

Florida College System Baccalaureate Degrees Accountability Report, 2018-2019

August 2021



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org



Acknowledgements

The Division of Florida Colleges gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the 28 colleges within the Florida College System for their efforts to make educational opportunity a reality and for their collaboration which contributed to the creation of this product.

Preferred Citation

Baccalaureate Accountability Report (2021). Tallahassee, FL: Florida Department of Education, Division of Florida Colleges.

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Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of baccalaureate programs in the Florida College System (FCS) for the 2018-19 academic year as well as select historical data covering the three-year period from 2016-17 to 2018-19. According to current employment projections data from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Employment Projections [website](#), there will be an estimated 777,287 open positions in the state of Florida that require a baccalaureate degree education by 2028. DEO reported that there are 111 occupational areas that will require a minimum education level of the baccalaureate degree. Of the 111 occupations listed as requiring a baccalaureate degree, most projected openings are in business, education, STEM and healthcare. The FCS is preparing students to fill these positions by offering baccalaureate degree programs aligned to local workforce demand.

As of the 2018-19 academic year, 27 of the 28 FCS institutions offered baccalaureate degree programs, with a total of 197 approved programs throughout the college system. Two types of baccalaureate degrees are offered in the FCS: a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and a Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.). Programs are approved in select areas with demonstrated workforce needs (e.g., education, nursing, business management and information technology). In the 2018-19 academic year, 45,544 students (unduplicated headcount) were enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs and 9,122 students earned a baccalaureate degree.

With regard to the six performance indicators outlined in section (s.) 1007.33, Florida Statutes (F.S.), all FCS institutions have obtained and maintained appropriate Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation and maintained qualified faculty and institutional resources. Colleges are charged with maintaining enrollment in previously approved programs and colleges have either exceeded, met or fallen slightly below this indicator. In addition, all FCS institutions preserved their primary mission as prescribed in [s. 1004.65\(5\), F.S.](#) Colleges also reported on other indicators of success, including program completions and placements. In terms of completions, more than half of the programs experienced positive growth. System-wide, trends show a rise in almost all areas. As programs are added across the state to meet local demand, numbers are rising as expected. Future steps include elevating student success in these programs through an evaluation of individual program data.

Introduction

As a way of providing affordable access to higher education and meeting workforce needs, in 2001, the Florida legislature passed a landmark law paving the way for community colleges to offer baccaLaureate degree programs in limited high-need areas, such as teaching and nursing. Since that time, 27 of the 28 FCS institutions have been authorized to offer baccaLaureate degree programs. FCS baccaLaureate degree programs offer Floridians access to local, low-cost education programs that prepare students for entering the workforce with high-demand and middle-to high-wage occupations.

Figure 1 illustrates the number of baccaLaureate degree programs approved each year since 2001. As of the 2018-19 year, the bulk of these programs was in select industry clusters including Education, Health Professions, Business, Management, Marketing and related support services, Computer and Information Services and Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Protective Services. The remainder of the programs are in other areas, such as Human Services, Biomedical and Aerospace Sciences, Digital Media and Interior Design.

