

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

What are some key “take aways” about baccalaureate degrees in the Florida College System?

Florida College System (FCS) baccalaureate degree programs are created to address Florida’s workforce and training needs. FCS workforce baccalaureate offerings are a natural extension of the community college regional service mission and provide another way to meet the documented needs of area residents and employers. According to the American Association of Community Colleges *Community College Daily*, 21 states have community colleges that offer four-year degrees in career and technical fields. Florida was among the first to offer baccalaureates in its community college system. FCS baccalaureates provide access and opportunity, because they:

Address regional workforce needs.

- Promote economic development.
- Provide opportunities to underserved students.
- Provide an affordable option, with degrees averaging \$13,500 - a fraction of the cost of other options. In fact, select programs are now offered for \$10,000.
- The facts and figures in this document were generated by [CCTCMIS](#), [FETPIP](#), and [FCS Research & Analytics](#).

Florida College System (FCS) baccalaureate programs serve a largely different population than other in-state public baccalaureate options.

- FCS baccalaureate degree programs serve more working adults who are gaining skills for advancement in the workforce.
- FCS baccalaureates serve an older demographic: historical data show the average age of students enrolled in baccalaureate programs is 32.7 and the average age of FCS baccalaureate graduates is 33.2 (2012-13).
- In 2012-13, 74.7 percent of all students enrolled in FCS baccalaureate programs were from underserved groups (need-based financial aid recipients, minority students, limited English proficient or students with disabilities) (2012-13).
- Most FCS baccalaureate programs are open access. For admission, all colleges require an associate degree (or the equivalent) with a 2.0 to 2.5 GPA (local policies on the minimum GPA vary). For additional background, see [FCS Baccalaureate Guiding Principles and Policies \(December, 2012\)](#).
- Hence, FCS and the State University System baccalaureate programs serve largely different markets. Both are valuable to keep Florida competitive in the global marketplace.

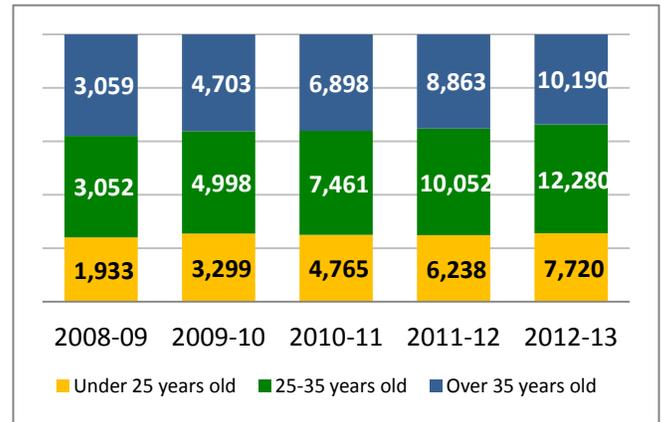


Figure 1: Baccalaureate Enrollments by Age, 2008-09 to 2012-13

Florida College System baccalaureate programs are serving increasingly diverse populations.

