ed.D. at 850-245-0407