



Wharton County Junior College

# Institutional Effectiveness Newsletter



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## PURPOSE AND MISSION

The Office of the Executive Vice President is dedicated to ensuring that the college community has access to the information and resources needed to make data-driven decisions across all levels of the institution. As a step toward the fulfillment of this mission, the Office will release a biannual newsletter with data and findings that will help advance institutional planning and promote a culture of continuous improvement.

## CONTACT US

For questions or concerns, please contact:

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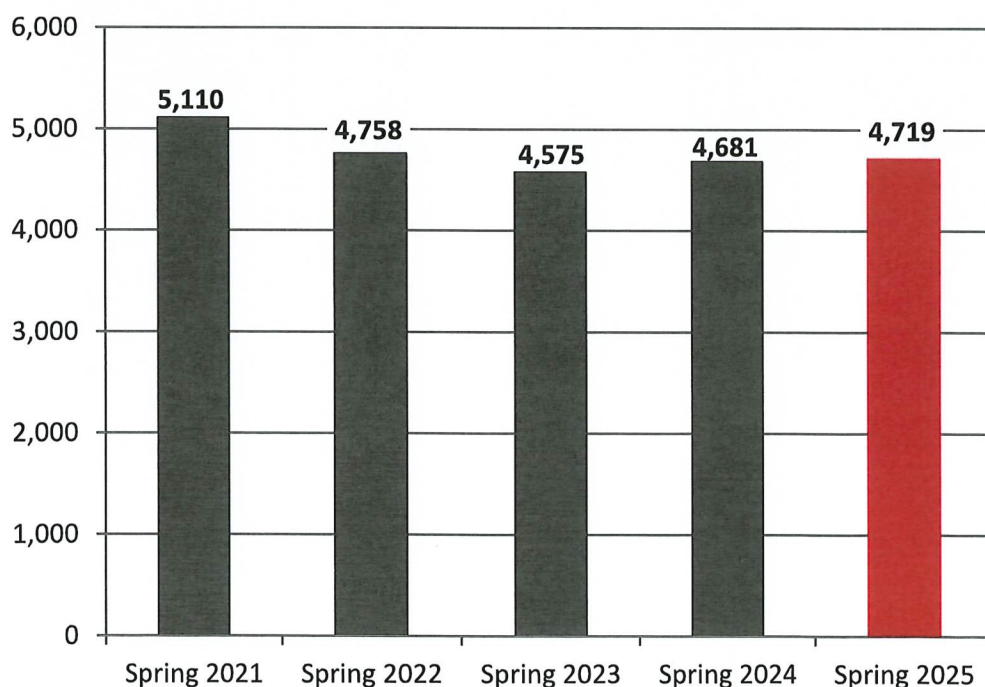
## Happy New Year!

Happy New Year, WCJC Family! Welcome to a new year! We're grateful to have each of you as part of the WCJC team. Please know that the instruction, support, and care that you provide to our student truly changes their lives and their futures. I wish you all the best and many blessings as we forge ahead into this new year!

## Spring First-Day Enrollments

First-day headcount enrollment for Spring 2025 is **4,719 students**. In addition, students are registered for **46,091 credit hours**, which translates to a **1.4% increase** over last year's start of term.

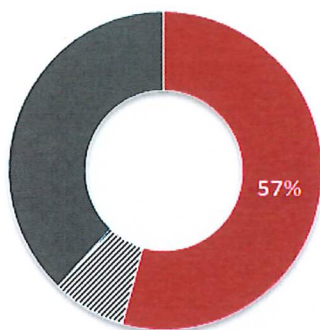
Students may still register for 16-week classes through Friday, January 17, and for 14-week sections through Monday, January 27.



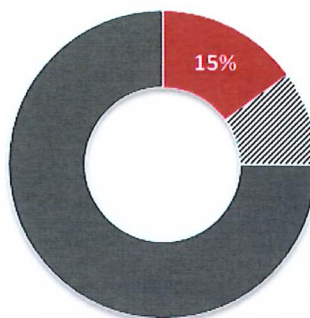
## Strategic Plan Annual Report

Each year WCJC publishes the Strategic Plan Annual Report which provides updates for the various institutional strategies within the plan, while also monitoring progress toward various Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The AY 2024 Annual Report will be presented to the WCJC Board of Trustees at their spring retreat, after which the report will be made available on the WCJC website.