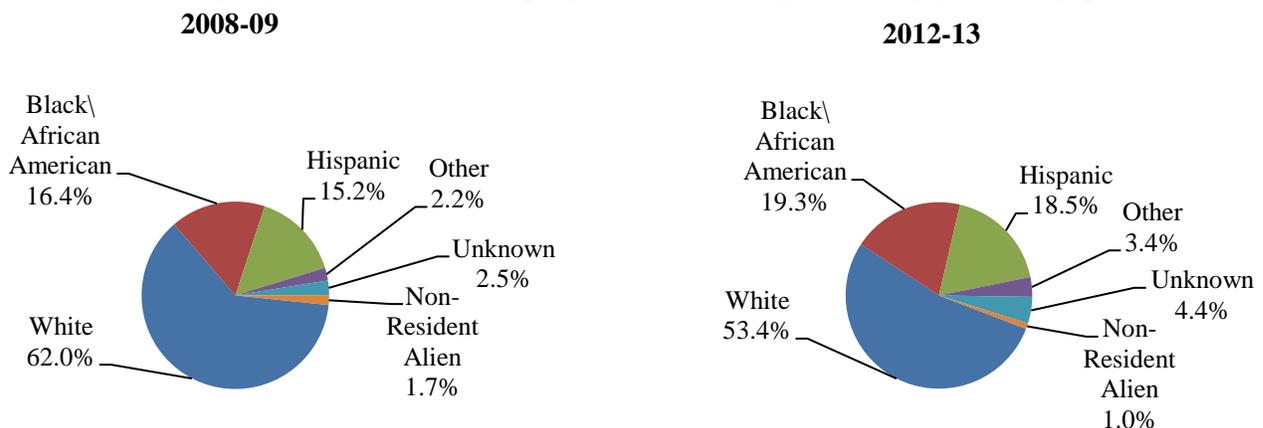


Figure 2: Enrollments in FCS Baccalaureate Programs by Race/Ethnicity 2008-09 and 2012-13

- In 2008-09, 62 percent of baccalaureate students reported their race as “white.” Another 16.4 percent self-identified as being black or of African-American descent. An additional 15.2 percent of students classified themselves as Hispanic. For 2012-13, the proportion of black/African-American and Hispanic students increased (19.3 and 18.5 percent, respectively). The proportion of white students decreased 8.6 percentage points.

- Among students who reported their gender, the proportion of males enrolled in FCS baccalaureate programs has increased from 28.6 percent in 2008-09 to 34.6 percent in 2013. The corresponding proportion of females decreased from 71.4 percent in 2008-09 to 65.4 percent in 2012-13.

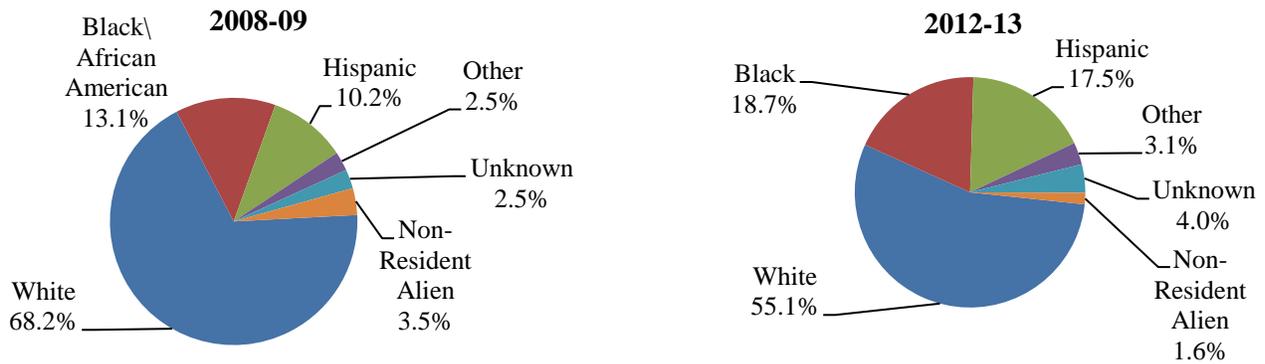


Figure 3: Completions in FCS Baccalaureate Programs by Race/Ethnicity 2008-09 and 2012-13

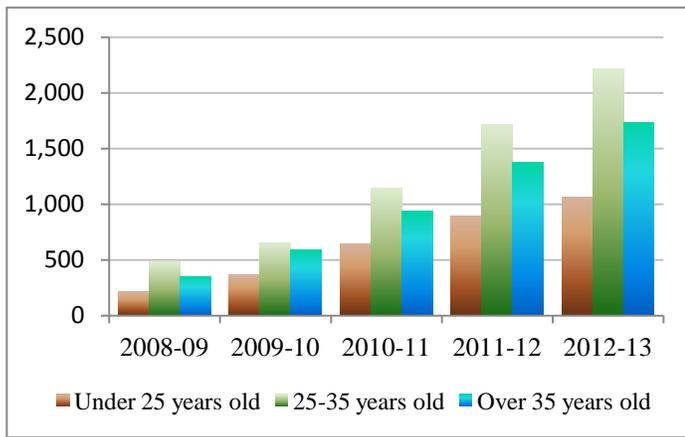


Figure 4. Unduplicated Headcount of Baccalaureate Completions by Year and Age Range