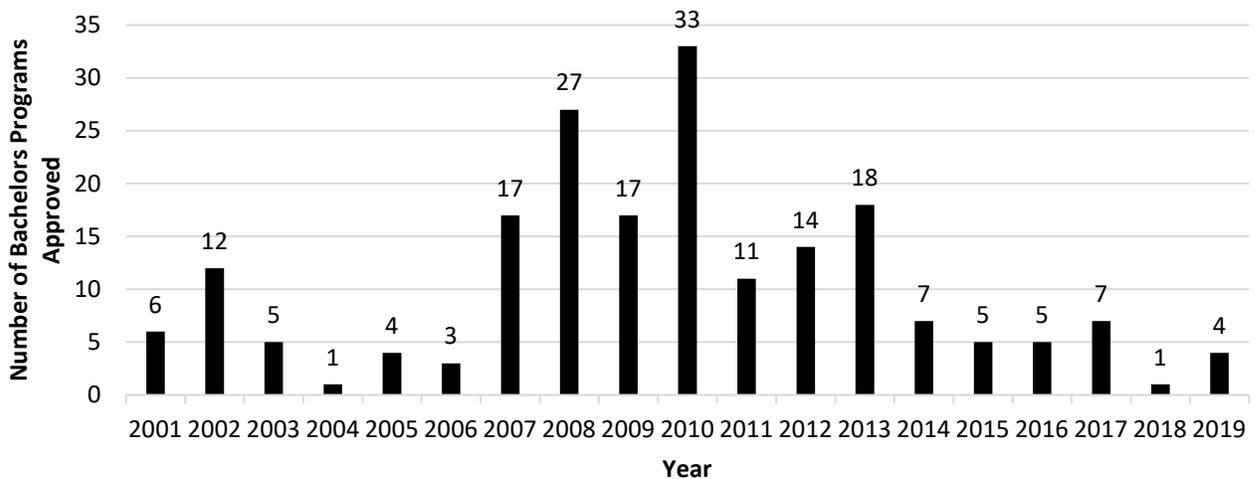


Figure 1: Number of FCS BaccaLaureate Degree Programs Approved by Year

Source: Florida Department of Education, Florida College System, Division of Florida Colleges

Figure 2 indicates the number of the top five baccaLaureate degree programs by two-digit Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code approved to be offered in the FCS in select program areas as of the 2018-19 year.

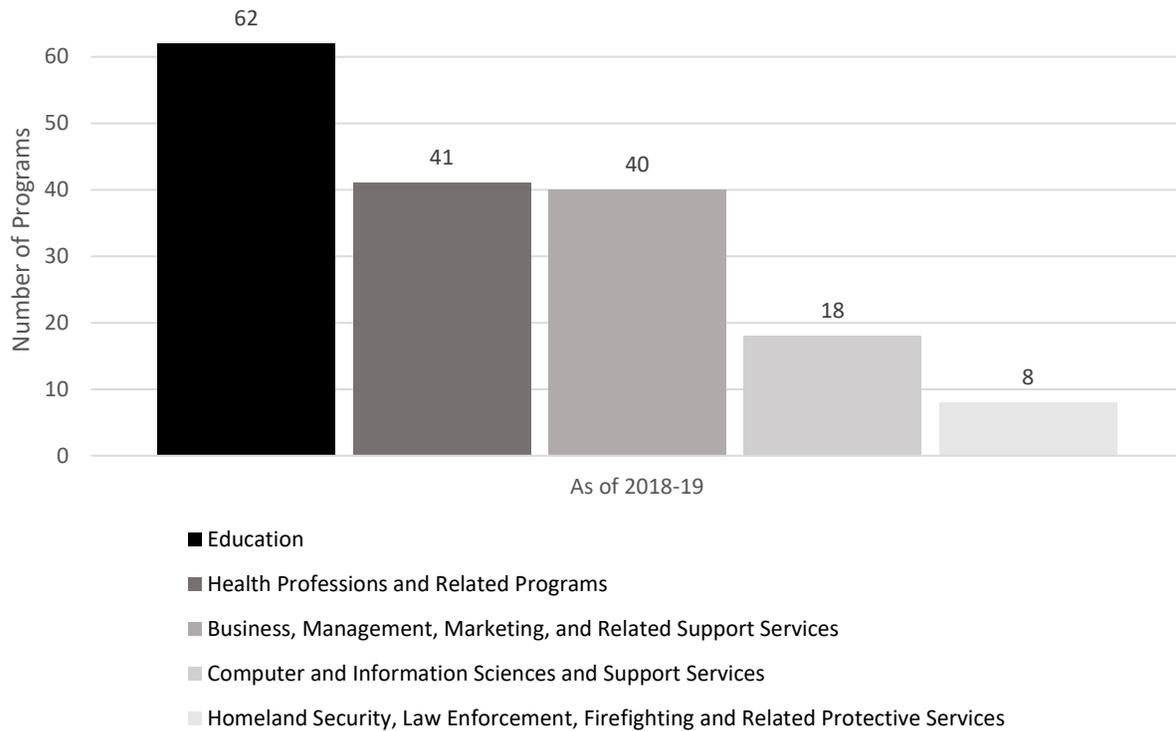


Figure 2: Top Five BaccaLaureate Degree Program Areas (Two-Digit CIP) by Program Count as of the 2018-19 Year.

Source: Florida Department of Education, PK-20 Education Reporting & Accessibility; Florida College System, Division of Florida Colleges

FCS institutions continue to meet the changing needs of the state, local community and students by reducing costs and offering degrees in workforce areas with demonstrated unmet need in the college service region.