### First-Year Credit Completion



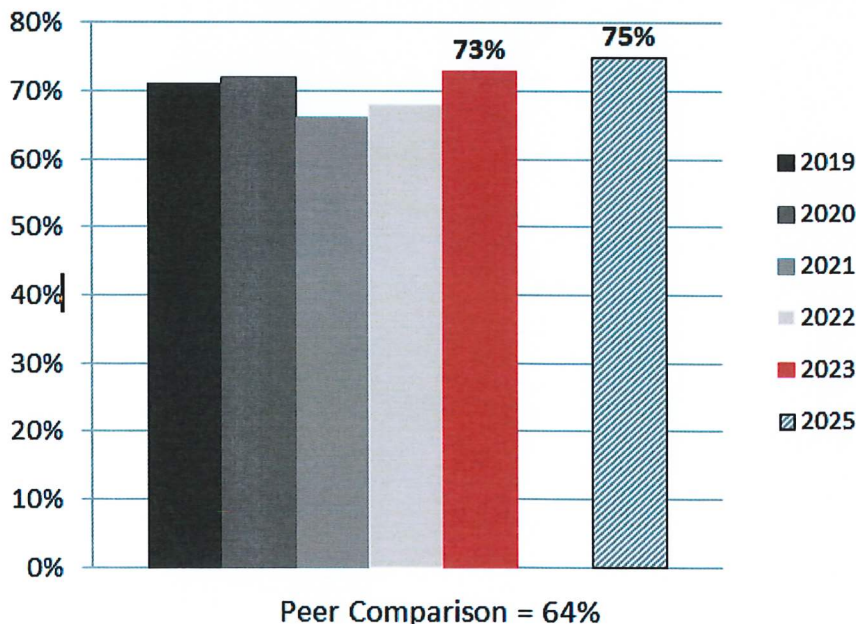
**15 SCH:**  
State Comparison= 47%  
**Current = 57%**  
Target = 65%



**30 SCH:**  
State Comparison = 9%  
**Current = 15%**  
Target = 25%

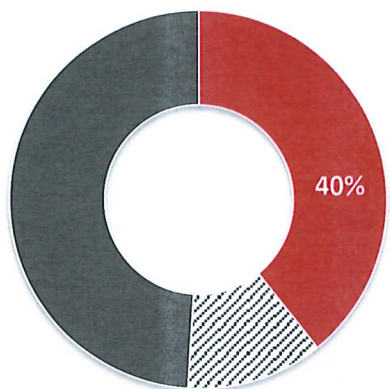
The above data shows the percentage of students who completed 15 and 30 semester credit hours (SCH) in their first year at WCJC. WCJC performs above the state average in both metrics, which is a critical component in ensuring that our students are able to progress in their transfer and/or completion goals.

### Fall-to-Fall Retention



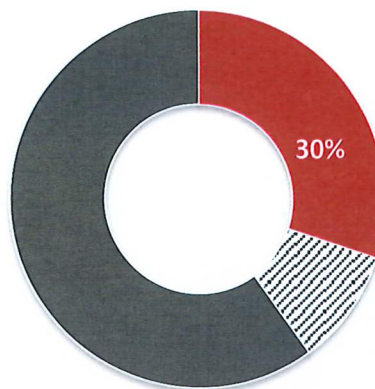
The above graph indicates the percentage of new, full-time students who enter WCJC in Fall 2022 and continued at WCJC in Fall 2023. WCJC experienced a slight decrease in retention following the pandemic, but we have since seen our rate of retention return to pre-pandemic levels. WCJC maintains a higher rate of retention (73%) than our Medium CC peers (64%).