The Florida College System awards baccalaureate degrees to a mature clientele.

- Among 2012-13 baccalaureate completers, 44.2 percent were between the ages of 25 to 35 years.
- Since 2008-09, students in the 25-to-35 years-old age range have accounted for more than 40 percent of all baccalaureate completions each year. Students over the age of 35 years comprised approximately 35 percent of all completions over the years. Those under the age of 25 years constituted just over 25 percent of completions. Each year a small number of baccalaureate graduates do not report age information.

- The proportion of minority completers increased from 2008-09 to 2012-13. Among graduating students in 2008-09, 13.1 percent were students who self-reported their race as black or African American. This percentage increased to 18.7 percent in 2012-13. The percentages of graduates who self-identified as Hispanic increased from 10.2 percent to 17.5 percent in 2012-13. Students from the “Other” category (Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander, and two or more races) increased slightly from 2.5 percent (2008-09) to 3.1 percent (2012-13).

- Over two-thirds (68.2 percent) of the 2008-09 graduates of the students graduating in 2008-09, identified as white. This value decreased 13 percentage points to 55.1 percent in 2012-13.

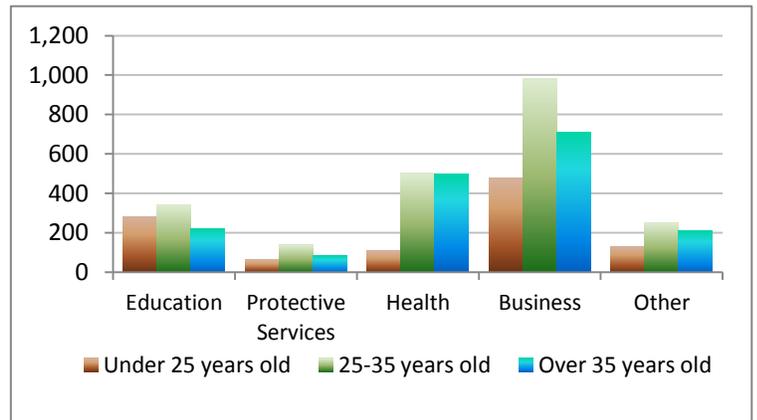


Figure 5. Headcount of Baccalaureate Completions by Program and Age Range (2012-13)

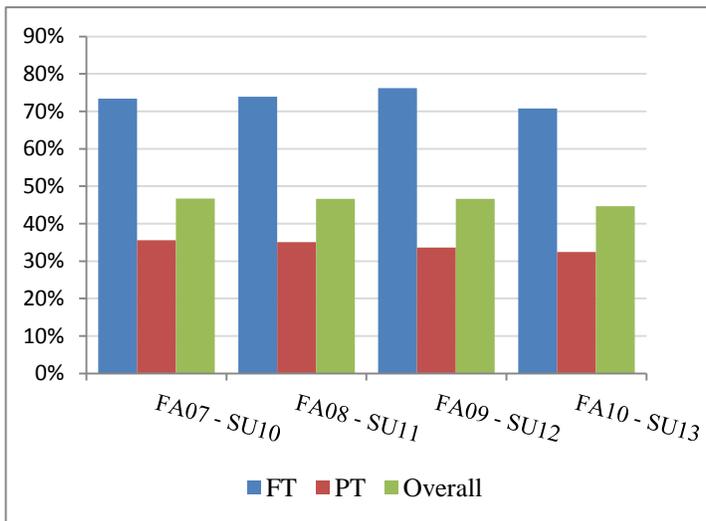


Figure 6: Graduation Rates by Attendance Status (Full-Time, Part-Time and Overall)