Not only are FCS baccaLaureate degree programs affordable, they are also offered in a variety of formats that make earning a degree accessible. Students often manage a variety of competing obligations throughout their college careers and benefit from flexible delivery options. FCS baccaLaureate degree programs are delivered face-to-face, hybrid and online only. Nearly half of the 197 approved programs at FCS institutions as of the 2018-19 academic year offered their programs using two or more delivery methods, as well as offering courses on weekends and in the evenings, to provide access and serve the needs of students.

Performance Indicators

This summary of baccalaureate degrees accountability reports was compiled in accordance with s. 1007.33 (5)(h), F.S., using a template incorporated in Rule 6A-14.095(6), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Colleges report on the following indicators:

1. Obtaining and maintaining appropriate SACSCOC accreditation;
2. Maintaining qualified faculty and institutional resources;
3. Maintaining enrollment in previously approved programs;
4. Managing fiscal resources appropriately;
5. Complying with the primary mission and responsibility; and
6. Other indicators of success, including program completions, placements and surveys of graduates and employers.

The State Board of Education, upon review of the performance and compliance indicators, may require a Florida College System institution's board of trustees to modify or terminate a baccalaureate degree program authorized under this section.

Indicator 1: Obtaining and maintaining appropriate Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges accreditation

SACSCOC accreditation is required in the baccalaureate program statute. Upon State Board of Education approval of a college's first baccalaureate degree program, the college obtains accreditation as a baccalaureate degree-granting institution. Following subsequent approval of baccalaureate degree programs, colleges must notify SACSCOC and comply with the substantive change protocols for accreditation purposes. All FCS baccalaureate degree programs have indicated maintenance of Level II SACSCOC accreditation. Recently approved baccalaureate degree programs are in the process of obtaining accreditation. Obtaining and maintaining accreditation through SACSCOC allows students to continue their education in graduate programs.

Indicator 2: Maintaining qualified faculty and institutional resources

Institutions were asked to provide data on faculty and institutional resources for each of their individual baccalaureate degree programs. FCS institutions reported the number of full-time and part-time faculty in each program, salary and benefit expenses and faculty support costs (lab assistants). During the 2018-2019 year, FCS Institutions retained qualified faculty based on SACSCOC faculty credentialing guidelines.

Indicator 3: Maintaining enrollment in previously approved programs

FCS institutions strive to increase or maintain enrollments in previously approved programs and were considered in compliance when the current year’s average was greater than or equal to the prior three-year average.

Enrollment

Total enrollments in FCS bacalaureate degree programs increased seven percent from 42,405 in 2016-17 to 45,544 in 2018-19. As shown in Figure 3, total bacalaureate degree program enrollments steadily grew over the three-year period.

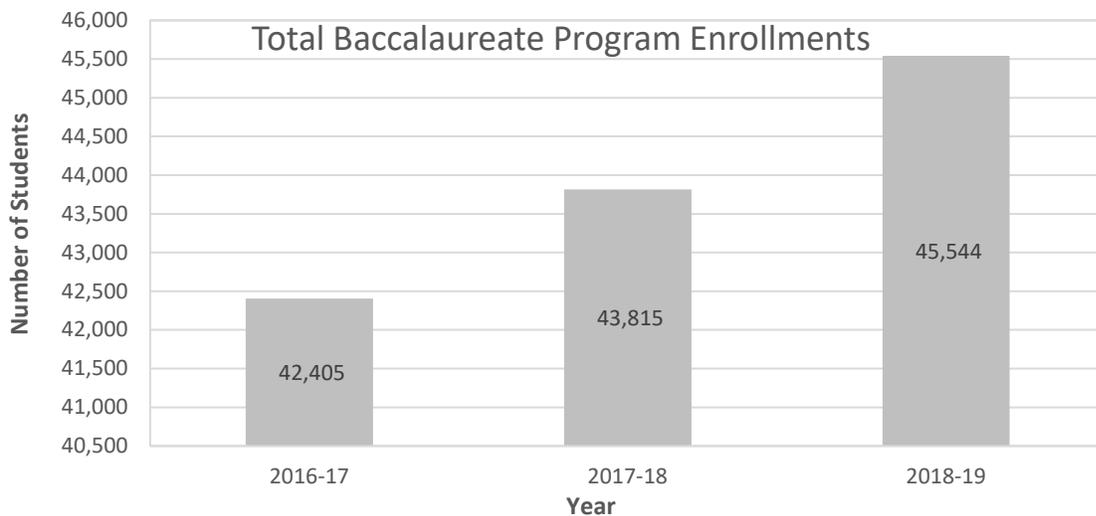


Figure 3: Bacalaureate Degree Program Enrollment by Headcount

Source: Florida Department of Education, PK-20 Education Reporting & Accessibility; Florida College System, Division of Florida Colleges
 Note: Enrollment is a reflection of unduplicated student headcount and not a measure of full-time equivalent (FTE).