### Financial Aid Participation Rate



**First-Time, Full-Time with Pell**  
Peer Comparison = 52%

**Current = 40%**  
Target = 50%

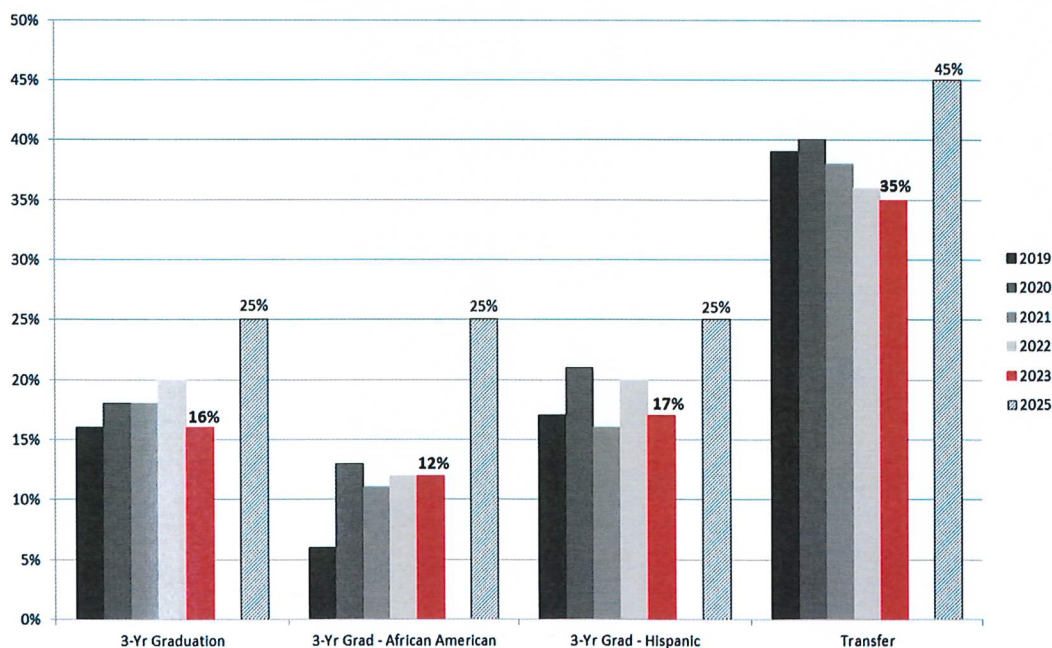


**All Students with Pell**  
State Comparison = 43%

**Current = 30%**  
Target = 40%

Pell participation rates are one of the key metrics that are highly correlated with enrollment...in other words when Pell goes up, enrollment goes up! As such, WCJC has been working diligently to review processes in an effort to facilitate students' ability to receive financial aid. Data for the AY 2024 annual report shows that there is a lesser percentage of students at WCJC who were awarded Pell when compared to our peers. However, both metrics increased (by 2 and 4 percentage points, respectively) compared to AY 2023. This increase in Pell participation is critical to increasing student enrollment.

### Three-Year Graduation and Transfer Rates



Data from the IPEDS Data Feedback Report 2023 indicates that, for the 2019 cohort of entering students, approximately 16% graduated within three years, while 35% transferred within three years. Student completions is a significant component of the new funding model and is a core priority for the College as we move forward into the final year of our strategic plan.

## Spring Pioneer Spirit Days

This spring, show your **Pioneer Spirit!** Wear your **WCJC polo** (or other WCJC shirt) in support of our outstanding students, faculty, and staff on the following days:

**Friday, January 31:** Our Pioneer baseball team hosts Angelina College in a double header at home in Corbett Park! Game time is 2:00pm.



**Friday, February 21:** Staff Professional Development Day on the Wharton Campus!

**Friday, March 28:** WCJC will host area schools for our annual UIL Day!



**Friday, April 11:** Saddle up in support of our Cowboys and Cowgirls as they host the WCJC Rodeo at the Wharton County Fairgrounds!



**Friday, May 9:** Get ready for WCJC's 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Ceremony, scheduled for Friday, May 9, and Saturday, May 10, in the Gene Bahnsen Gymnasium on the Wharton Campus!