- Baccalaureate programs in business had the most completions in 2012-13 with 2,171.
- Forty-five percent (45.1 percent) of baccalaureate business completers were between 25 and 35 years of age.
- In baccalaureate health programs, proportions of student completions between 25 and 35 and over 35 years of age were about the same (45.3 percent and 44.9 percent, respectively).
- For education programs, 40.4 percent of completers were aged 25 to 35 years and the next largest group of completers – one third – were under 25 years of age.
- Students over 35 years of age accounted for just over one quarter (26.2 percent) of education completers.

FCS baccalaureate graduates show strong positive educational and workforce outcomes.

- For the latest tracking period (fall 2009-10 to summer 2013), the graduation rate for full-time baccalaureate students was 70.7 percent. For part-time students, the graduation rate was 32.5 percent. The overall graduation rate was 44.7 percent.
- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of 2011-12 FCS baccalaureate degree graduates were employed full-time/full-quarter (FT/FQ). Seventy-four percent (74%) of State University System (SUS) baccalaureate degree graduates were found employed FT/FQ.
- The average full-time/full-quarter earnings for 2011-12 FCS baccalaureate degree completers was \$45,740 (annualized fourth calendar quarter earnings). The annualized earnings for 2011-12 SUS baccalaureate degree completers was \$36,764. This is partly attributable to the fact that FCS baccalaureate degrees serve a more experienced clientele and FCS programs address areas of high workforce need.
- Twelve percent of 2010-11 FCS Associate in Arts (AA) degree graduates continued their education in an FCS baccalaureate program; 49.1 percent of these graduates entered a SUS baccalaureate program. 2+2 initiatives are still serving Florida College System AA graduates well.

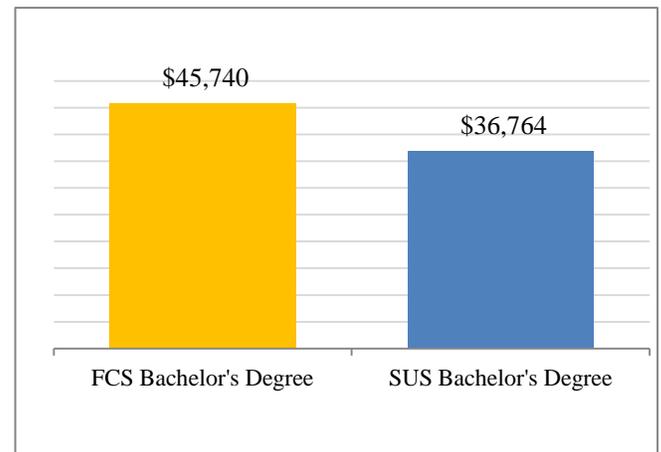


Figure 7: Annualized Earnings of 2011-12 FCS and SUS Bachelor's Degree Graduates

FCS Baccalaureate-Granting Institutions

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|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| ➤ Broward College | ➤ Gulf Coast State College | ➤ Polk State College |
| ➤ Chipola College | ➤ Indian River State College | ➤ Santa Fe College |
| ➤ College of Central Florida | ➤ Lake-Sumter State College | ➤ Seminole State College of Florida |
| ➤ Daytona State College | ➤ Miami Dade College | ➤ St. Johns River State College |
| ➤ Eastern Florida State College | ➤ Northwest Florida State College | ➤ St. Petersburg College |
| ➤ Edison State College | ➤ Palm Beach State College | ➤ South Florida State College |
| ➤ Florida Gateway College | ➤ Pasco-Hernando State College | ➤ State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota |
| ➤ Florida State College at Jacksonville | ➤ Pensacola State College | ➤ Valencia College |