In 2018-19, the top five bacalaureate degree program areas by two-digit CIP code accounted for 89 percent (40,636) of the total enrollment (45,544). These program areas are presented in Figure 4 below. In particular, two programs accounted for nearly half of all enrollments, Organizational Management with 34 percent (15,360) and Nursing with 14 percent (6,492). Three of the top five program areas increased enrollments over the past three years. The Computer and Information Sciences and support services program area has seen the greatest increase in enrollment over the three-year period with an increase of 17 percent, followed by Health Professions and related programs with a 12 percent increase, and Business, Management, Marketing and related support services program area saw a nine percent increase. However, Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and related protective

services saw a decrease in enrollment by six percent and Education saw a five percent decrease during the same period.

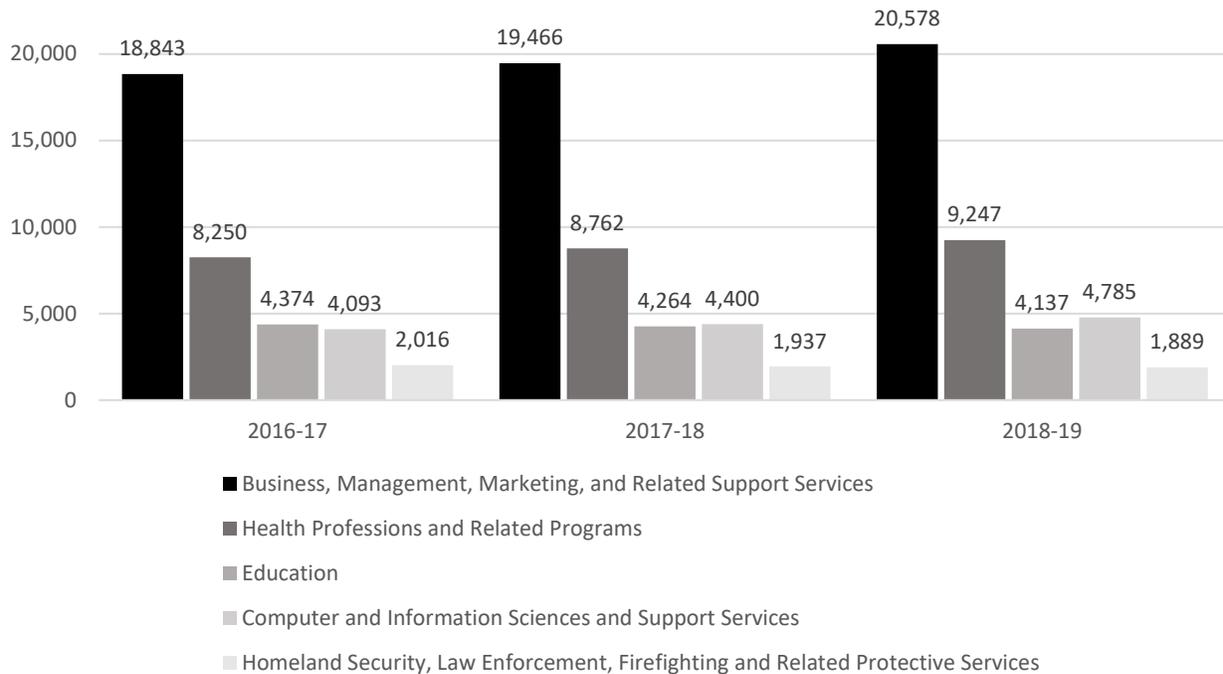


Figure 4: Top Five Bacalaureate Degree Program Areas (Two-Digit CIP) by Enrollment from 2016-17 to 2018-19

Source: Florida Department of Education, PK-20 Education Reporting & Accessibility; Florida College System, Division of Florida Colleges

Indicator 4: Maintaining fiscal resources

Institutions were asked to provide financial information for each bacalaureate degree program and reported break-even or positive available funds.

Indicator 5: Primary mission and responsibility of the college

Institutions were asked a series of questions related to maintaining the mission of the college, primarily with an emphasis on access to higher education. Questions related to community needs for postsecondary academic education and career degree education, maintaining the primary mission of providing associate-level degree programs, maintaining the open-door admission policy, providing outreach to underserved populations, providing developmental education, complied with articulation agreements and whether the college terminated a related associated degree. All FCS institutions indicated continued focus on the college’s primary mission according to these criteria. Bacalaureate degree (B.S./B.A.S.) program enrollment comprised seven percent of overall enrollment in the FCS, while the Associate in

Arts (A.A.) comprised 47 percent of the overall enrollment during the 2018-19 year (Figure 5), keeping with the mission of the Florida College System to prepare students for the workforce and transfer to the upper division through certificates and associate degrees. Students in Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science (A.S./A.A.S.) and College Credit Certificate (CCC) Programs comprised 21 percent of enrollment, while *Other programs comprised the remaining 25 percent of enrollment in 2018-19.

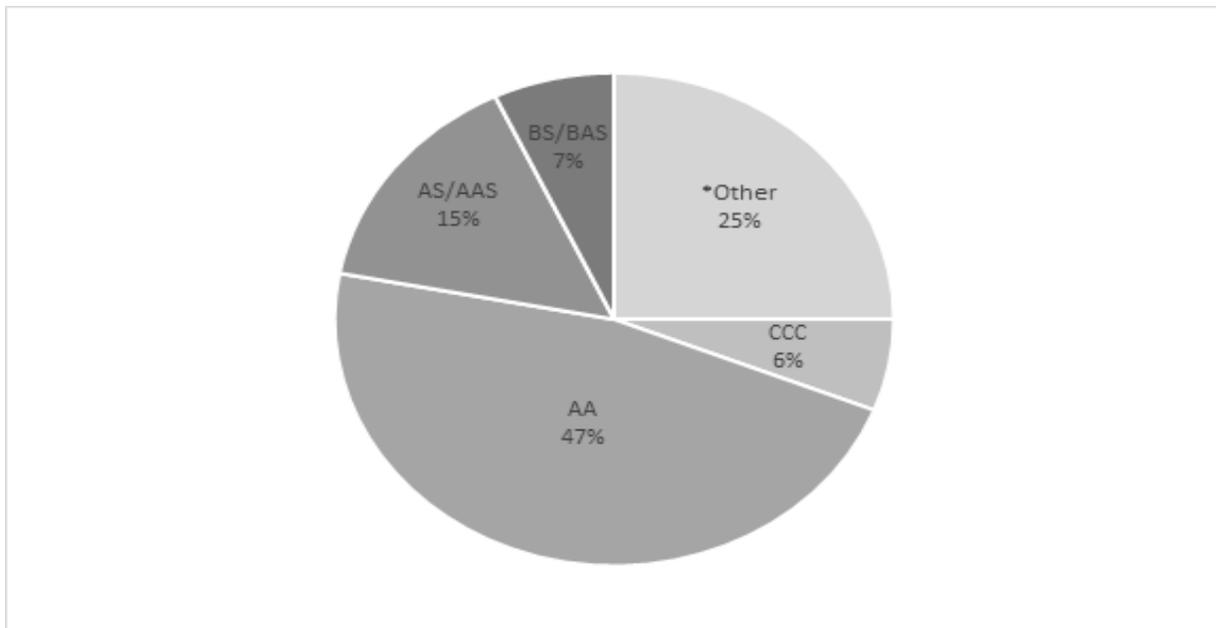


Figure 5. Enrollments by Program Type, 2018-19

Source: Florida Department of Education, PK20 Education Reporting & Accessibility; Florida College System, Division of Florida Colleges
 *"Other" category includes programs such as Educator Preparation Institute, Certificate of Professional Preparation, College & Vocational Preparation, Continuing Workforce Education, Adult Basic and Secondary Education, Community Instructional Services/Recreation and Leisure, Lifelong Learning, Apprenticeships or enrolled in courses related to a student's professional or personal objectives. Students may be enrolled in more than one program.

Indicator 6: Other indicators of success

The number of students completing baccalaureate degree programs continued to increase with the addition of more programs. In fact, the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded increased from 7,901 in 2016-17 to 9,122 in 2018-19 (Figure 6). Only education programs decreased from the 2016-17 year to the 2017-18 year; however, there was a slight increase in 2018-19, with increases in all other program areas each year.

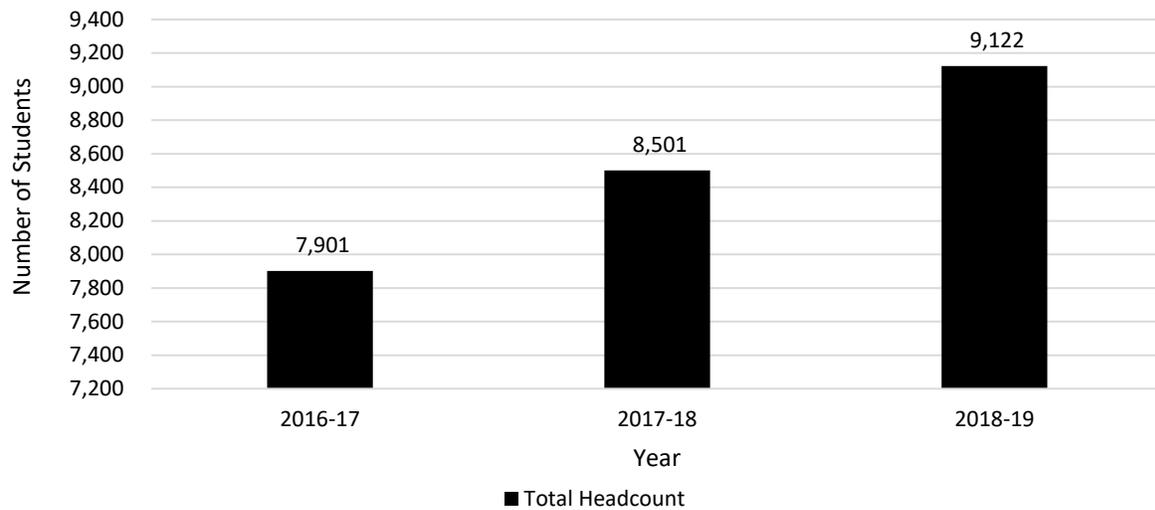


Figure 6: Bacalaureate Degree Programs Completions

Source: Florida Department of Education, PK-20 Education Reporting & Accessibility; Florida College System, Division of Florida Colleges

Future Direction

Nearly 90 percent of enrollment in FCS bacalaureate degree programs is in five program areas: 1) Business, Management, Marketing and related support services, 2) Health Professions and related programs, 3) Education, 4) Computer, Information Sciences, and related support services, and 5) Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and related protective services. The Division of Florida Colleges continues working closely with each FCS institution to ensure institutional leadership is aware of the specific performance and compliance indicators for bacalaureate degree programs. FCS institutions can use this information as they develop, implement and evaluate bacalaureate programs.

FCS institutions have also been provided data on the employment outlook for each of their active bacalaureate degree programs in order to assess whether there will be continuous need in the college service region for these programs. The State Colleges Projections Portal, a portal that provides occupational data by college service region developed in partnership with the DEO, is also available to FCS institutions to ensure colleges have easy access to occupational data needed to determine unmet workforce need in local service areas.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the top 10 jobs requiring a bacalaureate degree gaining the most new jobs in Florida will see a need for 103,615 trained individuals by 2028. These occupations are outlined in Table 1 below.

Occupation Title	Number of Jobs
Registered Nurses	20,917
General and Operations Managers	17,152
Management Analysts	10,072
Accountants and Auditors	9,443
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	9,223
Business Operations Specialists, All Others	8,775
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Ed.	8,466
Construction Managers	6,795
Software Developers, Applications	6,415
Financial Managers	6,357

Table 1. Number of Top 10 New Jobs Projected Available in Florida by 2028.

Source: United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projects, 2021.

The FCS offers baccalaureate degree programs that train students for many of these in-demand occupations. As of the 2018-19 year, there were 27 approved nursing programs, over 30 business/organizational management/administration programs, three accounting programs, nine elementary education programs and a range of additional programs that will prepare students to fill jobs in other fields.

The present report documents the success of FCS institutions in offering affordable local access to baccalaureate degree programs in Florida. Opportunities for further exploration and support related to enrollments, retention and completion are aimed at increasing student success. Ultimately, FCS institutions will continue to address the most pressing workforce needs in the state of Florida.

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